



Donald Dale Benell

May 22, 1916 - May 13, 2010

Ottumwa, Iowa

Visitation: 12:00 Noon until 6:00 P.M., with family present from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. May 16, 2010 at Fremont Funeral Chapel.

Funeral Service: 10:00 A.M. May 17, 2010 at Hedrick Martinsburg United Methodist Church, Hedrick, Iowa.

Interment: McCormick Cemetery near Highland Center, Iowa

Donald Dale Benell passed from this life to his Heavenly home on Thursday, May 13, 2010, while in the care of Hospice House in Ottumwa, Iowa, after a lengthy illness.

He was born May 22, 1916, near Frytown, Iowa, the son of John A. and Minnie Liebe Benell. He graduated from Kalona High School in 1935. Following graduation from high school, he continued on the family farm near

Kalona, Iowa.

On June 29, 1935, he was united in marriage to Ruth M. Messer, in Kahoka, Missouri. In 1941, they moved to a farm near Hedrick, Iowa. Don farmed for 70 years in the Hedrick and Kalona areas, of which several years were with his son, Gary. During his career as a farmer, Don had a large dairy herd for 10 years, raised hogs, and thoroughly enjoyed the horses he owned broke, and with which he farmed. He retired from farming in 1993. He enjoyed doing carpentry work for himself and others and liked gardening, camping, rock hunting, and spending winters in the South, especially in Florida. Don and his wife reigned one winter as king and queen of the park in which they stayed. He was a member of the Hedrick-Martinsburg United Methodist Church where he served as Sunday School Superintendent for 10 years. He also served on various Wapello County boards. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather who delighted in spending time with his family.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Paul and Raymond Benell, and two sisters, Ferne Baily and Mary Ellen Benell, in infancy.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, of over 74 years; a son, Gary and his wife Sharon Benell of rural Hedrick; two daughters: Janis Stober of Columbia, Missouri, and Maryellen Deutschle of rural Hedrick; 12 grandchildren: Dixie (Tim) Norris, Vickie (Kenny) Lewis, Dan Stober, Russ Stober, Scott (Wendy) Stober, Tami (Doug) Doak, Tina Deutschle, Tony (Cheryl) Deutschle), Todd (Misty) Deutschle, Ted (Michelle) Benell, and Susan (Jeff) Lowe, and Julia Hockmayer; 42 great grandchildren; and 28 great-great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Monday, May 17, 2010, at 10:00 A.M., in the Hedrick Martinsburg United Methodist Church in Hedrick, Iowa, with the

Reverends Bill Hornback and Kim Gates officiating. Visitation will be held Sunday, May 16, 2010, at the Fremont Funeral Chapel from 12:00 Noon until 8:00 P.M., with family present from 6:00 – 7:30 P.M. Interment will be in the McCormick Cemetery near Highland Center, Iowa. Memorials may be made in his name to the Hospice House of Ottumwa, Iowa, or to the Hedrick Martinsburg United Methodist Church, Hedrick, Iowa.

Fremont Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.