

John Simpson Sr.

John Robert Simpson Sr., 86, died Wednesday, Feb. 7, at Grinnell regional Medical Center.

Funeral services were held Saturday at the Smith Funeral Home, with Ron Rice, law minister at the Gilman United Methodist Church, officiating. Pallbearers were Steve Clay, Bill Mason, Gary Medhus, Mark Stubbs, Jon Stubbs and Jim Walker. Honorary bearers were Bill Johnson, Sammy Lyle, John Nolan, Ira Botter, Frank "Boots" Patterson, Gene Patterson, Ward Patterson, Kusty Schueler, Ray Speas, Robert "Jiggs" Stonewall and Bob Stewart.

Burial was in Rose Hill Memorial Garden Cemetery, Marshalltown.

The son of Claude and Jennie Jamison Simpson, he was born Nov. 15, 1914, in Hardin County near Iowa Falls. The family later moved to Marshalltown, and he graduated from Marshalltown High School in 1933. He attended Marshalltown Junior College and, later, Central College in Pella. He was an All-State guard in basketball and played for three seasons for the Marshalltown American Legion baseball team.

He was married to Helen Kay Weatherman Aug. 30, 1936, in Toledo. They made their home in Marshalltown, where Mr. Simpson was employed by Roberts and Oaks and, later, with Swift & Company.

He purchased the Gilman Livestock Company in 1953 and operated the business until his retirement in 1972.

Following the death of his wife in 1969, he was married to Jean Clay Walker Aug. 25, 1973, in Arlington. They lived in Gilman, and he was employed at the Eldora State Training School for several years. He had been a resident of the Mayflower home in Grinnell since November of last year.

Surviving are his wife; two stepchildren, John Walker of Marshalltown and Joyce Walker of Gilman; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. His parents; his first wife; his son, John Jr.; and two brothers, Harold and Willis preceded him in death.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Gilman First Responders.