PETERSEN, Alvin P.

April 21, 1915
southwest Turner County
November 26, 2001
Omaha, Nebraska

Viborg Enterprise
December 13, 2001

Alvin Petersen

Alvin P. Petersen, 86, Onawa, Iowa, was born to P.L. and Cecelia (Hansen) Petersen in Turner County on April 21, 1915. He was the last of 10 children and was the last survivor of the family. He died November 26, 2001 in St. Joseph's Hospital in Omaha, Neb., after a long history of heart problems.

He was cremated. Services were held in the Gaukel Park Shelter House on December 2.

Alvin's father was killed in a car accident when Alvin was nine and his mother died from cancer when he was 15. He stayed on the home farm with his brothers until 18, then spent some time working at odd jobs on the way across the country until he was called into the service. He was in the Army Medical Corps and served 3 1/2 years during World War II, earning three overseas service stars, with his unit winning a meritorious unit Award and others.

He started a trucking business in Irene, after he was discharged. He married Laverda Gibson in Sioux Falls on March 2, 1950. They lived in the Yankton/Vermillion area before moving to Onawa in 1986. He worked at Well Repair and Drilling after his marriage until he took over as main caretaker of their two boys: Gary (of Crystal Lake, Ill.) and Paul (of Sioux City, Iowa), both of whom survive, along with Gary's wife Ann and eight grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two grandchildren.

Alvin enjoyed weather, nature, animal husbandry, walking and eating geese. It was a tradition to have a huge party with a bonfire every 4th of July.

He had a strong sense of family and roots and struck up friendships wherever he went. He took his boys on the Missouri River as often as possible and in later years, checked on it regularly. He commandeered and maintained an island in the Missouri River for recreation for his family and friends for years.

Alvin was an uncle of Doris DeVries and Robert Petersen of the Viborg area. Burial of the cremains will be at a later date at Hansen Cemetery, Irene, SD.