

## Howard M. Hoel



Howard M. Hoel, 92, of Grinnell died Tuesday, May 23, 2006, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service was held Sunday, May 28, at Carman Center at Mayflower with the Rev. Kirsten Klepfer officiating. Private interment will be held at Hazelwood Cemetery. Online condolences may be submitted to his family at Smith Funeral Home website [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

He was born Oct. 20, 1913, in Frazee, Minn., the son of Howard Merton Hoel Sr. and Emma Sorensen Hoel. He lived most of his youth in Frazee, graduating as salutatorian of the class of 1931 at Frazee High School. He attended North Dakota State University where he played trumpet in the marching band and participated in the rifle team.

Following his education he managed his father's seed store in Thief River Falls, Minn., and later his own business, the Hoel Quality Dairy. He served in the United States Navy during World War II as an instructor at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, then as a fire controlman on the destroyer the USS *Sullivans*, encountering combat action in the South Pacific.

While teaching at Great Lakes, he met Harriet Zoe Vollbracht on a blind date and they were married in Brigham City, Utah, on July 17, 1945, wearing their dress uniforms. After the war he and his father bought the Northern Woodwork Company in Thief River Falls. He was active in the United Methodist Church, singing in its choir; and served a term on the local school board. They made several motor trips to western cities and to other US cities to attend business conventions and *Sullivans* reunions. They sold their company and retired in 1981, moving to Coon Rapids and Burnsville, Minn., before moving to Mayflower in 2004, where he resumed his singing.

He is survived by his wife Harriet of Grinnell; his children, Jeffrey Hoel of Palo Alto, Calif., Emily Moore of Grinnell and Timothy Hoel of Minneapolis, Minn.; four grandchildren and one great grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother Gordon Hoel, one sister Dorothy de Veau and an infant sister Marion Hoel.