

James H. Manatt

James H. Manatt, 86, of Malcom died Monday, Aug. 11, 2008, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.



A funeral service will take place Friday, Aug. 15, at 10:30 a.m. at the Malcom Presbyterian Church with the Rev. John Reynolds Jr. officiating. Organist will be Alice Waechter. Pall bearers will be Robert, Traci and Crystal Manatt, Patrick and Steven Coleman and Veronica Lemke. Burial will be in Ivy Hill Cemetery at Malcom with military rites by the Malcom American Legion. Visitation will be from 12 noon to 8 p.m. Thursday at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with family members present from 6 to 8 p.m. Memorials may be made to Malcom Presbyterian Church.

The son of Fred and Esther L. Wichman Manatt, he was born Jan. 18, 1922, in Grinnell. He lived in Clark's Grove, Minn., for several years, later moving to Deep River where he attended school. He was a veteran of the United States Navy during World War II, serving on a mine sweeper in the Pacific Theater.

On Feb. 12, 1949, he was united in marriage with Laurma Jean Baltisberger at the Malcom Presbyterian Church. They farmed for many years in the Malcom area. In 1970 he began his passion of raising Belgium horses and later formed the company, James H. Manatt & Sons which specialized in that business.

He was a member of the Malcom Presbyterian Church, the American Legion, Chat a Lot card club, Ruritans and the Draft Horse & Mule Association. He enjoyed his family, attending auctions and cooking. He favored home-made ice cream, barbecued

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chicken and making pancakes for family and friends.

He is survived by his wife Laurma of Malcom; his daughter and sons, Connie K. Coleman, Larry J. Manatt and Ronald E. Manatt, all of Malcom; six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his stepfather, Harry Porter; three sons, Merle, Richard and Edwin and one sister Velma Watson.