

Frank Gray

A-R AUGUST 4, 2005



Frank Gray, 82, of Des Moines and formerly of Newton died Monday, Aug. 1, at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines.

Funeral services for Frank Gray will

be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 5, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. John Epperson, pastor of the Grinnell Christian Church, officiating. Pallbearers will be Tom, Rodney and Linda Gray, Nancy Moore, Mark, Robert and Tim Cook and Julie Nuss. Honorary bearers will be John Burgess, Ulysses "Babe" Bucklin, John Williams, Bill Morrison, Tom Kennedy, James Kane, Ron Dalton and Nick Bishop. Burial will be in Chester Cemetery, north of Grinnell.

He was born Dec. 7, 1922, in Shell Lake Wis., the son of Andrew and Jean Soper Gray. He moved with his family to Baxter and received his education in the Baxter School District.

He married Caroline Olson in 1945 in Newton and the couple lived in Waterloo, where he was employed at John Deere.

He later married Ruth Schnell in Lancaster, Mo., and, after her death in 1962, he met Patricia Cook, his common-law wife of 26 years.

He made his home in Newton for years before moving to Des Moines in 1971. He worked with Sawyer Construction in Baxter, then as a welder with Economy Forms in Des Moines. He retired in the early 1980s.

He was a member of the Iron Workers Union.

He is survived by three sons, Tom Gray of Bethalto, Ill., Rodney Gray of Phoenix, Ariz., and Mark Cook of Des Moines; two daughters, Nancy Moore of Newton and Linda Gray of Grinnell; two step-sons, Robert Cook of Jacksonville, Fla., and Tim Cook of Des Moines; one step-daughter, Julie Nuss of Ankeny; ten grandchildren; ten step-grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and six step-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two wives, Ruth Gray and Patricia Cook-Gray; a son, Jackie Edwin Gray, in infancy; a daughter-in-law; and a step-son-in-law.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Frank Gray Memorial Fund.