

Obituaries

1990

ALBERT THOMPSON

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 27, 1990, at the Slade-O'Donnell Funeral Home in Leon, Iowa, with Rev. Jim Gubser officiating. Burial was in the Garden Grove Cemetery. Robin McCullar was pianist and vocalist and the Rev. Richard Grimes played the harmonica. Musical selections were "How Great Thou Art," "Amazing Grace" and "Just A Closer Walk With Thee."

Bearers were Brad Fousek, Howard L. Garton, Raedean

Garton, Garold Jelsma, Keith Jelsma and Ray Negley. Honorary bearers were Bryan Fousek, Tommy Boyce and Johnny Boyce.

Albert Clem Thompson of LeRoy, Iowa, son of Orin and Agnes (Gibson) Thompson, was born on March 27, 1909, in McPherson County, Nebraska, and died on his pasture farm near Garden Grove, Iowa, on October 24, 1990, at the age of 81 years, 6 months and 27 days.

Albert was born in a sod house in the sand hills of Nebraska. He

could remember helping gather cow chips to use for fuel in the cook stove. The children were warned to beware of rattlesnakes as when coiled they were similar in color and size to a cow chip. He remembered the sod house the sandburs in his bare feet planted in the path by his older sisters to keep him from following them to school, and their old black shepherd dog.

His father was sheriff of McPherson County and Albert had many stories to tell of his father capturing and transporting prisoners across the state of Nebraska to the penitentiary in Lincoln, Nebraska.

When he was three years old, he and his family moved to Iowa in two covered wagons. When

the wagons were loaded and everyone ready to go, Albert was missing. They were not taking the dog and Albert didn't want to leave without him. They found him in the dust wallow with the dog. They thought that if they started on Albert would follow, but that didn't work. They had to stop the wagons and go back after him.

He attended country school and graduated from the LeRoy Consolidated High School in LeRoy in 1925. He was a pitcher on the LeRoy baseball team and threw a great curve ball. He attended summer school at the Chariton Normal School. He was a member of the LeRoy Presbyterian Church.

Albert was married to Norma Elizabeth Rousseau of Allerton, Iowa, on September 24, 1934, in Leon.

As a teenager he worked as a dishwasher at the LeRoy Cafe. After graduation he became a steamfitter. In 1930 he purchased the Red Brick Grocery Store. His brother Keith and sister Carrie helped in the store. He operated the store until it burned in 1941. He had purchased a farm in 1941, so he farmed full time after that until his brother Dean returned from World War II in

he other store in LeRoy and he farmed and worked in the store until 1949. Then he again farmed full time until his death.

The things Albert enjoyed most were his family, playing the harmonica, doing a hat trick, and farming.

Albert was the ninth child of twelve children. There were six girls followed by six boys. Preceding him in death were his parents; six sisters: Ethel Wisner, Addie Gartin, Ellen Boyce, Iva Jelsma, Pearl Biddson, and Carrie Thompson; and three brothers: Teddy, Jeff, and Charlie Thompson.

Surviving are his wife, Norma Thompson, of LeRoy; daughter, Portia Lorene Halferty, of Des Moines, Iowa; two sons: Ted Arnold Thompson of Overland Park, Kansas; and Bill Gene Thompson and wife Nancy of Centerville, Iowa; three grandchildren: Richard Lee Halferty II and wife Jackie Pamela Isabelle Kvitne and husband David, and Robert Lynn Halferty and wife Carol; eight great-grandchildren: Angela, Jason, Stephanie, and Patrick Halferty, Ariana and Albert Alexander Kvitne, and Anna and Neil O'Brien; other relatives and many friends.