

Chester M. Jones

Chester M. Jones of Grinnell, former long-time resident of Newton, died of cancer Tuesday, June 29, 2004, in Monarch Hospice Wing of Skiff Medical Center in Newton.

A funeral service will be held Friday, July 2, at 10:30 a.m. at Grinnell Christian Church with John Epperson, pastor of the church, officiating. Organist will be Marlene Toney and vocal music will be by Roger Kendall. Pall bearers will be Matt, Mike and Paul Abbot, Ron and Steve Brown and Denny Downing. Private family burial will follow at Hazelwood Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12 noon to 8 p.m. Thursday at Smith Funeral Home with family members present from 6 to 8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Jasper County, Grinnell Christian Church or Grinnell Regional Hospice.

The son of Ralph and Iva Carter Jones, he was born Sept. 13, 1917, in Pangburn, Ark. He grew up in Arkansas, Missouri and Iowa, attending rural schools in Iowa. He worked for Douglas Aircraft in California during World War II and returned to Iowa following the war. He was involved in farming and various other occupations until the late 1940s when he entered the tile drainage business. In 1959, he developed his own business in underground water management and soil conservation which he loved and at which he worked until his retirement in 2002. He was married in March, 1938, to Dorothy Benesh and the couple made their home in several Iowa communities prior to moving to Newton. They later were divorced, and he was married on April 30, 1967, in Moberly Mo., to Joleen Abbott Downing. They purchased a farm north of Kellogg and resided there until December of 2003 when they moved to Seeland Park. He was active in the Land Improvement Contractors Association for several years and was a member of the Grinnell Christian Church.

He is survived by his wife Jolene of Grinnell; three daughters Maretta Grattan of Grinnell, Vy Dean Christianson of Rapid City, S.D., and Tommilu Wahrman of Deerfield Beach, Fla.; two sons Wayne Jones of LaCrosse, Wis., and Clifford Stanley Downing of Kellogg; two sisters Alma Sweger of Rockford, Ill., and Shirley Howk of LeMars; one brother Clyde Haines of Tampa, Fla.; 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother and one daughter Norlene Williams.