

## Ervin Vollbaum, 87

*Aug. 26, 1915 - Dec. 27, 2002*

**SHELBY** – Ervin Fred Vollbaum was born Aug. 26, 1915, in Council Bluffs, the son of William and Minnie Wede Vollbaum, and was one of three children in the family. He attended school at the Franz Country School. Ervin worked at the Hudson Motor Company Bomber Plant in Detroit, MI, as a structural supervisor during the production of the B-26 aircraft from June 1941 to July 1942. In August of 1942 he joined the United States Army and served in the Army Air Corps as an Aircraft Sheet Metal Worker. During World War II he served with great distinction as a member of the 452 Bombardment Group where he supported B-17 aircraft engaged in the allied bombing of Germany. He also flew as a crewmember supporting the Food Relief Missions to war-torn Holland. At the conclusion of World War II he was honorably discharged and returned to the family farm south of Shelby.

Ervin married Ruby Frederickson Sept. 18, 1948, in the English Lutheran Church in Avoca. They were the parents of two children, Carl and Joy. Ervin and Ruby continued to live on the family farm where they operated a dairy and farmed. After becoming semi-retired Ervin continued to garden. Whenever something needed fixed he was always willing to give it a try. He was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church. He died at his residence in rural Shelby, Dec. 27, 2002, at age 87 years, four months and one day.

His parents and two brothers, Edwin and Walter, preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Ruby of rural Shelby; two children, Carl Vollbaum of rural Shelby and Joy (John) Buckland of Wichita, KS, along with other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 30, 2002, at the Knutson Funeral Chapel with Pastor Lou Hoger and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery with military graveside rites by the Fred Funston Post #227. Casket bearers were Dale Schroder, Delmer Petersen, Gene Wahling, Dennis Wahling, David Wahling and Michael Hatch.