

Monday, May 4, 1970

## Last Rites Said For John Matzen

Funeral services were held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell for John Matzen, 96, who died late Wednesday evening at the Lone Elm Nursing Home where he had been living the past two years.

The Rev. Elmer Elzey, pastor of Trinity Lutheran church near Malcom, officiated at the services. Organist was Mrs. Willard Heffner.

Pallbearers were Raymond Meldrem, Max Meldrem, Glen Meldrem, Champ Delk, Bob Saunders and Wayne Gropper.

Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery.

The son of Hans and Margaret Matzen, Mr. Matzen was born on March 3, 1874 in Schleswig, Germany, one of a family of 12 children. He attended country schools near his home in Germany coming to the United States at the age of 15 along with one brother and three sisters.

After arriving in the United States in 1889, he began farming in northwest Iowa. For four years he farmed in Lyon County and for three years he farmed in O'Brien County before moving to Poweshiek County and Sheridan Township. He started farming on his own in 1901 and lived in Sheridan and Chester Townships until 1920. He also farmed for 16 years west of Brooklyn before moving to Grinnell to make his home in 1936. He retired from the trucking and limestone hauling business in 1940.

On Dec. 24, 1902, he married Zella Schmidt who preceded him in death on July 8, 1934. On Aug.

16, 1943, he married Dollie Miller who preceded him in death on Feb. 2, 1969.

Survivors include two children—Mrs. Jack (Elsie) Norris of Grinnell and Arthur Matzen of North Platte, Neb.; four step-children—Odie Blevins of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mrs. Sara Kelly of Houston, Texas, Mrs. Margie Learning of Des Moines, and Jim Miller of Grinnell; 24 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren and four great great-grandchildren.

Mr. Matzen was preceded in death by his two wives; one son, Walter Matzen, who died in 1912 at the age of 31; one brother and three sisters, Peter Matzen, Mrs. Anna Oltrogge, Mrs. Margaret Lidtka and Mrs. Katherin Frahm; seven brothers and sisters who remained in Germany; and three step-children—DeWitt Miller, Grace Guffey and Ruby Pletcher.