

Obituary

Clifford Merle Dodd, son of Wallace Silas Dodd and Viola Maye (Shoemaker) Dodd, was born on August 31, 1907 on the family farm southeast of Randolph, Iowa. He passed away on Friday, March 18, 2005 at the Grape Community Hospital in Hamburg, Iowa at the age of 97.

Merle graduated from Randolph High School with the Class of 1925 and began farming with his father. In 1923, he and his cousin, Lyle Dodd, bought the first John Deere combine in the Randolph area and did custom combining for their relatives and neighbors. It was an innovation welcomed by the housewives who cheerfully said goodbye to the steam threshers and cooking for the large threshing crews. On June 30, 1942, Merle was inducted into the Army Air Corps and was stationed at several bases within the United States. He was honorably discharged on July 14, 1943 at Syracuse, New York. On August 12, 1950, Merle was united in marriage to Ada Burch in Omaha, Nebraska. To this union two children, Rebecca Jane and Jerry Merle were born. They lived in the house that Merle was born in and built in 1890 by his great grandfather, Silas Dodd. Merle lived his entire life in rural Fremont county with the exception of his time in the service. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Randolph. Merle was also a member of the William-Jobe-Gibson American Legion Post #128 in Sidney, Iowa. He enjoyed watching sports, talking about tractors and cars and taking his dogs for rides. He also enjoyed reading newspapers and magazines to keep up on the current news and subjects around the world.

Preceding Merle in death were his parents; two brothers, Albert, who died in infancy, and Wendell Dodd. He was the longest living member of his high school graduating class. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Ada of rural Randolph, IA and their two children, Rebecca Jane and Jerry Merle, both of Omaha, NE. Also surviving are four first cousins, Virginia Smith of Phoenix, AZ, Ardeth Mygatt of Eagle Grove, IA, Isabel McGuire of Leawood, KS and William Dodd of Red Oak, IA; other relatives and many friends.

In Loving Memory

**Merle Dodd**

Born August 31, 1907  
Rural Randolph, Iowa

Entered Into Rest  
March 18, 2005  
Hamburg, Iowa

Age  
97 years, 6 months, 18 days

Pianist  
Lois Aistrophe

Vocalist  
Rick Dodd

Musical Selections  
"Amazing Grace"  
"How Great Thou Art"  
"The Old Rugged Cross"

Memory Register  
Sarah Carter Linda Stouder

Ushers  
Larry Crom Richard Madison

Funeral Services from  
Randolph Presbyterian Church  
Randolph, Iowa  
Tuesday, March 22, 2005  
Two O'clock

Words of Comfort  
Rev. Thomas A. Clark

Eulogy  
Isabel McGuire

Poem  
Rodney Carter

Casket Bearers  
Dennis Bartley  
David Carter  
Rodney Carter  
Jay Longinaker  
Larry Stouder  
Mike Winchester

Honorary Casket Bearers  
Bill Dixon Jack Fichter  
William Fichter James Gregory  
Charles Hansell Stanley Hansell  
Dale Malcom Jesse McIntyre  
Keith Schaaf Stanley Schaaf  
Everett Stouder Jack Walker

Interment  
Rose Hill Cemetery  
Shenandoah, Iowa