

Fred L. Grandstaff



Fred L. Grandstaff, 90, of Grinnell died Wednesday, Feb. 8, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A graveside service and burial for Fred Grandstaff was held Saturday, Feb. 11, at Westfield Cemetery south of Grinnell, with the Rev. Tim Stewart, pastor of the Grinnell First Baptist Church, officiating.

Born Feb. 11, 1915, in Grinnell, he was the son of Freddie Edward and Erma Lucile Shockley Grandstaff. The family moved to Nebraska soon after his birth and lived in Red Bird, near the banks of the Niobrara River. They later moved to Sidney, Iowa, and he and his siblings rode to school in a horse-drawn "school bus" driven by his uncle. The family returned to Grinnell when he was 10; he attended Davis Elementary, and later, Grinnell High School.

After his education, he worked for farmers in the area, then joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) and worked at Backbone State Park. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and was stationed in Missouri, California, North Carolina, the Galapagos Islands and the Panama Canal.

He met Betty Marie Sille while on leave from the army in the winter of 1945, and the couple married on Jan. 19, 1946. After his discharge in 1947, the couple farmed near Mt. Auburn, Vinton, LaPorte City and Van Horne prior to returning to Grinnell in 1949.

He worked briefly on the disposal plant, then began delivering Moorman's Feed for the Kirkpatrick Company. He later drove for Halstead's, Badger Northland and Agri-Services.

He served as a captain of the Grinnell Auxiliary Police Force in the early 1970s, then as a Grinnell firefighter and later as a dispatcher.

He is survived by two daughters, Leith Johnson of Jacksonville, Fla., and Laura Horn of Charlottesville, Va.; a brother, Robert Grandstaff of Pollock Pines, Calif.; a sister, Leona Daubenmire of Newton; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; a son, Jerry; two brothers, Vern and Roy; and a sister, Wanda.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Grinnell Volunteer Fire Department or Grinnell Regional Hospice.