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Delmar Larsen



Delmar Larsen, 83, of Grinnell, died January 8, 2019, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

Memorial services are pending until this coming spring at the Grinnell First Friends Church.

Memorial contributions may be designated to the Grinnell First Friends Church or St. Francis Manor Foundation in Grinnell.

Delmar was born January 2, 1936, to Knudt and Olga (Figland) Larsen on the family farm near Grinnell. He was the sixth of seven children. He attended Grant #7, Malcom #9 and Grant #5

country elementary schools and was a 1954 graduate of Grinnell High School.

He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls in 1958, a Master of Arts Degree from Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, in 1960, and a Doctor of Philosophy from The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, in 1964.

He was married to Evelyn Ann Bergh December 30, 1958, in Wayland, Iowa. Three children, Kenneth, Kevin and Kimberly were born to this union.

Delmar taught for two years in the public schools, and some special summer programs. He taught at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan, in the Technology and Business Education Department within the College of Technology. After twenty years, he retired as a tenured emeritus full professor.

In 1981, Delmar and Evelyn purchased the family century farm southeast of Grinnell and moved there in 1984. They farmed for six seasons until the farm was put into the Federal Conservation Reserve Program for ten years.

Delmar and Evelyn owned and operated Kekeki Antiques in Michigan and Iowa for 35 years. Kekeki Antiques was named after their three children. The business involved restoring, refinishing and selling antique furniture. The Blackhawk Hotel in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and the Greenfield Hotel in Greenfield, Iowa, are both on the National Register of Historic Places. Providing these historic hotels with antique furniture kept Delmar busy for over twelve years.

Delmar especially enjoyed playing the tuba in the New Horizons Band in Iowa City, Iowa. Through this hobby he and Evelyn participated in forty band camps throughout the United States. He also played in the Grinnell Municipal Band, Newton Band, Grinnell College Symphonic Band and the What Cheer Winds band.

Other hobbies have included international and domestic travel, fishing, including several fly-in trips into Ontario, Canada and many enjoyable hours in the woodshop.

Survivors include: wife, Evelyn of Grinnell; children: Kenneth (Silvia) Larsen of Edcouch, Texas, Kevin (Diane) Larsen of Northville, Michigan, and Kimberly (Tom Hill) Larsen of Vista, California; and two siblings: Anna Louise Doty of Grinnell and Roger Larsen of Englewood, Colorado. He was preceded in death by his parents, Knudt and Olga Larsen, and four siblings, Kenneth Gladys, Clara (Ryan) and Raymond.