

## Obituary

Oliver G. Johansen

Oliver George Johansen, the oldest son of Fred and Marie (Dorffler) Johansen, was born on a farm north of Friend, Nebraska on May 11, 1914 and died Saturday, August 11, 2007 at the Friend Manor at the age of 93 years and 3 months. As a young boy, he attended country School District #23 and graduated from Friend High School with the Class of 1932. After high school, Oliver farmed on the family farm north of Friend. Oliver was united in marriage to Ella Mae Miner on June 5, 1935, in Friend at the Congregational Church and to this union a son, Roger Dale, and two daughters, Sharon Kay and Karolyn Jean were born.

Oliver farmed for a period of time before moving to Sedalia, Colorado where he raised foxes for the Silver Fox Farm, located near Sedalia. He was drafted into the US Army Signal Corp during WWII and spent 11 months in Germany. Upon his discharge he returned to Nebraska where he continued to farm for a few years. In the late 1950's, Oliver and Ella Mae purchased the locker in Cordova and operated, Johansen's Lock-er. In 1967, they moved to Hastings where Oliver became a traveling salesman for the Schwarz Paper Company for 14 years. In 1981, they retired and he and Ella Mae returned to the Friend area to make their home.

Oliver was baptized in the Lutheran Church in Cordova, but was a member of the Congregational and United Church of Christ in Friend most of his life. He also was a member of the Cordova American Legion L. Petersen Post #359, and a former member of the Chorus of the Plains in Hastings. In his retirement, Oliver enjoyed woodworking, working in their flower garden and golfing at the country club. Most of all, Oliver enjoyed his family and was a very kind and gentle person who will be missed by all.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Roger and LaVonna Johansen, Wichita, Kan., daughter and son-in-law, Karolyn and Larry Pospisil, Surprise, Neb., eight grandchildren, Greg and Teresa Johansen, Susan Johansen, Mark and Darlene Johansen, Tom and Kathy Johansen, all of Wichita, Jim and Karla Morton, Grand Island, Sheri and Jason Durand, Bell-wood, Dean and Amy Pospisil, Yokosuka, Japan, Joe and Stephanie Pospisil of Lincoln, 18 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren, brothers and sisters-in-law, Floyd and Vicki Johansen, Willard and Marge Johansen, all of Friend, nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Oliver was preceded in death by his wife, Ella Mae on May 24, 2007, an infant daughter, Sharon, his parents and a sister, Eleanor Johansen.

A Funeral Service was held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 15, 2007 at the United Church of Christ, Friend, with Rev. Jo Ackerman officiating. Interment was in Andrew Cemetery, Friend with military services conducted by Cordova American Legion L. Petersen Post #359. Visitation was from 2:00-8:00 p.m. on Monday, 9:00 am to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday and 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, at Lauber-Moore Funeral Home, Friend, and one hour prior to services at church. Memorials have been established to United Church of Christ or to the Warren Memorial Hospital Foundation towards the Friend Manor.

Carolyn Taylor, organist, accompanied the quartet of Marvin Kraus, Everett Stewart, Charles Cogswell and Brad Ramp as they sang "In The Garden" and "Because He Lives". The pallbearers were his grandchildren, Greg, Mar, Tom and Susan Johansen, Joe and Dean Pospisil, Sheri Durand and Karla Morton. Arrangements were entrusted to the care of Lauber-Moore Funeral Home, Friend. Condolences may be sent to the family at [laubermore.com](http://laubermore.com).