



Orville Luepke

October 18, 2010

Orville Edgar Luepke was born in Windom, Minnesota on August 4, 1922. His family moved from near Delft, Minnesota to Storm Lake, Iowa when he was 8 months old. He graduated from Storm Lake High School in 1939, then worked for Storm Lake Floral Co. for the next two years. In 1941 he completed a course in engineering drafting at Iowa State College (now ISU) and moved to Chicago where he worked in the defense industry. He was married to Dorothy Ann Christensen in Storm Lake on April 5, 1942. They continued living in Chicago until he was drafted into the US Army in 1944. Still state-side on VJ Day, he finished his military service in the Philippines after the war as an MP, and was discharged as a 1st Lieutenant in 1946. They moved back to Storm Lake where he worked again at Storm Lake Floral until 1948 when he began farming near Sulphur Springs, Iowa. A farm injury in 1962 prompted his continuing education at Buena Vista College where he completed his BA in 1966, moved off the farm to Storm Lake, and started teaching at Marathon, Iowa. He received his MA from The University of South Dakota in 1970 and moved to Emmetsburg, Iowa where he worked as a guidance counselor until his retirement in 1985. He worked summers as a painter. Dorothy was killed in an auto accident in 1985. He married Anne McLaughlin of Brooklyn, New York on September 4, 1989 and lived with her in Brooklyn. She passed away in 2003. He moved to a retirement apartment in Spirit Lake, Iowa in 2009 where he lived until shortly before his death from pancreatic cancer on October 19, 2010 at the age of 88. Orville was a devout Christian and was very active in

the Lutheran Church and later the Catholic Church. His hobbies were gardening and woodworking. He was a skilled carpenter who built several houses and farm buildings. He was a 40-year member of Kiwanis, about which he wrote in his 1999 autobiography, "