

Earl DeJong, 82

Earl LaVerne DeJong, 82, Montezuma, died Oct. 1, 1996 at Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

Funeral services were held Oct. 4, 1996 at the United Methodist Church in Montezuma with Rev. Brian Carter and Rev. John Darlington officiating. Organist was Alice Underwood, and soloist was Rhonda Minner, accompanied by Mary Schwartz, pianist. Music selections included "Peace In The Valley" and "I Believe", and a congregational hymn "Because He Lives". Casket bearers were Monty Ray DeJong, Wavern DeJong, Gary Renaud, Laurel DeJong, Norman DeJong, Doyle Renaud and Dale Renaud. Honorary casket bearers were Vincent Johnson, R.J.H. Badger, Frank Bryan, Gerrit Septer, Rex Craver, Forrest McLain, Chuck Wengert, Marion Palmer, Loel Ferguson, Marvin Ehret, Eugene Merck and Ralph Wambsgans. Military graveside rites were given by members of Blakley-Stevens Legion Post No. 169, V.F.W. Post No. 8876. Burial was in the Jackson Township Cemetery in Montezuma.

Earl LaVerne DeJong, son of John G. and Elsie Shutts DeJong of rural Jasper County, Iowa (near Sully), was born Feb. 5, 1914, the second son of four children. Earl graduated from Case School (8th grade) in Sugar Creek Township in 1927, and from Lynnville High School in 1931. He began working at the Taintor Coop Elevator in 1938. On Sept. 10, 1941, he was drafted

into the Army. His honorable discharge came in June, 1945, and again he worked for the Taintor Coop Elevator. In June of 1946 he bought into the Wehrle-Klinzman Elevator at Montezuma.

On Sept. 5, 1946, Earl was united in marriage with Lucille Boyd at the First Methodist Church in Burlington, Iowa. Earl and Lucille lived in Grinnell the first two years of their married life, and for the past 48 years, in Montezuma. Earl and Vern Wehrle continued in business as the Montezuma Elevator, Inc., until 1966, and later sold the business to Roger Rice in 1971. Earl then worked at Farmhand and Sig Manufacturing before retirement.

He was a member of the Montezuma United Methodist Church, was a Mason and member of Lafayette Lodge No. 52 A.F. and A.M., Blakley-Stevens American Legion Post No. 169 and V.F.W. Post No. 8876.

He was preceded in death by his parents and by two brothers: Milo of rural New Sharon and Paul of rural Taintor.

Earl is survived by two sons: Boyd Glen DeJong, Mount Vernon, and wife Gala, and two daughters, Pamela and Angela; and Gene Earl DeJong, rural Oskaloosa, and wife Kathy, and daughters Dana, Amber and Carmen.

Memorials may be made to the Montezuma Volunteer Fire Department or the Montezuma United Methodist Church.

Earl DeJong

Earl LaVerne DeJong, 82, Montezuma, formerly of Grinnell, died Tuesday, Oct. 1, at Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines.

Funeral services were conducted Friday at the Montezuma United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Brian Carter and John Darlington officiating. Soloist was Rhonda Minner, and pianist was Mary Schwartz.

Pallbearers were Monty, Wavern, Laurel and Norman DeJong and Gary, Doyle and Dale Renaud. Honorary bearers were Vincent Johnson, R.J.H. Badger, Frank Bryan, Gerrit Septer, Rex Craver, Forrest McLain, Chuck Wenger, Marion Palmer, Loel Ferguson, Marvin Ehret, Eugene Merck and Ralph Wambsgans.

Military rites were conducted by members of the American Legion and VFW, with burial in Jackson Township Cemetery.

He was the son of John G. and Elsie Shutts DeJong and was born Feb. 5, 1914, near Sully. He lived with his family on a farm near Taintor and was a 1931 graduate of Lynnville High School.

He served with the Signal Corp and was attached to the Air Force doing radar work in North Africa, Sicily and Italy during World War II. Following his discharge, he worked for the Taintor Cooperative Elevator, running a satellite elevator at Lynnville. He bought into the Wehrle-Klinzman "Elevator" in Montezuma in 1946.

He was married to Lucille Boyd Sept. 5, 1946, in Burlington. They lived in Grinnell for two years while Mrs. DeJong managed the Grinnell College Service Bureau. They moved to Montezuma in 1948.

After retiring from the elevator business, Mr. DeJong worked at Farmhand and Sig Manufacturing.

He was a member of the Montezuma United Church, the Masons, the American Legion and the VFW.

Surviving are his wife; two sons, Boyd of Mount Vernon and Gene of rural Oskaloosa; five granddaughters; and one sister, Viola Renaud of rural Prairie City.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Milo and Paul.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Montezuma Volunteer Fire Department or the United Methodist Church.

M R October 9, 1996

H.R. October 7, 1996