

GW 6/26/08

Earl W. Rohrssen

Earl W. Rohrssen, 87, of Grinnell, formerly of Sumner, died Monday, June 23, 2008, at St. Francis Manor.



A memorial service was held Thursday, June 26, at St. John's

Lutheran Church with the Rev. Kathy Roys officiating. Organist was Carolyn Bosse. Burial was in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Sumner. Memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church or St. Francis Manor, both of Grinnell. Smith Funeral Home handled arrangements.

He was born Jan. 28, 1921, in Denver, Iowa, the son of Alfred and Elsie Pooch Rohrssen. He was raised in Sumner and was a 1938 graduate of Sumner High School. He was united in marriage with Irene Waschkat on Nov. 11, 1942, at the Little Brown Church in Nashua. The couple farmed near Sumner for 25 years, then moved into Sumner where he owned and operated Rohrssen Electric for another 25 years. He also drove a school bus for 14 years for the Sumner School District.

The couple retired to Seeland Park in Grinnell in 1995. They also wintered in Mesa, Ariz., for ten years. He was a member of St. John's American Lutheran Church in Sumner where he served on the church council and as a deacon, and later was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell.

He enjoyed the outdoors including many fishing trips to Minnesota and Canada and hiking in the Grand Canyon and mountain regions of the west. He also enjoyed traveling in the United States and abroad.

He is survived by his wife Irene of Grinnell; one son Larry Rohrssen; two grandchildren and one great granddaughter. He was preceded in death by his parents.