



Merlin Hays

August 20, 2011

Merlin B. Hays, age 87, of West Okoboji, passed away on Sunday, August 21, 2011, at Lakes Regional Healthcare in Spirit Lake. He was born on February 10, 1924, in Lanesboro, Iowa, to Dr. Earl and Sara (Howland) Hays. Merlin spent his early years in Lake City, Iowa attending school and graduating from Lake City High School in 1943. The following year, he joined the United States Army, serving as a medical lab technician aboard the USS Marine Dragon, discharging in 1946. Following his military service, Merlin attended the University of Iowa, receiving a Masters Degree in virology and bacteriology in 1952. In the midst of his studies, he was united in marriage to Virginia Sievers on September 13, 1950. In 1952, Merlin and Virginia moved to Ft. Dodge, where Merlin joined the research and development staff of Ft. Dodge Laboratories, retiring in 1980. Merlin will be remembered for his servant and compassionate heart. As an avid hunter and fisherman, he appreciated all of nature. His greatest joy however, was in finding ways to serve family and friends in both word and deed. Merlin is survived by his wife, Virginia Hays of West Okoboji