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Richard Vander Wilt, 90, Tennessee

Richard Vander Wilt, first child of Gerrit J. and Emma Meyer Vander Wilt, was born April 3, 1916, in Black Oak Township in Mahaska County.

He attended Black Oak School, completing the eighth grade. The Great Depression kept him from pursuing his education further due to the necessity of supplementing the family income. This he did by driving his father's dump truck, delivering grain and coal for neighbors, which began his lifelong love of trucking.

In 1936, he married Elizabeth

Voss and in 1946 was united in marriage with Dorothy Mae Nance.

He worked in farming and during World War II he helped build Liberty ships in California. He worked in copper mining in Arizona and drove a bus for Greyhound Lines before returning to farming and part-time trucking near Sully.

In 1955, he moved his family to Davenport and began trucking full-time. In the late 1960's his trucking career took him to Memphis, Tennessee, where he remained in trucking until he was 78 years old.

Richard passed away Jan. 31,

2007, in Memphis, Tennessee. He is survived by his two sons and their wives: Larry E. and Linda Vander Wilt of Green Cove Springs, Florida, and Richard Junior and Karen Vander Wilt of Davenport; three grandchildren: Lucy Lee Wight, Wendy Kay Cash, and Joseph Allen Vander Wilt; four great-grandchildren; his sister, Wilma Memmelaar of Eddyville; and his sister-in-law, Iola Vander Wilt of Pella.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents; his wives, and two brothers: Paul Alvin and Alvin.