

H-R July 30, 1981

Bill Ritter dies in Phoenix

Francis M. (Bill) Ritter, 68, of 410 W. Maryland, Phoenix, Ariz., former owner of Ritter's Hardware here, died at his home early Wednesday morning after a long heart-related illness. *July 29*

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Smith Funeral Home, where friends may call.

The son of Harry R. and Carrie Ada Rairdon Ritter, he was born Dec. 12, 1912, in Grinnell. He was a graduate of Grinnell High School and later attended mortuary school in St. Louis, Mo., where he obtained his funeral director's license. He worked with Ft. Dodge and Montezuma funeral homes.

During World War II, he served with the U.S. Army in

Europe. Following his discharge, he was associated with his father and his brother, Frank, in the operation of Ritter's Hardware.

He was a member of Hermon Masonic Lodge No. 273, Focht-Tennant Post, No. 53, American Legion, and B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 1266.

Survivors include his wife, Alice; a daughter, Judith Kay Widmer of Searsboro; a brother, Frank Ritter of Grinnell; two sisters, Ruth Smith of Novato, Calif., and Alliene Seiberling of Orange, Calif.; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Jerry, in infancy; two sisters, Vera Ranier and Hazel Clark; and a brother, Harry N. Ritter.

H-R August 3, 1981

Bill Ritter services held



Bill Ritter

Funeral services for Francis M. (Bill) Ritter, 68, of Phoenix, Ariz., formerly of Grinnell, were conducted at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Smith Funeral Home. Mr. Ritter died Wednesday, July 29, in Phoenix.

The Rev. James P. Russell, pastor of the Grinnell United Methodist Church, officiated at Saturday's services. Organist was Kathleen Heffner, and pallbearers were Keith L. Gregory, Virgil Jones, Arthur O. McDowell, John A. Runyan,

Richard Seeland and Darrell Stimson. Honorary bearers were Joseph H. Foreman, Grover Loftin Sr., George Reavis, Marvin Sisson, Harris R. Stafford and Clifford Strovers.

Burial was at Hazelwood Cemetery.

Masonic fraternal rites were conducted at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Smith Funeral Home, with Clark Watkins and members of Hermon Masonic Lodge No. 273, A.F. and A.M., in charge.