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Kleppinger Funeral Home

409 Broadway Jewell, Kansas 66949

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Leo Eugene Birdsell – Jewell, KS

Born on October 1, 1927, to Roscoe and Thelma Birdsell, Leo Eugene Birdsell passed away on August 5, 2012.

The third child of Roscoe and Thelma, Leo grew up on a farm 10 miles southwest of Jewell. He attended the Athens School for ten years and finished his last two years of school at Jewell Rural High School, graduating in 1945.

While at JRHS, he met the love of his life, Janet Owen, and they were married on October 26, 1947. Two sons were born to Janet and Leo. Alan was born in 1950 and Rodney was born in 1954.

Following their marriage, Leo farmed for a few years and worked at the Jewell Lumber Yard before going to work for Jewell County in 1956. After running a road grader for most of his 36 years working for Jewell County, Leo retired in 1992.

After his retirement, Leo and Janet spent many years square dancing, traveling, camping, gardening and traveling to Hesston for his grandsons' school activities and ballgames. Leo always took great pride in his Christmas light display, his craftsmanship, and his family.

Leo was preceded in death by his parents Roscoe and Thelma, his brother Dale and his sister Inez.

Survivors are wife Janet, son Alan and wife Becky of Hesston, and son Rodney and wife Felicia Hall of Beatrice, Nebraska. Leo had two grandsons, Derrick (Amy) and Christopher (Mary) and one great-grandson, Glen.

Funeral services are Wednesday, August 8, at the Trinity United Methodist Church, Jewell, at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be at the Jewell Cemetery immediately following the funeral.

Visitation is at Kleppinger Funeral Home, 409 Broadway, Jewell, KS, on Tuesday from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Memorials may go to Trinity United Methodist Church, Jewell. Condolences may be sent to kleppinger@nckcn.com.