

Gene Merle Vest, 76

Oct. 23, 1922 - March 31, 1999

CLEAR LAKE – Gene Merle Vest was born Oct. 23, 1922, in Harlan, the son of Everett and Laura (McGee) Vest. He attended and received his education in the Defiance School System, graduating from Defiance High School. After completing his schooling, he was inducted into the U.S. Army Dec. 17, 1942, at Camp Dodge, serving overseas in the European Theater during World War II, until his honorable discharge Nov. 4, 1945, at Fort Knox, KY.

He married Ruth Lindsley May 9, 1946, in Carroll. After their marriage together they owned and operated Farmers Produce in Madrid for several years, he drove a truck for the U.S. Postal Service in Madrid for four years, worked for SMB driving charter buses in Des Moines for five years, owned and operated the Frontier Restaurant in Perry for 17 years, worked for Winnebago Industry in Forest City driving Winnegaos and worked for Field Stone Cabinetry in Northwood until his retirement in 1995. He died March 31, 1999, at the North Iowa Mercy Health Center East, Mason City, at age 76. He was a Methodist by faith.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Dennis Vest; and two brothers, Dale and Howard Vest. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Vest of Clear Lake; five children, Romona Cushman of Minneapolis; Donald Vest (Sherri) of Des Moines; Jo Ann "Jodi" Lewerke (Dennis) of Clear Lake; Dean Vest of Camdenton, MO; and Dale Vest (Jean) of Des Moines; a daughter-in-law, Janice of Ankeny; one sister, June Murray (Walter) of Irwin; 15 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren and other relatives.

Memorial services were held April 3, 1999 at the Ward-Van Slyke Colonial Chapel, Clear Lake, with the Rev. Fred Lewis of the Clear Lake United Methodist Church officiating. Inurnment was in the Memorial Park Columbarium, Mason City.