

H-R October 28, 1996

## Merle Harris

Merle A. Harris, 84 of Grinnell died Friday, Oct. 25, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at the United Church of Christ - Congregational, with the Rev. Ken Wallace, pastor of the Newburg-Chester Parish, officiating. Organist was Alice Renaud, soloist was Milton Severe and pianist was Denise Baustian.

Pallbearers were Chris, David, Henry, Jim, Mike, Steve, Tom and Walter Harris and Tom Sears. Burial was in Chester Cemetery, with the Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

The son of Thomas and Caroline Lena Schmidt Harris, he was born April 2, 1912, in Chester Township. He was raised on the family farm and attended rural school. He graduated from Grinnell High School in 1929.

On Feb. 28, 1937, he was married to Blanche Siehl. The couple farmed in Chester Township.

Mr. Harris served as Chester Township clerk and Chester Cemetery sexton for 35 years. he was a member of the Chester Church and the Sonora Grange. He held several offices in the church and was Chester Township chairman for the Poweshiek County Farm Bureau.

Surviving are his wife; two sons, Dale of Grinnell and Dennis of Gilman; one sister, Lillie Tice of Grinnell; one brother, Glenn of Grinnell; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Dean; three brothers, Frank, Raymond and Harvey; and two sisters, Esther Sears and one in infancy.

Memorial contributions in Mr. Harris's name may be made to the Newburg-Chester Church.