

## William Garland Irwin, 85

March 26, 1913 - Dec. 7, 1998

**ONAWA-** William Garland "Bill" Irwin, 85, Onawa, died Dec. 7, 1998 at Burgess Memorial Hospital in Onawa. Bill was born March 26, 1913 on a ranch near Basin, WY, the son of Oliver and Olive (Swim) Irwin. In 1932 he graduated from Basin High School and in 1933 he graduated from Barnes Business College in Denver, CO. He was employed in 1934 as a bookkeeper by the Jerpe Chicken Company in Omaha and subsequently worked in several Nebraska communities before transferring to the Onawa facility in 1937.

Aug. 29, 1936 he married Evelyn "Jo" Boren at McCool Junction, NE. He was the Onawa City Clerk between 1941 and 1942 when he entered the U.S. Army for service during World War II. In 1946 he was employed by the Onawa State Bank and served in various positions until his retirement in 1978 as Senior Vice President. She died Nov. 8, 1960 in Onawa.

Bill was devoted to Onawa and for decades was vitally interested in its development serving on numerous community committees. His main concern was to provide the best possible school facilities and instruction for the area's youth. He served on the Onawa School Board and later the West Monona School Board for 32 years between 1946 and 1978. He was a leader in the formation of the West Monona School District and the campaign to construct Lark School and the new high school building. During the great Missouri River flood of 1952 he became one of the managers to evacuate Onawa and surrounding farms.

Dec. 16, 1965 he married Jeanne Hinkel in Onawa. He was a 60 year member of the Vesper Lodge, #223 AF & AM. He had the distinction of serving as Worshipful Master twice in a 50-year span, 1942 and 1992. He was also president of the Onawa Country Club, and a long time member of the Lions Club, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Sioux City Consistory and the Abu Bekr Shrine Temple of Sioux City, and Queen Esther Chapter Order of Eastern Star #222 and David McNeill American Legion Post #129, both in Onawa.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Evelyn Jo (Boren) Irwin and three brothers, Lester, Raymond, and Donald.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Jeanne Hinkel Irwin; six children, Oliver Irwin of Montreal, Canada, Nancy (Richard) Goodwin of Houston, TX, John Irwin of Phoenix, AZ, Wendy Shol of Seattle, WA, Vicki Shol of Omaha and Sally Kirkeby of Omaha; six grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

Masonic services were held Dec. 9, 1998 at the Pearson Funeral Home in Onawa by Vesper Lodge #223 A.F. & A.M., Onawa, Donald Keck, Orator, and Carl Johnson, Worshipful Master. Funeral services were held Dec. 10 at the First Christian Church in Onawa with Pastor Donald R. Ludwig officiating. Casket bearers were Bo Fox, Terry Virtue, Mike Lucht, Bill Young, Gale Johnson, Bernard Farber and Greg Reimer. Burial was in the Onawa Cemetery. Pearson Funeral Home, Onawa, in charge of arrangements.