

A.H. Keen, 83

A.H. "Al" Keen, 83, of DeWitt died Saturday, Aug. 29, 1998 at DeWitt Community Hospital.

Services were Monday evening, Aug. 31 at Schultz Funeral Home in DeWitt. Burial was September 1 in Jackson Township Cemetery in Montezuma.

Al was born June 4, 1915 in Lamoni to Archie Keen and Martha Martin. After graduating from Lamoni High School in 1933, he attended Graceland College for one year until the Depression forced him the hitchhike the country seeking work.

He found employment in the sugar beet fields of Idaho and hauling fence posts from southern Missouri to Minnesota.

In 1939, he went to work for an uncle who owned a farm implement dealership in Pontiac, Ill. In 1940, he started his own implement dealership in Pontiac selling both Case and John Deere implements and Hudson automobiles.

He married Alice Wheeler in Montezuma on June 28, 1941. He maintained the auto and implement dealership in Pontiac until 1948, when he sold the implement business and bought Just-A-Merc Farm near Low Moor. By the time Al and Alice left Pontiac, they had five sons: Charles, Tom, Robert, Will and John. Their sixth son, David, was born shortly after moving to the Low Moor area, prompting the family to be featured in Capper's *Farmer Magazine* in 1952.

The family remained on the farm until 1968, when Al and Alice moved to DeWitt. Al retired from farming in 1978.

Al was active in Toastmasters International, the Clinton Rotary Club, DeWitt Lions Club, Farm Bureau, Clinton County Extension Service and the Iowa Republican Party. Gov. Robert Ray appointed him to the Judicial Nominating Committee for District 7.

His interests also centered on education and personal community service; he and Alice were substantial donors to Clinton Community College, DeWitt Community Hospital and the DeWitt Library.

Al was preceded in death by two sisters, Mildred Ruth Schneible, Atlanta, Ga. and Marjorie Louise, who died in infancy.

He survived by his wife, Alice; six sons, Charles Richard Keen and wife Judith Ann, Nepean, Ontario, Canada; Thomas Wheeler Keen and wife Elisabeth L., Albuquerque, N.M.; William Joseph Keen and wife Wendy S., Mason City; John Edward Keen and fiancée, Nancy Bendfelt, Iowa City; David Dawson Keen and wife Judith Perkins, Shorewood, Wis.; 13 grandchildren, one great-grandson, two brothers, Russell Martin Keen, Lamoni; and James Elbert Keen, Riverside, Calif.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

MR Sept. 2, 1998