

Mert Johnson, ex-postmaster, dies Wednesday

Merton Johnson, 56, who served as Grinnell postmaster for 20 years, died Wednesday afternoon at Grinnell General Hospital. *July 27*

Funeral services for Mr. Johnson will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Grinnell United Methodist Church. Burial will be at Hazelwood Cemetery.

Mr. Johnson is survived by his wife, Arlene; two daughters, Mrs. Dan (Nancy) Agnew of Grinnell and Cathy Johnson of Gaithersburg, Md.; a son, Arthur B. Johnson of Iowa City; four brothers, Robert and Neil, both of Grinnell, Gene of Newton, and Leslie of Marion; and four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.



Merton Johnson

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1977*

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Mert Johnson services held

Merton V. Johnson, 56, of 915 Chatterton St., Grinnell, died Wednesday afternoon at Grinnell General Hospital, following an extended illness. He is survived by his wife, Arlene; his children, Mrs. Dan (Nancy) Agnew of Grinnell, Cathleen Johnson of Gaithersburg, Md., and Art Johnson of Iowa City; four grandchildren; and four brothers, Gene Johnson of Newton, Robert Johnson of Grinnell, Leslie Johnson of Marion, and Neil Johnson of Grinnell. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services were held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Grinnell United Methodist Church, with the Rev. James Russell officiating. Organist was Kathleen Helfner. Pallbearers were Stan Ashby, Arnold Hagen, Marty Hoffert, Jeff Rose, Terry Rose, and Marilyn Olson.

Veteran's graveside rites were conducted by the Grinnell Veterans ceremonial unit. Burial was at Hazelwood Cemetery, with the Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Should friends desire, memorials may be made to the Grinnell United Methodist Church or to the American Cancer Society.

The son of Phillip Leslie and Rena Mercedes Gatlin Johnson, he was born Feb. 3, 1921, at Coatsville, Mo. He moved to Grinnell with his family when he was three and attended school here, graduating in 1939.

On June 26, 1942, Mr. Johnson was married to Arlene Hoffert at Kirksville, Mo. The couple had three children following their marriage. Mr. Johnson served with the U.S. Army during World War II. He was discharged from the Army in 1945 and returned to Grinnell as an employee of the U.S. Post Office. In 1965, he was named to the position of postmaster here, serving until his retirement in 1976. Following his retirement from the Postal Service, he worked at Oakland Acres golf course. He also served as a mediator for the state of Iowa in salary disputes.

Mr. Johnson was a member of the B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 1266, Focht-Tennant Post No. 53 of the American Legion, the Newton Moose Lodge No. 923, and the Grinnell Lions Club. He was also active in Little League and Babe Ruth baseball, and played in the