William ‘Billy’ Airey


A funeral service was held Monday, June 21, at Smith Funeral Home with burial following in Sheridan Cemetery. Memorials may be designated to the William L. Airey Memorial Fund.

He was born Aug. 3, 1933, in Grinnell, the son of Mervin and Lila Heishman Airey. In 1936, the family moved to the Marshalltown area. He graduated from Liscomb High School with the class of 1952. In January, 1952, he enlisted in the Iowa National Guard. He served honorably with Company D (the Red Bull Division) until his discharge in 1958.

On Dec. 8, 1962, he was united in marriage with Ruth McDonald in Marshalltown. He farmed until 1971 when he began driving a livestock truck for Buck Hummer Trucking of Oxford, later driving for Don Hummer Trucking in Homestead, then worked at Zueber’s Restaurant in Homestead, later for BrickHaus Restaurant in Amana.

He was a member of the United Methodist Church, and had been a resident of Parkview Manor in Wellman for the past two years.

He is survived by his wife Ruth Airey of Oxford; four daughters, Sharon McBroom of Oxford, Linda Airey of Grinnell, Judy Schwab of Oxford and Evelyn Yamauchi of Tiffin; two sons, Lynn Airey of Iowa City and Mervin Airey of Oxford; four grandchildren and one brother, Lyle Airey of Albion. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Floyd Airey.