

Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010

PCCR

Earl W. Gropper, 82

Earl W. Gropper, 82, of Grinnell died Dec. 17, 2010, at the Mayflower Health Center in Grinnell from heart disease. Memorial services will be held at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 22, at the Carman Center, second floor of the Mayflower Health Center, corner of Park and 1st Ave., Grinnell. The family will be present to greet friends from 4 to 6 p.m. Memorials may be directed to the Earl W. Gropper Memorial Fund c/o Grinnell State Bank, Grinnell.



Earl William Gropper was born the son of Ruben William Gropper and Ella Henrietta Tiedemann Gropper on May 30, 1928, in Grinnell. He was raised on the family farm in rural Grinnell. He graduated from Grinnell High School with the class of 1945. Earl was united in marriage to June Meredith on Feb. 13, 1960, in Kirksville, Mo. They had four children, Jeff, Michelle, Stacey and Max William (who died at birth).

Earl farmed the family farm and began raising beef cattle as 4-H projects for his kids. The cattle herd grew over the years as he became a dedicated cattleman. They began showing cattle in 1970, and raising Chianinas in 1974, and the family became state and nationally known. They traveled to cattle shows throughout the United States including Kansas City, Mo., Chicago, Ill., Omaha, Neb., Denver, Colo., Louisville, Ky. and the Iowa State Fair. Earl was a member of the Iowa and National Cattleman's Associations, the Iowa and National Chianina Associations, the Farm Bureau and was presented as an Honorary Member of the Grinnell FFA. In addition, Earl was a member of the Malcom Presbyterian Church, the Elks Lodge, and the Eagles Club. His other enjoyments included spending time with his grandchildren, playing cards, bowling, going to dances, participating in the WHO Tractor Ride, and watching the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Earl is survived by his wife of 50 years, June Gropper; his son, Jeff (Mary) of Chelsea; his daughters, Michelle (Dennis) Reitzler of Grinnell, and Stacey (Jeff) Storms of Trivoli, Ill.; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Wayne; and an infant son, Max William.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.klosterfuneralhome.com.