



**OBITUARIES FROM PURSEL-DAVIS FUNERAL HOME  
MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA**

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William Bill Couch



Born: April 01, 1913

Died: April 23, 2005

Services will be held at: at 2:00 P.M. on Monday, May 2, 2005, at the First United Methodist Church in Marathon, Iowa, following cremation at Pursel-Davis Funeral Home & Crematory. Pursel-Davis Funeral Home has been entrusted with local arrangements. Memorial contributions may be directed in his name to the First United Methodist Church of Marathon, Iowa.

William Franklin Couch was born April 1, 1913 in Spencer, Iowa, to Harry Couch and Singne Erickson Couch, and died April 23, 2005 in Marshalltown, Iowa. Bill spent his childhood on a farm near Marathon with siblings George, Eldon, and Thelma. Late in life he published *The Farm Years*, a book about life on an Iowa farm in the 1920's. Bill

enjoyed hunting and fishing, and played the saxophone in a dance band in high school, after which he got his BA in education at Buena Vista College. Later in The College Years, he wrote of the difficulties of attending college during the Depression, balancing a football scholarship and various odd jobs to make ends meet. He then started a teaching career, and during summer school in Boulder, Colorado, Bill met a teacher from Winchester, Illinois, Edna "Ted" Markillie. In 1938 they were married at "The Little Brown Church" in Nashua, Iowa, and lived in Lanesboro, where Bill was a teacher and later superintendent of schools. Ted and Bill had two daughters, Sally and Miriam, and taught at several Iowa towns. Bill completed his Master's Degree at Drake University in Des Moines. Bill finally retired in 1973, and he and Ted traveled in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, and relaxed at their cottage at the Iowa Great Lakes. His interests have included education, Indian lore, archery, fishing, gardening, conservation, and politics among others. Bill and Ted have been active in the Methodist Church, the Isaac Walton League, and the Storm Lake Historical Society, and Bill was a regular contributor of letters to the editor of the Storm Lake Pilot Tribune. Bill is survived by his wife, Ted Couch of Marshalltown; daughter and son in law Sally and Orlin Klinkefus of Marshalltown; daughter and son in law Miriam and Doug Owens of Anacortes, Washington; granddaughter Beth Costello, husband Tom and great grandchildren Joey and Annie, of Ann Arbor, Michigan; grandson Jon Klinkefus, wife Karen and granddaughters Katie and Jill of Cedar Rapids; and grandsons Benedict and Blake Owens of Washington state.