

Don, 56 and Jean Heilesen, 53

Donald LeRoy Heilesen, son of Frank R. and Mabel V. Berg Heilesen was born on a farm in Center twp., Shelby county on Feb. 23, 1923. As a small boy, Don moved with his parents to the Adam Heilesen farm east of Kirkman and Don attended school at Kirkman. The family later moved to a farm south of Irwin and Don continued his education in the Irwin school system. When Don was about 13, the family moved to a farm just east of Harlan where he attended the Center No. 4 country school. He later attended the Harlan High School, graduating in 1940. After completing his education, Don farmed with his father.

Jean Alice Heilesen, daughter of Harry and Nina Nelson Norgaard was born at Harlan on Dec. 12, 1925. She attended school and grew to adulthood in Harlan. After graduating from the Harlan high school in 1943, Jean worked for a law firm in Harlan for a short time. She then was employed with Gerald Larson at Home Federal Savings and Loan in Harlan. On March 18, 1945, Don and Jean were united in marriage at the Bethel Baptist church in Harlan. Two sons were born to this union.

After their marriage, they farmed near Cuppy's Grove for 25 years. Due to ill health, Don was forced to quit farming in 1970 but they continued to make their home on the farm until moving to Harlan in 1971. This has been their home since that time. After moving to Harlan, Don held various positions including working for Farm Bureau Ins. of Harlan, International Harvester Co. of Elk Horn and serving as County Sanitation Commissioner before purchasing the Walnut Ins. Agency in Walnut. Jean was employed at the Harlan Doctors Clinic for the past seven years doing insurance work and later becoming Office Manager. They were both long time members of the Altamont Baptist church at Cuppy's Grove. Don and Jean died as the result of an auto accident east of Harlan on Sept. 2, 1979, having attained the ages of 56 and 53 respectively.

They were both preceded in death by their parents. Survivors include their sons - Jim Heilesen of rural Hamlin, and Tom Heilesen of Harlan; seven grandchildren; Jean's sister, Helen (Mrs Ray Jensen) of Lakewood, Colo.; Don's brothers and sisters, Frank Heilesen, Jr. of Sebastopol, Calif., Richard Heilesen of rural Harlan, Bette Sorenson, Evelyn Jacobsen and Caryl (Mrs Lugene West), all of Harlan; Don's step-mother, Margaret Heilesen of Harlan; nieces and nephews; other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held at the Pauley Funeral Home in Harlan, at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 6, 1979, with Pastor C. Donald Thrash, pastor of the First Baptist church in Harlan, officiating.

Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery, Harlan, with Bruce Polley, Donald Hansen, Jack Messenger, Rondo Rossmann, Delbert Edwards and Norman Mathiasen as Don's pallbearers and Joe Lowry, Alvin Bauer, Richard Olson, Kenneth Peters, Verle Henriksen and Gaylord Johnson serving as Jean's pallbearers.