Bennie Dunsbergen, 89, Newton

Bennie Dick Dunsbergen was born on Aug. 16, 1917, at rural Newton. He was the third of five children that were born to Barney and Alida "Alie" Carbo Dunsbergen. Bennie attended the Spring Hill Country School in Buena Vista Township in Jasper County. On July 22, 1938, he was united in marriage with Margaret Jeannette Huyser at the parsonage of the First Reformed Church in Sully. To this union three children were born: Marilyn Joyce, Ronald Dean and Marcia Ann. Following their marriage Bennie and Margaret began farming south of Kellogg, where they lived for 10 years. They then moved north of Sully where they lived and farmed on three different farms until 1984. In 1984, they moved into the home they had built in Sully at 802 3rd Street. Farming was a way of life for Bennie and he remained active helping his son, Ronald, on the farm until 2004. Bennie and Margaret were living in their home when she passed away on April 12, 2003.

Following her death he continued living there until becoming a resident at Newton Village in Newton in October 2003. For the past 16 months Bennie had made his residence at the Nelson Manor in Newton where he passed away late Sunday afternoon, Dec. 17, 2006. Bennie attained the age of 89 years, 4 months and 1 day.

Those who will cherish his memory are his three children and their spouses: Marilyn and Melvin Jansen, Ronald and Julie Dunsbergen, Marcia and Gary Williams, 11 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. Of his original family Bennie leaves his sister, Wilma (Bernard) De Zwarte of Newton; his brother, Robert Dunsbergen of Sully; and a sister-in-law, Margaret (Mrs. Lester Huyser) Vande Krol of Sully. Bennie was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret; his parents, Barney and Alie Dunsbergen; one brother who died in infancy; his oldest sister, Nellie F. Jansen, who died Aug. 11, 2005 and her husband, Everett G. Jansen, who died Dec. 4, 2005; his sister-in-law, Anna Mae Dunsbergen, who died July 22, 2005; his brother-in-law, Bernard De Zwarte, who died Oct. 24, 2006; along with brothers-in-law, Lester L. Huyser who died in 1969 and Russell Vande Krol who died Oct. 3, 2002.

Bennie was a lifelong, active member of the First Reformed Church in Sully where he had served as a Deacon and an Elder. He had been a member of the Farm Bureau and had served as a board member of the Lynnville/Sully Schools. Bennie served on the board of the Pella Cooperative Electric Association at Pella for 25 years and had also served on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative Board at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. His Christian faith, family and farming were Bennie's most important focuses in life. He later enjoyed fishing and his family has many remembrances of his wood-working skills.

Funeral services were held Friday Dec. 22, at the First Reformed Church in Sully with interment in the Sully Cemetery.
Bennie Dunsbergen


A funeral service will be held Friday, Dec. 22, at 11 a.m. at First Reformed Church in Sully with interment following in Sully Cemetery. Visitation will take place Thursday at Van Dyk-Duven Funeral Home in Pella with family members present from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Jasper County or First Reformed Church in Sully.

He is survived by two daughters, Marilyn J. Jansen of Newton and Marcia A. Williams of Diamond Bar, Calif., and one son, Ronald D. Dunsbergen of Lynnville.