

Merle Warren Keup

Merle Keup, 75, of Grinnell died Feb. 4, 2000 at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Mr. Keup's funeral was Feb. 7 at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. Robert Zirkelbach of Grace Community Church officiating.

Music was "Rock of Ages," "In the Garden" and "The Old Rugged Cross. Organist was Alice Renaud.

Pallbearers were Mike Keup, Larry Kooker, Raymond Kooker, Kenneth Shook, Larry Shook and Ron Shook. Honorary bearers were Rolland Gary, Mike Markey and Loren Mikkelson.

He was buried in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

The son of Walter and Esther Arment Keup, Merle Warren Keup was born June 15, 1924 on the family farm near Newburg. He attended rural school near his home and was a graduate of Newburg High School. He later attended an auctioning school in Decatur, Ind. and returned to Iowa, where he worked on a farm in Tama County near Montour.

He married Neola Hudson and the couple had a son, Sam Keup. Later, on Dec. 19, 1950, he married Donna M. Howard in Iowa City and helped raise her two daughters, Joyce and Karla.

He sold cars in Tama and later was employed with Beaty Dodge in Grinnell and then Walnut Grove Seed. He was a sales representative for Triple F Seeds while living in Chariton and the company moved him to Savannah, Mo. in 1970. He retired in 1990 and returned to Grinnell in 1992. He was a resident of Friendship Manor since 1998.

He was a member of the Eagles Lodge in Tama and the Grinnell Saddle Club. He enjoyed auctioning and horses and especially enjoyed sales and judging horse shows in the area.

Mr. Keup also took pleasure in square dancing, playing cards and socializing with family and friends.

He also enjoyed the outdoors, fishing and camping and looked forward to fishing trips in northern Minnesota and Canada and camping at the Iowa State Fair.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Donna in 1998.

He is survived by his son, Sam Keup of Danville, Ill.; two step-daughters, Joyce Shook of Grinnell and Karla Kooker of Winterset; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Merle W. Keup Memorial Fund

MR February 9, 2000