

Conrad P. Torneten, 92

Nov. 26, 1909 - Dec. 4, 2001

COUNCIL BLUFFS — Conrad P. Torneten, known as "Coonie" to all who knew him, was born Nov. 26, 1909, on a farm in Hardin Township, Pottawattamie County. "Coonie" was the oldest child born to Edward and Rosa Harms Torneten. He was baptized at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Council Bluffs. He graduated from Hardin Township No. 3 country school and attended St. Francis High School in Council Bluffs. One of his jobs in his early life was working at Pruitt Implement Company assembling and repairing farm equipment. He also farmed with his father and brother, Edward, until being inducted into the Army Air Force in 1942. During his military service, he was assigned as a staff driver for General Eubank, Clark Cable, Walter Pigeon, Jane Leslie and Adolph Monue. Because farmers were needed on the home front and his brother, Eddy, was also in the military, he was given his honorable discharge in 1943. He returned to Pottawattamie County to farm his Aunt Maggie Yochem's farm. After Eddy's discharge they continued a farming partnership that lasted until Eddy's death in 1992. He could fix things, make new parts, and even invent new ones when needed. He was active for over 50 years in the Omaha Livestock Market. He was a pilot, and owned and flew his own airplane. One a Luscomb and the other a Piper TriPacer. He was also past-president of the Council Bluffs Aviation Club. Due to illness, he became a resident of the Bethany Lutheran Home in October of 1999. It was here that he died Dec. 4, 2001, just eight days after his 92nd birthday.



In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Edward, and sisters, Theresa Mercer and Mary Jones. Survivors include his sisters, Charlotte Ring of Neola; Clara McCauley of Waterford, MI and Margaret (Charles) Soar of Council Bluffs; his sister-in-law, Elaine Torneten of Council Bluffs; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Dec. 11, 2001, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Council Bluffs, with Rev. Chuck Kottas celebrant and the Rev. Dan Kirby concelebrant. Burial was in the Hardin Township Cemetery in rural Council Bluffs, with Richard Jones, Ernie Soar, Johnny Mahan honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Don Shea, Mike Torneten, Fred Ring, Bob Torneten, Bob Ring and Ed McCauley. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.