

Clarence Niemann Thies, 83

Oct. 3, 1912 - July 3, 1996

AVOCA - Clarence Niemann Thies was born in Knox Township, Pottawattamie County Oct. 3, 1912. A few years later, the family moved to the farm in Pleasant Township. He was the son of Alfred and Clara Niemann Thies and was one of three children in the family. He attended country school and the Avoca High School and graduated in 1929. He farmed on the family farm until entering the Army during World War II. He served as a radio operator in the China, Burma and India region where he monitored mainline Tokyo, Japan communications. When he was discharged, he returned to farming as his occupation.

He married Merna Grobe June 18, 1950 at the Oakland Methodist Church in Oakland. They made their home on the Thies family farm southwest of Avoca. He retired from farming and moved to Avoca in 1972. During his retirement he worked at the Avoca Cemetery until 1987. He served on numerous boards including being a Township Trustee, Farm Bureau Service Company Board, Church Board and treasurer in the Hancock United Methodist Church, Avoca American Legion and was a past Commander of the Avoca VFW, being a life member of both of these organizations. He was a member of the Avenue of Flags committee from its beginning until two years ago. He died July 3, 1996 at the Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 83 years and nine months.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his stepmother, Bertha Thies, and two stepbrothers, Floyd Reineke and Willard Reineke. He is survived by his wife, Merna; their son, Duane Thies (Karla), and their daughter, Jennifer of St. Joseph, MO; two sisters, Eleanor (Blaine) Vandeventer of Ames and Helen Thies of Boulder, CO; one stepsister, Ione Jacobsen of Hancock and other relatives.

Funeral services were held July 6, 1996 at the United Methodist Church, Hancock with Rev. Judy Flanegin officiating. Burial was in the Oaklawn Cemetery, Oakland. Military graveside rites were by the Avoca VFW and American Legion Posts. Honorary casket bearers were Willis Lippold, Dale Sievers, Vic Wunder, Victor Myer and Edwin Sieh. Casket bearers were Kenneth Martin, Robert Jacobsen, Clifford Fischer, Ernest Ruehl, Oliver Felker and Don Scheffler. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.