



Vern Stokes

January 24, 1921 - January 29, 2010

Vernard S. Stokes, son of Thomas and Edna (Burnham) Stokes, was born January 24, 1921 in Meta, Missouri. Vern died on January 29, 2010 at the age of 89, at the Sunset Knoll Care and Rehab Center in Aurelia, Iowa, where he had lived for the past 2-1/2 years. He attended grade school in Meta and Deepwater, Missouri. Following school, Vern moved to Alta, Iowa with his family where he met Virginia Anderson. On December 12, 1939, Vern was united in marriage to Virginia in Alta, Iowa. Together they were blessed with three children: Phillip, Patricia and Nancy. They moved to Higginsville, Missouri where they farmed from 1947 to 1957. In 1957, they returned to Alta and purchased a farm. Vern had a passion for farming, raising grain, cattle and hogs. He was very good at repairing items around the farm that needed to be fixed. Vern was a dedicated and hard working farmer and proved it by working his way up from a hired hand to a farm owner. Those who are left to cherish his memory include his family: son, Phillip (Karyn) Stokes of Spencer, Iowa; daughter, Nancy (Mike) Ogle of Irene, South Dakota; and daughter, Patricia Stokes of Storm Lake, Iowa. Vern is also survived by his 5 grandchildren: Jeff Stokes of Dell Rapids, South Dakota, Lisa Stokes, Spencer, Iowa, and Shelley (Mike) Schoning, Spencer, Iowa; Rebecca Richardson, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Christina (Brandon) Riss, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; In addition, he is survived by 8 great grandchildren. Vern was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia; his parents; and his brothers, Ralph and Darwin.