

1984

THE LIFE STORY OF — Lester D. Gaer, 69

Lester Dale Gaer, the son of Adolph A. and Nancy E. Rank Gaer, was born Dec. 24, 1914, on a farm west of Harlan in Lincoln twp. As a young child, he moved with his parents to Defiance and then eventually to Redline, where he attended school, and was baptized at the Church of Christ. After school, he helped on the family farm while growing to adulthood.

On June 1, 1937, he married Bernadine Christensen, at her parents home near Corley. Four children were born to this union. After their marriage, he transferred his church membership to the Baptist church. They first lived and farmed in the Cuppy's Grove area, before they moved in 1950, to Clark's Grove, Minn. They farmed in this area for five years, before they moved back to Iowa, and settled in the Redline area, where they continued to farm. In 1964, they moved to an acreage north of Harlan and he then worked for Wilson Seeds. In 1971, he switched jobs, and went to work for Western Engineering Co. This is where he worked until he retired in 1979. They then moved into Harlan and this has been their home since that time.

He was a member of the First Baptist church in Harlan. He died at the Myrtue Memorial hospital in Harlan on Friday, Feb. 10, 1984 at the age of 69 years, 1 month and 17 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents. In addition to his wife Bernadine of Harlan, he is survived by two daughters Arden (Mrs Arthur) Chapin of Brownville, Neb. and Janice (Mrs Leo) Madsen of Audubon; two sons Roger of Highmore, S.D. and Galen of Harlan; 16 grandchildren and one great grandchild; two sisters Leona (Mrs Gorden) Petersen of Harlan and Dorothy (Mrs Earl) Zaiger of Audubon; one brother Howard Gaer of Manilla; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Monday, Feb. 13, 1984 at Pauley Funeral Home, Harlan, with Pastor John Leggett of the First Baptist church in Harlan officiating. Burial was in the Harlan cemetery, Harlan with Larry Gaer, David Gaer, Kelly Gaer, Nicholas Gaer and Galen Gaer Jr., all as honorary casketbearers and Michael Gaer, Darin Madsen, Bryan Chapin, Curtis Madsen, Gregory Chapin and Timothy Chapin, all as casketbearers.

Pauley Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.