

Bixler, Blanchard

Blanchard Herbert Bixler, 82, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2003, surrounded by family at Scheurer Hospital in Pigeon. He was born to the late Erwin and Melvina (Eicher) Bixler on March 6, 1920 on their farm two miles north of Elkton in Chandler Township. He grew to love farming and it remained a passion throughout his life. On Aug. 10, 1946, he was united in marriage to Verda Armstrong at the Elkton Missionary Church. She preceded him in death on May 29, 2000. After Blanchard left farming as a full time occupation in 1960, he became a sales rep for Watkins products for a time and then became an independent insurance agent in 1965, but farming remained a hobby. He received great success as an insurance agent, earning many awards and honors for his hard work and perseverance and was always appreciated by his clients for his dedication to them. In later years, after retirement, he and Verda loved to travel, especially to places that were rich in history. He was a lifelong member of the Elkton Missionary Church where he served as an usher and Sunday School superintendent for many years. Blanchard is lovingly remembered and survived by his daughters, Carol Tuchs Schmidt and her husband, Ron, of Steamboat Springs, Colo., Jeanne Swartzendruber and her husband, Leland, of Bay Port, Joyce VanBruaene and her husband, Jim, of Wakarusa, Ind.; five grandchildren, Jason and Jim VanBruaene, Eric, Julee and Rachel Swartzendruber; his brother, the Rev. Virgil Bixler and his wife, Leona and his sister, Faythe Outcalt and her husband, Willis, all of Fort Wayne, Ind.; sister-in-law, Shirley Bixler of Carmel, Ind. He was preceded in death by his only son, Bruce, who drowned in 1969 at the age of 17; sister, Bernice; and brother, Leon. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2003, at the Elkton Missionary Church. The Rev. Reggie Courless, pastor of the church will officiate with burial in Riverside Cemetery in Elkton. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday at the Champagne Funeral Chapel in Elkton and at the church after 10 a.m. on Thursday. Memorials may be given to his church or the Alzheimer's Research Center at the University of Michigan. Friends may sign the guest book at www.CFCelkton.com.