

Edward "Ed" J. Steen, 82

April 6, 1917 – Oct. 10, 1999

ELK HORN – Edward Johanas Steen, son of Hans R. and Anna Katrine (Hansen) Steen, was born April 6, 1917, in Cameron Township, Audubon County. He died Oct. 10, 1999, at the Salem Nursing Home in Elk Horn, at age 82 years. Ed attended grade school and high school in Gray, and graduated from Dana College. After graduation, he was a bookkeeper for Olsens Grocery Stores. He was manager of Farm Service in Audubon, and in 1952 became part owner of the Steen Produce and Feed in Elk Horn and Kimballton. He served during WW II as a Sergeant Major from 1941 to 1945. He was the first draftee from Cass County. He received the Bronze Star for saving the life of a soldier during the fighting on Leyte in the Philippines. He was among the first American rescue teams sent to Santo Tomas University where the Japanese had 3700 civilians from around the world interned. Their mission was accomplished and was hailed as the greatest rescue mission in the Pacific.

He married Karen Elna Jensen Feb. 22, 1948, at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Audubon. Elna died Sept. 3, 1991. They were the parents of one son, Ernest. He was a member of the Elk Horn Lutheran Church and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Karen Elna; parents, Hans and Anna Katrine; two brothers, Cameron and Arthur; sisters, Ethel and Esther; and a sister-in-law, Mrs. Leonard (Naomi) Steen. He is survived by his son, Ernest Cross; friend, Jackie Reed, both of Laporte, IN; a grandson, Eric Edward Cross of South Bend, IN; a granddaughter, Janna Ann Cross of South Bend, IN; one great grandson, Julian Cross of South Bend, IN; two brothers, Emmert Steen (Neoma) and Leonard Steen (Sharlot) of Elk Horn; very special friend, Ellowene Christensen of Kimballton; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 13, 1999, at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church with Rev. Michael Williams officiating. Burial was in the Elk Horn Lutheran Cemetery. Casket bearers were Al Steen, Mark Steen, John Steen, Bill Rollins, Dan Steen, Clark Steen, David Steen and Eiwind Madsen. Steen Funeral Home, Greenfield, in charge of arrangements.