

John Gottfried Waelchli, Sr.

John Gottfried Waelchli, Sr., age 75, of rural Monticello, died on Friday, January 3, 2003, at his home. He was born on May 6, 1927 at rural Monticello the son of Gottfried and Johanna (Wiedmer) Waelchli. He attended Babler School and graduated from Monticello High School in 1945. He served in the United States Army from 1945 to 1947.

John and Gertrude Mueller were married on May 31, 1953 at Zwingli United Church of Christ in Monticello, where he was a lifelong member. John farmed all of his life in rural Monticello. He raised hogs and cows and loved watching his farm thrive. He loved to travel with his family, taking them to Texas and Kentucky to visit family and friends, and on many other adventures. He also enjoyed dancing at Turner Hall in Monroe and visiting with family and friends.

Surviving are his wife of 49 years, Gertrude Waelchli, rural Monticello; son John Waelchli, Jr, Madison; daughters, Jeanne (Jerry) Waelchli-Traut, Rio; Joni (Kim) Waelchli-Buehl, Monticello; Julie (Daniel) LeGros, New Glarus and Jeri Waelchli, Monroe; brother, Henry (Darlene) Waelchli, Monroe; sisters, Mary Waelchli, Madison, and Johanna (Eugene Stuckey, Monroe; sister-in-law, Marjorie Waelchli, Monroe; grandchildren, Jesse and Zachary Buehl, Sarah and Brian Traut and Jamie and Janna LeGros; and many nieces, nephews and cousins in the U.S. and Switzerland, many of whom he enjoyed visiting over the years. He was preceded in death by his mother, Johanna in 1934; father, Gottfried in 1996; sister, Rose in 1983; and brother, William in 1999.

Memorial services were held on Monday January 6, 2003, at Zwingli United Church of Christ, Monticello. Rev. Lawrence Balleine officiated. A private family burial service will be in Highland Cemetery at a later date.

A Memorial Fund is being established in John's memory.

Shriner-Hager-Gohlke Funeral Home, Monroe served the family.