Raymond "Spud" Stoker, 87



Raymond "Spud" Stoker, 87, of Guernsey, died Thursday, March 8, 2007, at his home, where he was born, and under the care of Grinnell Regional Hospice.

His memorial service was held Monday, March 12,

2007, at St. John's Lutheran Church, south of Victor, with the Rev. David E. MacKain officiating. Inurnment was at Guernsey Cemetery.

Raymond was born the son of Fred and - Martha Neitzel Stoker on July 4, 1919, T near Guernsey. He was raised on the family farm and was educated at Guernsey .School where he graduated with the Guernsey High School Class of 1937. He then attended two years of training at a technical school. Raymond served his country in World War II as a Sergeant First Class in the Army. He was united in marriage to Rachel Rinehart on Sept. 18, 1949, at the Victor United Methodist Church, and to this union two children were born, Marcia and David. The couple farmed and operated a dairy farm

southwest of Guernsey until 1966 when Raymond began working for the local phone company as a technician. In 1971. he began working for General Telephone Company in Creston until his retirement in 1985. Raymond was a lifelong member of the St. John's Lutheran Church south of Victor, a former member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Creston, where he was an elder, and was a member of the Deep River American Legion Post No. 296. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed golfing, hunting and fishing. The couple enjoyed traveling to various destinations such as Nova Scotia, Switzerland, Alaska and Japan. He held a special love for radio communications and was an amateur radio operator since 1939. His final radio transmission was delivered the morning prior to his death at the age of 87.

Raymond is survived by his wife, Rachel Stoker, of Guernsey, his children, Marcia (Gary) Schultz of Trenton, Texas, and David (Elizabeth) Stoker of Guernsey: his grandson, Matt (Missy) Ogan of Malcom and his great-grandchildren, Garrett, Halley and Jessica Ogan of Malcom.

Memorial contributions may be directed to St. John's Lutheran Church or to Grinnell Regional Hospice.

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A memorial service was held at 10:30 a.m. today (Monday) at St. John's Lutheran Church south of Victor, with Rev. David E MacKain officiating. Inurnment will be at Guernsey Cemetery.

Born July 4, 1919, he was the son of Fred and Martha Neitzel Stoker near Guernsey. He was raised on the family farm and educated at Guernsey School, where he graduated with the Guernsey High School class of 1937. He then attended technical school for two years.

He served in World War II as a sergeant first class in the U.S. Army.

On Sept. 18, 1949, he married Rachel Rinehart at the Victor United Methodist Church. The couple had two children, Marcia and David. They farmed and operated a dairy southwest of Guernsey until 1966, when he began work for the local phone company. In 1971, he went to work for General Telephone Co. in Creston, where he worked till his retirement in 1985.

He was a lifelong member of St. John's Lutheran Church south of Victor, a former member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Creston, where he was an elder, and a member of the Deep River American Legion Post No. 296. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed golfing, hunting and fishing. The couple enjoyed traveling to destinate tions including Novia Scotia, Switzerland, Alaska and Japan. He held a special love for radio communication and was an amateur radio operator from 1939 on. His final ratio transmission was delivered the morning prior to his death.

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Raymond was preceded in death by his parents.

