



Lyness Wilmer Olson

1927 - 2016

Lyness Wilmer Olson, 88 of rural Taylor passed away Thursday, March 17, 2016 surrounded by family at the home of his daughter and son-in-law in Marshfield.

Lyness was born December 8, 1927 to Ludwig O. and Rebecca (Walsted) Olson at the family homestead in Pete Coulee. He was the third of five children. He attended the Jackson Elementary School and Taylor High School. In his high school years, he played both basketball and baseball.

On June 15, 1957, Lyness married Nola Blencoe at the First Presbyterian Church in Hixton (now Hixton United Methodist Church). They would have celebrated their 59th anniversary in June.

He was a man of many talents and interests. He played guitar and was known for singing "I am my own Grandpa." In July 2015, he even got to sing the song with country singer Maggie Mae. Lyness was a poet, story-teller and great joke-teller. His sense of humor and wit kept people on their toes. He was a cartoonist who liked to surprise friends and neighbors with pictures of themselves doing comical activities (roller skating, riding a goat as a lawnmower etc.) He also was a master carpenter, (building kitchen cabinets) and creative woodworker, making anything from wooden tricks to mirrored shelves. Also in his spare time, he enjoyed looking for 4-leaf clovers, (at one time he had a plant near the barn with fourteen 4-leaf clovers on it.) He loved to go for drives looking for deer and other wildlife.

He farmed for 69 years milking cows with his brother Elvie until Elvie passed away in 1985. He then raised hogs, calves and beef cattle until his retirement in 2012. He was sought after for his custom work, filling silos and baling hay for neighbors. He took pride in keeping his machinery in good repair, and did so with the help of his nephew Randy Hanson.

Lyness drove school bus for the Taylor and Blair-Taylor School Districts for 21 years. He served as the Woodlawn Cemetery Board president for several years and served his church in various capacities.

He is survived by his wife, Nola, daughter Lynette (Ronald) Tomlinson of Marshfield, granddaughter Aleah (his "little gold nugget"), Step-granddaughters, Nicole Tomlinson, Tracie (Matt) Maslak, and Amanda Tomlinson, step-great-grandchildren, Bradley Tomlinson, Taylor Tomlinson, Caleb Maslak, James Maslak (due in April) and Blake David. He is further survived by an aunt, Evelyn Walsted, sister-in-law Sharon Engen, brothers and sister-in-laws Roger and Carol Blencoe and James and Becky Kuhn, 18 nieces and nephews and many other family and friends.

Lyness was preceded in death by his parents, Ludwig and Rebecca, brothers Herbert and Elvie, sisters LaVon Carlson and Rosell Hanson, mother and father-in-law Oscar and Beatrice Blencoe, sister-in-law Eileen Olson, brothers-in-law Robert Hanson and Jerold Engen and nephew Joseph Provost.

Services for Lyness W. Olson will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 26, 2016 at the Hixton United Methodist Church. Pastor Meg Erickson officiating with burial at Woodlawn Cemetery, rural Taylor. Family and friends are invited for visitation Friday, March 25, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Jensen-Modjeski Funeral Home in Hixton.

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