

## ALBERT GILBERT

Earlham

April 11, 1909 - June 22, 2005

Albert (Al) Gilbert, 96, of Earlham, died Wednesday, June 22, 2005 in Winterset. Services were held Saturday, June 25, at Kuhn Funeral Home in Earlham. Burial was in the Earlham Cemetery.

Al Gilbert was born April 11, 1909, the son of Frank and Evangeline Riser Gilbert. He grew up on the family farm southwest of Earlham. He appreciated and developed his love for animals with the farm life. He started elementary school at a one-room facility at Penn Center. Eventually the school was built in Earlham and he completed high school at Earlham Community. He continued his education, graduating from Iowa State University in Ames in animal husbandry. With his education, he began a career in this field. He worked for a number of dairies, formulating and processing various cheeses, ice cream, milk, cream, and a variety of other products. The height of his career was working for Roberts Dairy in Omaha. He became a sales representative for this company and was assigned the task of developing milk routes for the company. The task was to enable Roberts to purchase milk from farmers in the Nebraska area. Many stories came from his experience with this position, with the highlight having met his wife Rose. They were married in July 1940. They loved ballroom big band dancing and the couple danced to bands at various locations in Nebraska and Iowa. This hobby continued, attending dances during their retirement at the Val Air Ballroom in Des Moines. Another hobby was collecting and selling antiques.

After leaving the dairy business, he and Rose returned to the family farm to reside with his parents. He went into a formal partnership with his parents and farmed the 120 acres of land. In addition, he did custom baling throughout the Earlham countryside for various farmers.

A number of animals were raised on the farm including Cheviot and Suffolk sheep, chickens, hogs, and cattle. He became a renowned Red Poll cattle breeder, showing cattle at state fairs, as well as developing the line. After a bolt of lightning hit the house on the farm causing a huge fire, he and Rose moved to their present home on the south edge of Earlham.

He is survived by his wife, Rose and two children, Larry of Highland, Ill. and Rita Disbrow, of Newark, Ohio.