

Harlan, Iowa News Advertiser
Friday March 3, 1995, pg 2-B

John Edward Vithen, 89 ¹⁹⁷⁴
pg 2 B
July 16, 1905 - Jan. 31, 1995

Harlan - John Edward Vithen, the oldest son of Andrew P. and Dortha Marie (Jensen-Lindstrom) Vithen, was born on July 16, 1905, in Poplar, Audubon County. He attended school at Sharon #3 and Jackson #1. He assisted his father on a farm just south of Poplar until 1923, and continued as a hired farm laborer until 1928, except for one year when he was employed at the Poplar store.

He married Jessie Roberts of Redline Aug. 22, 1928. In Jan., 1929, they moved to the Pete Schmidt farm in Polk Township. Both of their daughters were born there. In March, 1938, the family moved to the Hans Nielsen farm in Jackson Township, where he farmed in partnership with his brother-in-law, James Nelson. In March, 1945, they moved to the Nelson farm, and continued to farm both places. They held a farm sale in Jan. 1963, and moved to their present home in Harlan. He worked for the Shelby County Department of Roads for several years, until his retirement. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan. He died Jan. 31, 1995, at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Co. Bluffs at age 89 years, 6 months, and 15 days.

Preceding him in death were his parents; one sister, Oda Martens; one half-brother, Tony Lindstrom; two half-sisters, Esther Nelson and Margaret Petersen; and one son-in-law, Jerome Legan. Survivors include his wife Jessie of Harlan; two daughters, Jeannine (Lyle) Poldberg of Carter Lake and Jeanette (Merlyn) Knudsen of Kimballton; one brother, Emil Vithen of Kimballton; one sister, Sadie Hanson of Harlan; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Feb. 3, 1995, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, with Rev. Jon Benson officiating. Casket bearers were seven of John's grandsons: Warren Poldberg, Brian Poldberg, Bradley Legan, Bryan Kite, Steve Heuton, Kevin Larsen, and Max Knudsen. Burial was in the Harlan cemetery. Burmeister Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.