

John Whitehead, 87

John I. Whitehead, 87, formerly of New Sharon, died Thursday, Oct. 22 at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown.

Funeral services were Monday, Oct. 26 at Harden Funeral Home in New Sharon with Keith Reed officiating. Interment followed at Jackson Township Cemetery in Montezuma where full military honors were given by members of Coffin-Miller Post #446 of the American Legion in New Sharon.

Mr. Whitehead was born September 15, 1911 in Browntown, the son of George Washington and Nellie Grace Meeker Whitehead. Raised and educated in the Browntown and Barnes City areas, he spent several years in Washington state, involved in the construction of the Grand Cooley Dam.

In 1939, he became the first man to be drafted from New Sharon and joined the US Army, serving in the 34th Infantry Division. He saw action in the African and Italian theaters, earned the Purple Heart Award, the Silver Battle Star and the Bronze Battle Star.

He returned to Iowa and married Dorothy Murie Gott on Aug. 26, 1946 in Sigourney. After living in Marshalltown for

a short time, the Whiteheads moved to Montezuma where Mr. Whitehead worked for Whitehead Construction and later, Bowers Construction.

He retired in 1972 and moved to New Sharon in 1980.

Mr. Whitehead was a member of Coffin-Miller Post #446 of the American Legion in New Sharon. He enjoyed wood-working, using his metal detector, fishing and spending time with his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Dorothy in November 1972; five brothers, Bob, Ted, Squint, Max and Tom; two sisters, Fern Genera and Maggie Adkins and a granddaughter, Desiree Dontje.

Mr. Whitehead is survived by three sons, Bill Whitehead of Des Moines, John and his wife Norma Whitehead of Lynnville and George and his wife Alice Whitehead of Montezuma; four daughters, Emma Edgington of Montezuma, Linda Dontje of Denver, Colo.; Vema Ozborn of Marshalltown and Jenny Fowler of Grinnell; 16 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, a brother, Art Whitehead and a sister, Dorothy De Jong, both of New Sharon.

John Whitehead

John I. Whitehead, 87, formerly of Montezuma and New Sharon, died Thursday, Oct. 22, at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at the Harden Funeral Home in New Sharon, with Keith Reed officiating. Military honors were presented by members of the Coffin-Miller Post No. 446 of the American Legion. Burial was in Jackson Township Cemetery, Montezuma.

The son of George Washington and Nellie Grace Meeker Whitehead, he was born Sept. 15, 1911, in Browntown, Iowa. Raised and educated in the Browntown and Barnes City areas, he had spent several years in Washington State involved in the construction of the Grand Cooley Dam. In 1939, he became the first man to be drafted from New Sharon and joined the U.S. Army, serving in the 34th Infantry Division. He saw action in the African and Italian theaters and earned the Purple Heart, the Silver Battle Star and the Bronze Battle Star.

He returned to Iowa and was married to Dorothy Murie Gott Aug. 26, 1946, in Sigourney. After living in Marshalltown for a short time, they moved to Montezuma where he worked for Whitehead Construction and Bowers Construction. He retired in 1972 and moved to New Sharon in 1980.

Mr. Whitehead was a member of Coffin-Miller Post of New Sharon.

He is survived by three sons, Bill of Des Moines, John of Lynnville and George of Montezuma; four daughters, Emma Edgington of Montezuma, Linda Dontje of Denver, Colo., Vema Ozborn of Marshalltown and Jenny Fowler of Grinnell; 16 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one brother, Art of New Sharon; and one sister, Dorothy DeJong of New Sharon.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; five brothers, Bob, Ted, Squint, Max and Tom; two sisters, Fern Gegner and Maggie Adkins; and one granddaughter.