

September 16, 2004

Melvin Chris Wilkening

Sept. 1, 1917, to Sept. 7, 2004

Melvin Chris Wilkening, 87, of State Center, died Tuesday, Sept. 7, at the Hospice House in Ames. Funeral services were held Friday, Sept. 10, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in State Center with Pastor Gary MacManus officiating. Interment followed in the Hillside Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established. Estel-Perrin-Avey Funeral Home handled arrangements.

He was born Sept. 1, 1917, in State Center, to son of Christopher Henry and Aleta Elma (Pfantz) Wilkening. Raised and educated in State Center, he graduated from high school there in 1936. He was united in marriage to Naomi Jesson of Feb. 18, 1940, in State Center and they farmed southwest of State Center for 64 years.

Throughout the years Melvin was actively involved as a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and also served as an usher and church board member.

Survivors include his wife, Naomi, of State Center; three daughters, Ruth Ann (Roy) Smyth of Solon, IA, Mary Dixon of State Center, Diane (Richard) Empie of Nashville, TN.; four grandchildren, Mark Smyth, Scott (Lori) Smyth, Erin (Bryan) Ray and Jeffrey (Jill) Masse. Also surviving are eight great-grandchildren, Hallie and Katie, daughter of Mark Smyth; Courtney and Kelsey, daughter of Scott (Lori) Smyth; Jack and Adam, sons of Erin (Bryan) Ray; Taylor and Ashlyn, daughters of Jeffrey (Jill) Masse; two brothers, Merle (Merie) Wilkening of Colo, Eugene E. (Marilynn) Wilkening of State Center; and one sister, Kathryn (John) Dull of Marshalltown.

He was preceded in death by his parents.