

Charlie DeBonte, 80



Charlie DeBonte, 80, of Searsboro, died Thursday, Feb. 5, 2004, at Grinnell, Iowa.

His funeral service was Monday, Feb. 9 at Watts Funeral Home, Montezuma, with the Rev. William

Reynolds of the Catholic Church in Grinnell officiating. Interment was at Oakhill Cemetery, Belle Plaine. Watts Funeral Home of Montezuma was in charge of the arrangements.

Pallbearers were Rick Dudley, Tim Carnes, Andy Davis, John Beason, Camiel Landuyt and Russ Tuttle Sr.

Honorary pallbearers were Doc Meredith, Carrol Beyers, Melvin Rätcliff, Keith Renaud, Gerrit Septer, Roger Watson, Doyle Van DeKrol, Janet Anderson, Carol Evans, LeAnn Hasley, Paul Clapp and Rich Heemsbergen.

Charlie DeBonte was born July 8, 1923, at Belle Plaine, the son of Theophiel and Victoria (Vols) DeBonte.

On Feb. 21, 1945, he was united in marriage with Evelyn Stoneking at Cedar Rapids. They made their home in Melrose. Besides farming for 40 years, Charlie also worked for Burlington Northern Railroad for 17 years before retiring. In his spare time, Charlie loved to play Pepper in card tournaments and loved the unique game of Rollie Bollie. He also took up hunting and fishing. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Those left to honor Charlie's memory are his one daughter, Mary (David) Dudley of Grinnell, and adopted daughter Debra (Bruce) Wagner of Barnes City; eight grandchildren, Annette (Tim) Carnes, Angela (Andy) Davis, Becky (Brian) Johnson, Rick Dudley and Debra Sheets, Jamie Dudley, Lori (Alan) Rupe, Wendy (Shad) Sisson, and Vicki (John) Morris along with many great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Charlie was preceded in death by his loving wife, Evelyn, and two sons, Charles and John and one great-grandson, Brandon Carnes.

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