



## Willard C. Klein

July 31, 1921 - August 24, 2004

Visitation: Open after 12:00 O'clock noon with family present between the hours of 6:00 and 8:00 O'clock P.M. August 26, 2004 at Prairie View United Methodist Church near Ollie, Iowa.

Funeral Service: 10:00 O'clock A.M. July 27, 2004 at Prairie View United Methodist Church

Interment: Graveside services will be held at 4:30 P.M. at Grant Center Pleasant Hil Cemetery, Iowa Fall, Iowa with Rev. Denny Coon officiating.

Willard Klein, a man who loved life departed for God's happy hunting ground. He died August 24th, 2004 from Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) at the age of 83. ALS took his life, but Willard took with him much love, many memories, and no regrets. He died comfortably at home amongst family. Willard was a man eternally faithful to family and friend. He was earnest and honest in all endeavors; he was profoundly strong of heart, limb, and spirit. Any who knew him well, will miss him greatly.

Willard was born in Alden, Iowa-July 31, 1921. He was raised in the rural Iowa Falls area in a loving family. After completing his tour of duty in the U.S. Navy, Willard returned to the farm. He re-established his purebred Duroc herd for which he won many awards and was nationally recognized.

Willard met Yvonne Erickson while she was pursuing a nursing degree in Des Moines, and on December 5th, 1948 they were united in marriage at the First Methodist Church in Des Moines, Iowa.

Willard served in the U.S. Navy in the Philippines.

Mr. Klein graduated from Iowa Falls High School in 1939 and was one of very few to receive the American Future Farmer Degree in 1941.

Willard served as a livestock judge at multiple State Fairs, served as President of the Iowa Duroc Breeders Association, and was named Master Iowa Purebred See Stock Producer. He was also famous for his athletic exploits on the fast-pitch softball diamond. As a third baseman, he was known for his speed, strong arm, and mighty bat. At one tournament, he hit 7 homeruns while his future bride looked on.

As a servant to the community, Willard served on the Board of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator, Hardin County REC Board, Hardin Co. Farm and Home Administration, as well as Chairman of the Board at Immanuel Memorial United Church of Christ in Alden, Iowa.

After retirement, Willard and Yvonne spent a great deal of time at their cabin on Snow Lake, Manitoba, 450 miles north of Winnipeg. In later years, Willard spent more time hunting, fishing and watching the Iowa Hawkeyes. In 1990 the couple moved to a farm near Ollie, in southeastern Iowa. This move was a new and wonderful adventure. They made new friends and enjoyed their home, church, land, pond and timber. Willard believed the laws of nature and the laws of God were the same and he treasured them both. We will dearly miss our husband, brother, father, and friend.

Willard's memory is honored by his wife, Yvonne of Ollie, two sons; Mark and Randy and his wife Patty of Salt Lake City, Utah, a daughter; Dr. Maureen Lundergan and her husband Dr. Stephen Tiffany of Salt Lake City, Utah; five grandchildren, Patrick Lundergan, Brinn Klein Hake, Kristan, Ashten and Travis Higbee; two sisters, Lois Klein Grua of Santa Barbara, California, and Ruth Klein Johnson of Marshalltown, Iowa; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

A memorial has been established in his name to either benefit the Bucher Family Scholarship Fund or Hospice of Keokuk County.