

Freitag, Hobart R.

NEW GLARUS – Hobart R. Freitag, age 97, a retired New Glarus area farmer and mechanic died Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2002. He had been a resident of the New Glarus Home since 1995.

He was born in Monticello, on Feb. 20, 1904, the third oldest of the 16 children to Jacob H. Freitag and Emma Jordi Freitag . He grew up on the Freitag family farm in the Town of Exeter, attended the one-room Wallace School, and became interested in mechanics as the first trucks and tractors began to be used on farms. As a young man, he worked as a hired hand on several farms before being employed in the tin shop at the Pet Milk Co. in New Glarus. In 1927, he married Irene Werndli of New Glarus. He had met her at a barn dance. Except for a brief period in oconomowoc, they lived in the New Glarus and Monticello. areas all their lives. In the 1930s, Hobart purchased a truck and worked on road construction, hauling sand and gravel for the initial paving of many state highways in southern Wisconsin. He continued as a truck driver, hauling lime for farmers, and milk to the Pet Milk plant, and plowing snow in the winter under contract with Green County. He also worked as a mechanic for Erb Implement and Knobel Garage in New Glarus. He briefly operated the Freitag Pure Oil station on the south side of New Glarus before returning to run the family farm from 1951 to 1960. He and his family maintained a large dairy herd. He was among the first in the area to employ conservation techniques, including strip cropping and land terracing. Hobart was a founding member of the Little Sugar River Watershed Association, and later served as its president. In the 1950s, he was honored for his pioneering work in land conservation. Hobart enjoyed hunting and fishing all his life, and participated in bowling leagues and competitions in is younger years, He was a member of Swiss United Methodist Church of Christ.

Survivors include three sons, Lyle (Claudette) Freitag of Monticello, Harlan (Beverly) Freitag of McFarland, and Duane (Janet) Freitag of Greendale; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and six sisters, Phyllis Pauli and Elizabeth Ace, both of Verona, Lucile Elmer and Lorraine Elmer, both of Monticello, Frances Kubly of Monroe, and Shirley Larsen of New Glarus.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Irene in 1999; his parents, Jacob H., in 1942, and Emma, in 1969; and eight brothers and sisters, Jacob, Chester, Otto, Edrie [Duerst], Terrance, Stanley, John, Patricia (Oppliger), and an unnamed baby sister.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Feb. 15, 2002, at 11 am. at the ZENTNER-BEAL FUNERAL HOME, 29 6th Ave., New Glarus, Wis.. The Rev. Marlee Waber officiating, with burial in the Swiss Church Cemetery.

Relatives and friends may call from 5 pm. until 8 pm. on Thursday, Feb. 14, 2002, at the ZENTNER-BEAL FUNERAL HOME, New Glarus. A memorial fund will be established in his memory.