

Norman C. "Rocky" Swensen, 82

Nov. 26, 1919 - March 29, 2002

HARLAN – Norman Christian "Rocky" Swensen was born to Johanna (Jensen) and Nels Christian Swensen Nov. 26, 1919, on a farm in Shelby County. He attended country school in Shelby County, and as a young man, worked on neighboring farms. One of the farmers Rocky assisted was Elvin "Ozzie" Rold. It was on the Rold farm that he met his future wife, Leota.

Sept. 26, 1946, he married Leota Rold at the Pottawattamie County Courthouse in Council Bluffs. To this union five children were born. Following their wedding, they farmed for 10 years in Shelby County. Rocky then worked in Harlan for the Texaco and Mobile Service Stations and later for Knudsen Construction Company. He participated in the construction of the Harlan Veteran's Memorial Building. They moved to Harlan where he was employed by the City of Harlan in 1969. He retired in 1984. To keep active, he drove a bus for Southwest Iowa Transit until the age of 79. He died March 29, 2002, at the Nebraska Methodist Hospital, Omaha, NE, at age 82 years, four months and three days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Jerald Lynn Swensen. He is survived by his wife, Leota Swensen of Harlan; his children, James D. Swensen (Janet) of Harlan; Jo Morris of Council Bluffs; Jean Marie (Don) Johnson of Hays, KS; Jaffery Swensen (Lori) of Harlan; 14 grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; sisters, Dagney Svendsen of Harlan; Christena Johnson of Bella Vista, AR; Ina Carroll of Harlan; Violet (Wayne) Fiscus of Harlan; Mae Heilig of Kirkman; Ethel (Dennis) Dent of Springdale, AR and Joy Whisinnand of Payton, CO; one brother, Donald Swensen (Joanne) of Bellevue, NE; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 1, 2002, at Grace Baptist Church in Harlan, with Pastor Brent Smith officiating. Burial was in Cuppy's Grove Cemetery, Monroe Township, with Jacob Carl, Geoffrey Carl, Adam Jon Carl and Robert Swensen honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Gaike Knudson, Christopher Swensen, Patrick Morris, Jonathan Swensen, Dan Good and Brent Swensen. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

