

Francis Stoll, 85

Feb. 13, 1917 - April 6, 2003

PORTSMOUTH – Francis Stoll was born Feb. 13, 1917, at Weeping Water, NE, the son of George J. Stoll and Anna Kelley Stoll. All of his friends knew Francis as either Frank or Fronc. In his younger years, his father farmed in the Nehawka, NE area close to where Frank's grandparents had resided. Frank's grandfather, Joachim Stoll, had immigrated from Germany and after meeting and marrying his wife, Mary, in New York, Joachim homesteaded in the Berlin (now Auburn) area. While still a boy, his parents moved to Plattsmouth, NE and they lived in a home built by his father. He attended school in Plattsmouth and graduated from the Plattsmouth High School.

While in high school, Frank met his future wife, Amber Bomer. They were married in February 1938 and had three children, George, Marilyn and Bernadine. Bernadine died at birth in 1940, when Frank was living in Ames. Frank and Amber were married for 61 years and Amber died in 1999. He joined the CCC's (Civil Conservation Corps) after graduating from high school and spent 18 months in this service working on various soil conservation projects for the government. He then moved to Omaha and began working as a cook. A job opportunity arose in Ames so he and Amber moved to Ames. He was there for only a short time and the family moved back to the Council Bluffs area. He worked for various auto supply businesses in the parts departments. He moved to Omaha, NE, in 1952. During World War II, he was drafted into the Army and stationed at Camp Polk, LA. Due to his military type experience obtained in the CCC, he became a basic recruit instructor at Camp Polk until his discharge. In 1971, they moved to Persia to a small acreage on the edge of town. They later moved into Persia and owned the Water Hole Bar and Cafe. In about 1981, they moved to Portsmouth. They became involved in leather crafting and traveled to various craft shows selling their leather products. For awhile after graduation, Frank played the piano with a small band for local dances. He was quite a good piano and organ player and loved playing for others. When Lawrence Welk first started and performed in Omaha, Frank was his pianist. He died April 6, 2003, at age 85.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Amber. He is survived by his son, George (Barbara) Stoll of Omaha; a daughter, Marilyn (Albert) Blair of DuBois, NE; seven grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 10, 2003, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth. Burial was in the Glenwood Cemetery.