

OBITUARIES

Harold Gerke, 87

Harold Gerke, 87, State Center, died Sunday, Aug. 11, 2002, at the Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames.

Funeral services and a celebration of Harold's life will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 15 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in State Center with Rev. Mike Maddick officiating. He will be laid to rest in the Hillside Cemetery in State Center. The Wensel-Perrin Funeral Home has been entrusted by the Gerke family with his final arrangements.

Harold was born on Nov. 18, 1914, on the family farm southeast of State Center, the only son and one of six children born to Henry and Hermina "Minnie" (Hartwig) Gerke. He received his education in the area of his birth and graduated from State Center High School in 1932. Harold has farmed their family farm all of his life, the same farm his grandfather founded 107 years ago, making it a Century Farm. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, a past State Center Lions member, the Hillside Cemetery Board and had served as past president of the State Center Creamery Board. He was proud of farming and will be fondly remembered for his enjoyment of fishing, West Marshall games, the Iowa Hawkeyes and the St. Louis Cardinals as well as his winter trips

to Florida. His greatest legacy is the loving family he has left behind. He will be greatly missed by them and friends alike.

On Dec. 31, 1939, at State Center, he was united in marriage to Evelyn Mae Hamm. She preceded him in death on Nov. 27, 1960. On Aug. 29, 1965, he was married to Phyllis Woodhouse Hilleman of Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas by Rev. Vic Koepke.

Left to mourn his loss are his loving wife of nearly 37 years, Phyllis, two daughters Bonnie (Bob) Lanxon of Ames, Diane (Don) Keller of Atlanta, GA, and step-daughter Diane C. (Bob) Briscoe of Stroudsburg, PA. Five grandchildren: Brad (Korene) Lanxon of North Liberty; and Tami (Ron) Saren, Brittany Berger and Megan and Matthew Keller all of Atlanta, his great-grandchildren Madison and Andrew Saren, his step-grandchildren Bryan and Jason Slotten, both of Chicago and Matt and C.J. Briscoe, both of Stroudsburg, PA., his only sister Gertrude Monroe and numerous nieces and nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

In death he has rejoined his parents, his first wife Evelyn, and four sisters Leora, Metge, Aleta German, Ildra Rohrer and Rocel Koepke.