

## Edward Bohstedt



H-R August 6, 2001

Edward Harjes Bohstedt, 86, of Grinnell died of congestive heart failure Wednesday, Aug. 1, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services were held Saturday at the Grinnell First Baptist Church, with the Revs. Tim Stewart, Bob Smith and Bob Zirkelbach officiating. Organist was Denise Baustian, and pianist was Jeanette Tisdale. Pallbearers were Mark Bohstedt, Chuck Brooke, Ed McAdam, Russ Morgan, Gary Palmer and Paul Voss. Honorary bearers were Harold Brown, Donovan Evans, Harland Mueller, Laverne Morrison and Virgil Palmer.

Interment was at Hazelwood Cemetery, with the Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

He was born on a farm near Victor to Edward and Gesine Harjes Bohstedt. The family moved to a farm south of Grinnell in 1920. He was a 1933 graduate of Grinnell High School and attended John Fletcher College, University Park, for two years.

That summer he was stricken with polio. After recovering, he attended Grinnell College, graduating in 1939. Because of his father's illness, he ran the family farm. He later worked for the Reserve Officers Training Corps at Grinnell College and was an Internal Revenue Service agent for five years.

On Aug. 11, 1944, he was married to Elizabeth Ann Gray at Eldora. They lived in Grinnell.

Mr. Bohstedt operated a small business for several years and was later employed by IMT Insurance Co. of Des Moines for 31 years. He was ~~Chairman~~ <sup>Chairman</sup> of the Poweshiek County Democratic Party in the 1950s and '60s. He helped found the Grinnell Area Christian School. He built a number of business and multi-family units in Grinnell, leading to the formation of Edan Corporation to own and manage them.

Mr. Bohstedt served as First Baptist Church organist for over 50 years. In 1972, he began working with American Baptist Men at the area, regional and national levels. He was also active in the Baptist World Alliance and its Men's Department, eventually becoming vice president and president of the North American Baptist Men's Fellowship.

Surviving are his wife; three children, Cynthia Kenyon of Portland, Ore., Claudia Bloom of La Mirada, Calif., and Ralph of Grinnell; four grandchildren; and one sister, Ruth Bohstedt Palmer of Des Moines.

Memorial contributions may be directed to his church.