

Melvin Van Wechel

Melvin L. Van Wechel, 77, Mesa, Ariz., formerly of Grinnell, died Saturday, Dec. 5, of pneumonia at Apache Junction Health Center, Apache Junction, Ariz., adjacent to Mesa, where he had been a resident for several years.

A memorial service was held Monday, Dec. 7, at Melcher Mortuary, Mesa. The body was cremated. Memorials may be made to the charity or church of the donor's choice.

He was born May 25, 1915, in Orange City, the son of Allen and Minnie Van Wechel. He was educated in the Orange City schools and in 1941 opened Van Wechel Motor Sales here which he operated until 1977.

He and the former Charlene Barkdoll were married in 1939 in the Little Brown Church in Nashua.

He was a member of the Grinnell Elks Lodge, the Grinnell City Council, the Grinnell Chamber of Commerce, the board of directors of the Grinnell Country Club and the Iowa Automobile Dealers Association.

He is survived by his wife Charlene, 5014 E. Farmdale Ave., Mesa AZ 85206; two sons, Ron Van Wechel, Boulder, Colo., and Jerry Van Wechel, Vancouver, Wash.; one daughter Kay, Colorado Springs, Colo.; five granddaughters; one brother Clarence Van Wechel, McAllen, Texas, and three sisters, Helen Van Wechel, Mildred Linquist and Gerry Postma, all of Grinnell. He was preceded in death by one son, Robert.

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December 10, 1992