

Gene Martinson, 87

CH Dec 8, 2008

Gene "Beanie" Martinson, 87, of Grinnell, died on Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008, at the Mayflower Health Care Center in Grinnell.

A memorial gathering was held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 1, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. A private family interment was held at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorials may be directed to Stewart Library and sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

He was born on Sept. 25, 1921, in Grinnell, to Albert and Letha Barrett Martinson. He was raised in Grinnell and graduated from Grinnell High with the Class of 1939. Immediately following Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, and from 1942-45 served in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany.

On April 4, 1946, he married his high school sweetheart, Maxine "Rosie" Onthank in Grinnell. The couple raised two children, Mike and Kathy. Gene worked for Ritter's Maytag and Sporting Goods Store on Main Street, and many Grinnell residents knew him as their Maytag repairman. In the 1970's, he became employed by the city as manager of Hazelwood Cemetery.

For over thirty years, the Martinsons hosted friends and family on Sunday mornings at their home where Beanie was famous for his homemade cinnamon rolls. After retirement, the couple maintained a mobile home for vacationing near Dorchester, and spent many happy years trout fishing with friends and family.

Survivors include one son, Mike Martinson of Arlington, Va.; and one daughter, Kathy Martinson of Austin, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; and three brothers, Bob, Joe and Louis Martinson.

