

Donald R. Sears

Donald R. Sears, 77, of 1904 Belmont Ave., Grinnell, died at his home Friday, Jan. 30.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Smith Funeral Home, with the Revs. Robert Zirkelbach and Damon Reese officiating. Organist will be Kathy McCune.

Casket bearers will be John Danker, Robert Elliott, Craig Holub, Kevin Sears, Mike Sears, Larry Temple and Ron Wilkinson. Honorary bearers will be Ed Bohstedt, Ed Huyser, Ervin Meredith and the Rev. Harley Schull.

Military rites will be conducted by members of the Grinnell Veterans Ceremonial Unit, with burial in Chester Cemetery.

The son of Homer A. and Mae Stahl Sears, he was born March 20, 1920, near Grinnell. He was raised on the family farm and graduated from Newburg High School in 1938.

During World War II, he served with the U.S. Army in the Pacific theater.

He was married to Margaret Farnham Jan. 1, 1946, in Traer. They farmed near Traer until 1968 when they moved to Grinnell. Mr. Sears owned and operated Don Sears Implement Co. and was a representative of Pennsylvania Life Insurance Co.

He was a member of the National Farmers Organization, the Republican Party, Birthright and Post 142 of the American Legion in Traer. He was a long-time member of Calvary Baptist Church and recently had attended Grace Community Church of Grinnell.

Surviving are his wife; four sons, Chuck of Kansas City, Mo., Wayne of Chicago, Bruce of Three Lakes, Wis., and Joel of Spokane, Wash.; three daughters, Gail Petrich of Oak Park, Ill., Joyce Otto of Malcom and Joann Sears of Oak Park, Ill.; 22 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; two brothers, Art of Hiawatha and Kenneth of La Porte City; and three sisters, Rhoda Wilkinson of Sumner, Wilma Holub of Buckingham and Dorothy Elliott of Dysart.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Edger "Bud" Sears; and two sisters, Ruth Temple and Lois Danker.

Memorials may be made to Birthright, Grinnell Christian School or Grace Community Church.

H.R. Feb. 2, 1978