

## GEORGE JACOB RANK

George Jacob Rank was born June 7, 1903, the fourth child of Michael Adam and Mary Elizabeth Hopwood Rank. He was born on the family farm east of Deep River on the Poweshiek county line.

On June 14, 1924 he married Freela LueAnn Hicklin at Montezuma. They farmed with his father, living in the old house at the bottom of the hill. Here all of their four children were born. In 1940 the family moved to the Hopwood family farm two miles west. This farm has been in the same family for well over 100 years.

He was one of the first to use a tractor and other machinery. He also utilized soil conservation practices, laying his whole farm and fences out on the contour.

George may best be remembered by his sense of humor. He had a subtle dry wit and was flagrantly guilty of numerous practical jokes.

After Freela passed away in 1983, George continued to live by himself, until last September, when he moved to the Senior Apartments in Brooklyn. He died July 3 at Grinnell hospital.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Freela; one son, Bernard and one sister, Rose Pendleton Bittinger.

He is survived by one daughter and her husband, Ellen and Eugene Merck of Montezuma; two sons and their wives: Daryl and Nell Rank of Bellvue, Wash. and David and Nancy Rank of Newbury Park, Calif.; one daughter in law, Lucille Rank of Fairport, N.Y.; 12 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; five sisters: Freeda Taylor of Deep River, Leah Weiss of Cedar Rapids, Clara Doonan of Pueblo, Colo., Helen Stowe Bittinger of Thornburg, and Miriam Stowe of Marshalltown, and one brother, Burton Rank of Deep River.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Friday at Watts Funeral home, Montezuma with Rev. Thomas Pickles of the United Methodist Church of Montezuma officiating. Mrs. Verla Van Dee was organist.

Casket bearers were Dwaine Gooding, Brian Rank, Randy Rank, Lynn Merck, Steve Wiley, David Schlesselman, Ray Schlesselman and Greg Botha with interment in Golden Rod cemetery, Deep River.

B.C. July 4, 1990