

Charles Hink, local inventor, is dead at 88



412 Charles A. Hink 7/30/75
Charles A. Hink, 88, of 1127
Main St., Grinnell, an inventor
and aviation pioneer, died
Wednesday morning at
Grinnell General Hospital.

Funeral services will be held
at 2 p.m. Friday at the Smith
Funeral Home, with the Rev.
Marcus E. Reitz, pastor of St.
John's Lutheran Church, of-
ficiating. Organist will be Mrs.
Willard Heffner, and flower
bearers will be Mrs. Wesley
Ahrens and Mrs. Earnest
Badger. Pallbearers will be
William Cleland, Charles
Holtz, Roger McMullin, Robert
Osborn, Charles Smith and
Dean Witwer. Burial will be at
Hazelwood Cemetery. Graveside
rites will be conducted by the
B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 1266.

Should friends desire,
memorials in Mr. Hink's name
may be made to St. John's
Lutheran Church.

The son of J. Henry and
Mary Wahner Hink, he was
born Aug. 18, 1886, in Chester
Township, Poweshiek County.
He attended the rural schools
and was graduated from
Grinnell High School in 1907 as
valedictorian.

On Oct. 23, 1908, he was
married to Eda W. Friedrichs
in Tama County. The couple
had four children. Mrs. Harry
(Helen) Bortell of Homestead,
Fla.; Mrs. Raymond (Irene)
Cleland of Leisure City, Fla.;
Carl Hink of McLean, Va.; and
Mrs. Paul (Dorothy) Holtz of
Grinnell.

Mr. Hink built several
gasoline engines and held
patents on a wheel-aligning
guage. He was associated with
Billy Robinson, a Grinnell
aviator, and the two men
designed and built several
airplanes from 1909 until
Robinson's death in 1916.
Among their accomplishments
were the designing and
building of the radial airplane
engine, at that time a new
concept for arranging cylin-
ders in gasoline engines.

Later, Mr. Hink con-
centrated on an auto-repair
business and the development
of the wheel-aligning device.
During World War II and

subsequent years, his com-
pany, the X-Act Manufacturing
Co., received some 52,000 or-
ders from the U.S. Defense
Department.

In recent years, Mr. Hink
built small garden tractors,
golf carts and small windmills.

He was baptized and con-
firmed in the Lutheran faith.
He was a life member of the
Elks Lodge and Hermon
Masonic Lodge and was a
member of the Knight of
Pythias and the Pythian
Sisters.

He is survived by his four
children, 10 grandchildren and
20 great-grandchildren. He was
preceded in death by his wife,
Eda; two sisters, Mrs. Clara
Luttman and Mrs. Emma
Puls; and a brother, Walter
Hink.