

Wayne Gropper, 83

Feb. 19, 1920 - Sept. 1, 2003

GRINNELL – Wayne L. Gropper, son of Ruben William and Ella Tiederman Gropper, was born Feb. 19, 1920, in Malcom Township, Poweshiek County. He was a 1937 graduate of Grinnell High School and a veteran of the United States Army Air Corps during World War II.

He married Naomi Meyer in 1946, in Grinnell, and was later married to Leone Dohrn Criswell May 4, 1968, in Moline, IL. He farmed for many years in Poweshiek County and owned and operated Grinnell Transport for several years. He was later employed at Grinnell Implement and most recently for Sully Co-op. He had made his home at Oakland Acres since 1977. He was a member of the Malcom Presbyterian Church, Grinnell American Legion, Kaaba Shriners, Eastern Star, and the Eagles, Elks, and Masonic Lodges. He was a past Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge. He died Sept. 1, 2003, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center at age 83.

His parents preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife, Leone, of Grinnell; two daughters, Mary (Larry) Johnson of Harlan and Marilyn Gropper of St. Paul, MN; two stepchildren, Karen Schermerhorn of Newton and Fred Criswell of Lynnville; one step daughter-in-law, Kennetha Criswell of Searsboro; one granddaughter; nine step grandchildren; six step great grandchildren; and one brother, Earl Gropper of Grinnell.

Funeral services were held Sept. 4, 2003, at the Grinnell Christian Church with Rev. John Epperson, pastor of the church, and Rev. John Rens, pastor of the Malcom Presbyterian Church, officiating. Casket bearers were Cory and Scott Cope; Greg, Jeff, Jeremy, Joshua and Tim Criswell; and Dean Johnson. Honorary casket bearers were Gordon Dicke, Maynard Durr, Jeff Gropper, Tom Harris, Gene Kerbel, Mike Kriegel, Wes Meyer, Kenneth "Cutter" Paul, Dan Slagle and Ted Urfer. Burial was in the Ivy Hill Cemetery in Malcom. Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.
