

Earl Sievers, 87

Jan. 12, 1918 - Dec. 3, 2005

AVOCA — Earl G. Sievers was born Jan. 12, 1918, to Mangnus and Leona Petersen Sievers on the family farm near Avoca. He rode his pony to country school, and later carpooled to Avoca High School where he graduated in 1935. At that time, he enrolled at the University of Iowa where he joined the ATO fraternity, establishing many lifelong friendships. He graduated from the University of Iowa, College of Law in 1942. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. During his stint in World War II with the 71st Infantry Division, he traveled throughout France and Germany. His division was among the first to enter Dachau. As the war was ending, he fondly remembered being named Bergermeister (another name for Mayor or "brew master") of an occupied town because he was the highest ranking noncom there. After returning from the war, Earl joined the American Legion and was the first WW II veteran to serve as commander in Avoca. He joined his father farming the family farm after the war.

He met a young teacher, Georgia Rogers, who came to Avoca from Centerville, in 1947. After a short engagement, they were married in Des Moines Aug. 5, 1948. Their first child, Paula, was born in 1951. Over the next 11 years the family grew to include Pat (1952), Sondra (1954), Lisa (1958) and Virginia (1962). As his family was growing, Earl became very active in community affairs, serving on the Pottawattamie County Fair Board and the Avoca School Board. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge of Avoca for 64 years, and as a Shriner, shared the Shrine Circus with the AvoHa second graders. He was a community ambassador (Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben) from 1969 until 1991. He served the agriculture community as a county ASC committeeman for over 30 years. Earl retired from farming officially in 1981, but could still occasionally be seen driving a wagon or pickup, helping out, for the next 20 years. During his last months, he lived at the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center. He died peacefully there Dec. 3, 2005, at age 87.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents and youngest daughter, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Georgia of Avoca; daughter, Paula (Ken) Davis of Grandview, MO; son, Patrick (Lyda) Denney of Vernon, NY; daughter, Sondra (William) Dea of Avoca; daughter, Lisa (Greg) Neat of La Canada, CA; grandchildren, Caitlin Davis of Grandview; Quincy Dea (Lea Anne) of Avoca; Patrick Dea of Minneapolis; Franklin Dea of Avoca; Rita, Abbey and Leo Neat of La Canada.

Funeral services were held Dec. 6, 2005, at the United Church of Avoca with Pastor Nancy Ross-Hullinger and Father John Frost officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Casket bearers were James D. Schueman, J.C. Olesen, Paul Wise, Rex Sievers, Duane Nielsen and Bryan Simonsen. Knutson Family Chapel in charge of arrangements.