

Ray Van Wechel

Ray Van Wechel, 83, died early Sunday, July 26, at Virginia Gay Hospital in Vinton.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday at the Vinton Presbyterian Church, with Dr. Dennis Morcy officiating. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, with the Phillips Funeral Home of Vinton in charge of arrangements.

A memorial fund has been established.

The son of Allen and Wilhelmina Mullenburg Van Wechel, he was born July 12, 1909, in Maurice, Iowa. He was married to Lee Cambier June 4, 1935, in Alton.

Mr. Van Wechel established automotive dealerships in Primghar, Vinton, Manchester, Grinnell and Grundy Center. In 1937 he moved his family to Vinton where he served in various leadership positions. He was instrumental in the founding of the former Hawk-Bilt Manufacturing Co. and served as the company's first president. He also served for many years as a board member of the former Brenton Bank in Vinton.

Surviving are his wife; one daughter, Wanda Flickinger of Denison; three sons, Glen of Vinton, Jack of Grundy Center and Don of Grinnell; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; three sisters, Helen Van Wechel, Mildred Linquist and Geraldine Postma, all of Grinnell; two brothers, Clarence of McAllen, Texas, and Melvin of Mesa, Ariz.; and Rosie Gunn Wallace, who grew up on the Van Wechel home.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, Kenneth, Lloyd and Verlyn.

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July 30, 1992