

Zeno Charles Lapke, 88 ✓

Nov. 20, 1907 - May 13, 1996

DUNLAP - Zeno Charles Lapke was born Nov. 20, 1907 in Earling to Bernard and Clara (Muenchrath) Lapke. At the age of two, he moved with his family to the farm in Grove Township where he was still living. He attended Grove Township School and St. Joseph Catholic School in Earling.

June 17, 1930 he married Lois Chambers of Dunlap. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last June. He was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Dunlap and active with the Knights of Columbus. He was a pioneer in soil conservation. He started contour planting in the late 1930's and built some of the first terraces and grass waterways in the area. The Lapke farm was the first soil conservation plan in Shelby County. He was active in the Iowa Farm Bureau and had served as county president and voting delegate. He received the Skelly award for conservation practices in 1947, the Goodyear award for soil conservation in 1948, the Master Farmer of Iowa award in 1949 (this was based on conservation practices and community involvement). He was also active on the Mill Picayune watershed program, had served as an S.C.S. commissioner for Shelby County, served on the Shelby County F.H.A. committee and was the Shelby County Cattleman of the Year. He enjoyed horses all of his life. Draft horses when farming was dependent on horse power and saddle horses as a hobby and for working cattle. He was active in showing and racing competition and a charter member of the Shelby County Saddle Club and the Dunlap Rangers. He died May 13 at his home at age 88.

Survivors include his wife, Lois; ten children, Bernard (Joanne) of Dunlap; Clarice (Don) Buman of Harlan; Lorraine (Vern) Nepl of Fairfax, VA; Gerald (JoAnn) of Harlan; Leone (Burt) Merryweather of Fremont, NE; Kenneth (Jenene) of Denison; Karole (Bob) Anastasi of Honey Creek; Ed (Mary Ann) of Dunlap; Marilyn (Pete) Husak of Iowa City and Kathy (Jim) Doran of Dallas, TX; 40 grandchildren and 61 great grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held May 15, 1996 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Dunlap with Rev. Howard Fitzgerald officiating. Burial was in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Dunlap. Fouts Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.