

Basil J. Koxlien

Basil J. Koxlien, 91, of Taylor, WI, went to meet his wife, Verna, in heaven for Christmas, Wednesday, December 17, 2014, at Black River Falls Memorial Hospital, Black River Falls, while under the care of Black River Memorial Hospice. He was born June 9, 1923, in Vosse Coulee, rural Blair, WI, to Peter and Tena (Lien) Koxlien.

Basil was larger than life in all that he did. He was a jokester right to the end of his life.

His working career covered a multitude of occupations. Basil was one of the first to operate a beet sugar picker while in North Dakota. He also worked on the Koxlien home farm in Vosse Coulee. While working for Victor Melby in Tapen Coulee, he was using a thrashing machine from the 1800s. Several of the farms he worked on included the Deo Relyea and Everett Hanson farms. Basil entertained the Taylor school kids while driving bus for Clifford Fisher and many vehicles in the Taylor area were serviced by Basil at Benny Johnson's garage. He retired from AMPI Cheese Factory in Blair, after 23 years and continued to be busy with his woodworking skills.

Besides woodworking, Basil enjoyed hunting, fishing, and gardening. He was a member of the Trempealeau Valley Lutheran Church, rural Blair.

Basil is survived by his children, Michael Koxlien of Taylor, Karen (Gary) Dolsey of Black River Falls, Duane (Suzanne) Koxlien of Dalton Gardens, Idaho, Cynthia Shepardson of Whitefish Bay, WI, Shiela (Gary) Nelson of Blue River, WI, Barbara (Richard) Loomis of Black River Falls, and Steven (Susan) Koxlien of Edgar Springs, Missouri; 13 grandchildren; 23 great grandchildren; 2 great great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Florine Koxlien of Strum, WI; other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife Verna of 67 years, and 2 granddaughters, Pamela and Veronica. Basils was the last of the 13 Koxlien children from Vosse Coulee.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, December 27, 2014, 11:00 a.m., at Trempealeau Valley Lutheran Church, Blair, WI. Reverend Liz Albertson will be officiating. Burial will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery, Taylor, WI.

Family and friends are invited for visitation Friday, December 26, 2014, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., at Jensen-Modjeski Funeral Home, Hixton, WI.

Family and friends are also invited for visitation Saturday, December 27, 2014, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service at the church.

Jensen-Modjeski Funeral Home of Hixton is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences are available at [www.jensenmodjeskifuneralhome.com](http://www.jensenmodjeskifuneralhome.com).