## Willard Walter Wells

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning, Dec. 31, at the First Baptist Church in Grinnell for Willard Walter Wells, 85, of Grinnell, who died Dec. 27, 1996, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Pastor Robert C. Smith of Knoxville officiated. Denise Baustian, organist, played the entrance hymn, "How Great Thou Art" and the recessional, "This is My Father's World," and accompanied the soloist, Milton Severe, who sang "He Touched Me" and "Because He Lives."

Pallbearers were Rick Wells, Brian Wells, Larry Tischer, Rodney Weiss, Robert Rotter and Aaron Brown. Honorary bearers were Dennis Wells, Jon Estrem and David Kollmorgen. Interment was in Chester Cemetery, near Grinnell, Iowa.

Willard Walter Wells, son of Mitchell and Lura Denbow Wells, was born Oct. 28, 1911, near Parker, S.D. When he was two years old, the family moved to Franklin County, Iowa. He attended rural schools in Franklin and Hardin counties and graduated from Alden High School in 1930. He attended Ellsworth Junior College in Iowa Falls the following year.

On March 14, 1936, he was married to Ruth Rickard. The couple moved to a farm in Washington Township where they spent their entire married life.

In 1963, Mr. Wells quit farming and became a career underwriter for the Farm Bureau Insurance Company. He continued in this position until March of 1977.

He was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Grinnell, where he served as high school Sunday school superintendent, general superintendent, both high school and Brande Sunday school teacher, deacon, moderator, and also served on the mission board.

For 10 years, he served on the county Farm Bureau Board as township director, treasurer, county voting delegate, vice president and president.

He was chairman of the Poweshiek County Improvement Association and as such was instrumental in bringing Blue Cross to the rural residents of Poweshiek County. He helped organize the Poweshiek County Water Association and served on the board of directors.

He was also county Heart Association chairman, the first county chairman of the Poweshiek County Beekeeper's Association, and a member of the Grinnell Kiwanis Club. He was a recipient of the Iowa Volunteer of the Year Award and inducted in the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame in 1989.

He was preceded in death by his wife in 1992; two sisters, Velma E. Anders and Veva Walton; and one granddaughter, Kathryn Kollmorgen.

He is survived by three sons and their spouses, Richard and Marilyn Wells of Belle Plaine, Larry and Ruth Wells of Sarasota, Fla., and Don and Connie Wells of Evansville, Ind.; 11 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Grinnell First Baptist Church. Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell was in charge of arrangements.

## Willard Wells

Willard Walter Wells, 85, of Grinnell died Wednesday, Dec. 27, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Grinnell First Baptist Church, with the Rev. Robert C. Smith of Knoxville officiating. Organist will be Denise Baustian, and soloist will be Milton Severe. Burial will be in Chester Cemetery, with the Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

The son of Mitchell and Lura Denbow Wells, he was born Oct. 28, 1911, near Parker, S.D. He moved with his family to Franklin County, Iowa. He was a 1930 peraduate of Alden High School and attended Ellsworth Junior College in Iowa Falls.

He was married to Ruth Rickard March 14, 1936, and the couple farmed in Washington Township.

Mr. Wells was a career underwriter for Farm Bureau Insurance Co. until March 1977. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church, serving as high school Sunday school superintendent, general superintendent, deacon and i moderator. He also served on the church's Mission Board.

He served as a township director on the Farm Bureau Board and also served as Farm Bureau's treasurer, voting delegate, vice president and president. He was chairman of the Poweshiek County Improvement Association and was instrumental in bringing Blue Cross to rural residents of the county. He helped organize the Poweshiek Water Association and served on the board of directors. He was also county heart chairman and the first county chairman of the Poweshiek County Beekeepers Association.

Surviving are three sons, Richard of Belle Plaine, Larry of Sarasota, Fla., and Don of Evansville, Ind.: 11 grandchildren; and 12 greatgrandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, two sisters. Velma Anders and Veva Walton: and one granddaughter.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church.