

J. R. Bitcon Rites Friday ⁵/₇ 74

J. Raymond Bitcon, 61, of Bella Vista, Ark., and formerly of Mason City, died suddenly Tuesday afternoon, May 7, in Bella Vista.

The son of William and V. Pearl Gregson Bitcon, he was born Nov. 12, 1912, southeast of Grinnell. He attended the Grinnell public schools and was graduated from Grinnell High School with the class of 1931.

On Nov. 30, 1933, he was married to Lillian Greene at Anamosa. He was associated with the Gamble Store in Grinnell until World War II when he served with the U.S. Navy. Following his discharge, he was associated with the Armour Company for 29 years in Des Moines and later in Mason City. He served as canned meat manager until his retirement in 1973.

Mr. and Mrs. Bitcon had made their home in Mason City for the past 26 years. They moved to Bella Vista in January, 1974.

Mr. Bitcon was a member of the First Congregational Church in Mason City; Benevolence Lodge No. 145, A.F. & A.M., in Mason City; B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 375 in Mason City; B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 1266 in Grinnell.

He is survived by his wife Lillian. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services for Mr. Bitcon will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday at the Smith Funeral Home, with the Rev. Hugh A. Shiveley, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Grinnell, officiating. Organist will be Mrs. Willard Heffner, and pallbearers will be Don Bailey, Bill Dimit, Jim Dimit, Robert Dimit, Earl Mitchell, Edd Phillips and Charles Sergeant.

Masonic Rites will be conducted by Hoyt Woody and members of Hermon Masonic Lodge No. 273, Grinnell.

Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Should friends desire, memorials in Mr. Bitcon's name may be made to the Grinnell General Hospital coronary care unit.