A.W. Stanley

Willard Stanley 80, of Montezuma died Dec. 29 at Grinnell Hospital of a heart attack.

A.W. Stanley [Willard] was born Aug. 1, 1915 in Montezuma, the youngest child of Robert and Emma Pratt Stanley. When he was five years old, he attended first grade at the old Garfield School in Montezuma. In March of his sixth year, his mother died. The family moved to Searsboro where they lived near his mother's sister, his Aunt Martha Pratt Watson, who helped his two older sisters, Agnes and Ruth, upon whom the household responsibilities had fallen.

In 1924 the family moved to the Charles Stanley farm for two years, Robert moved the family back to Grinnell. He was graduated from Grinnell High School in 1934. He played basketball on the varsity team and completed the "commercial course" which, upon graduation, allowed him to work as an accountant without further formal schooling.

Willard excelled in mathematics, but he also loved woodworking and all the industrial arts. After graduation he worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps under the auspices of the WPA, an assignment of which he was very proud.

On March 12, 1940 he married Arlene Ella Harry with whom he had three children, A.W., Jr., Sara Ann and Patricia Jean.

He worked for many years as a bookkeeper and accountant, and managed the Montezuma Rendering Works from 1948 to 1952. During the early sixties he worked for Amana Industries and in 1969 founded Montezuma Manufacturing Company in order to build the automatic, brushless car washes that he designed and engineered himself.

In 1982 he retired from the manufacturing business and, with Arlene, moved to Loveland, Colo., where he owned and operated a liquor store. He became vice president of Circle Circuits, Inc. and returned to Montezuma in 1990, where, in March of that year, he and Arlene celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Willard is predeceased by his father, Robert Henry Stanley; his mother, Emma Pratt Stanley; his sister, Agnes Stanley Byers; and his niece, Mary Lou Byers Webb. He is survived by his devoted wife, Arlene Ella Harry Stanley; his loving children, Alvah Stanley, Jr., and wife, Vivien of Los Angeles, Calif.; Sara Ann Stanley of Berthoud, Colo.; and Patricia Stanley Reed and husband, Larry of Centerville; nine adoring grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and his sister, Ruth Stanley Stanley of Searsboro.

Services were Jan. 3 at Watts Funeral Home, Montezuma, with Mr. Keith Reed of New Sharon officiating. Burial was in Jackson township, Montezuma.

A.W. Stanley

A.W. (Willard) Stanley, 80, of Montezuma died Friday, Dec. 29, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services were conducted Jan. 3 at Watts Funeral Home in Montezuma, with Keith Reed officiating. Organist was Kathleen Ramsey, and soloist was Vivien Stanley. Pallbearers were his grandchildren, Becky and Raymond Bunn, Jennifer Reed, Denise and Richard Cullum, and Soryl, Alison, Sean and Jackie Stanley. Burial was in Jackson Township Cemetery.

The son of Robert and Emma Pratt Stanley, he was born Aug. 1, 1915, in Montezuma. He was a 1934 graduate of Grinnell High School where he played varsity basketball. Following his graduation he worked for the U.S. Conservation Corps under the auspices of the W.P.A.

He was married to Arlene Ella Harry March 12, 1940. He worked for many years as a bookkeeper and accountant, and he managed the Montezuma Rendering Works from 1948 to 1952.

During the early 1960s, he worked for Amana Industries, and in 1969 he founded Montezuma Manufacturing Co. He retired from the manufacturing business in 1982 and moved with his wife to Loveland, Colo., where he owned and operated a liquor store. He became vice president of Circle Circuits, Inc. He returned to Montezuma in 1990.

Surviving are his wife; three children, Alvah Jr. of Los Angeles, Sara Stanley of Berthoud, Colo., and Patricia Reed of Centerville; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and his sister, Ruth Stanley of Searsboro. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Agnes Byers.