

June 03, 2004

Lester Smith

June 30, 1916, to May 29, 2004

Lester Smith, 87, of Mesa, Ariz., formerly of Collins, died Saturday, May 29, 2004 at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames. Funeral services were Wednesday, June 2, at the Collins Christian Church in Collins, Iowa. Burial followed at the Colo Cemetery in Colo, Iowa. A memorial fund has been established for Alzheimer's disease Research and Support.

Lester Van Dellan Smith was born June 30, 1916, on a farm near Collins to Orrin and Sarah (Gilley) Smith. On January 20, 1940 Lester married Bonnie Tripp of Colo in Unionville, Missouri. He worked for Fisher Governor in Marshalltown until 1951. While there, he earned the Army-Navy "E" Award for his contribution to the Manhattan Project during World War II. Lester owned and operated a kitchen center in Nevada, worked for Story Construction Company in Ames, Knudsen Construction and was a maintenance carpenter at Iowa State University. He retired in 1977 as head carpenter at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames. Lester and Bonnie lived in Collins and wintered in Mesa, Arizona prior to moving to Mesa in December of 2000.

Lester is survived by his wife, Bonnie of Mesa, Arizona; two daughters, Sheryl Niemand and Sandra Garner both of Mesa, Arizona; a son, James Smith (Diane) of Ames; 13 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; three sisters, Gertrude Hunt (Charles) and Vilda Munt both of Sun City, Arizona, and Gloria Capenter (Neil) of Nevada, Iowa; and a brother, Marion Smith (Dorothy) of Nevada, Iowa. He was preceded in death by his parents; a stillborn daughter, Susanne; a daughter Leslie Wilkening; a granddaughter, Kelly Lee Garner; his brothers, Orville, Kenneth, Donald, Conrad and Arnold; and a sister, Ida Smith.