

Connell, Edsel

Edsel D. Connell, 84, of Bay City and formerly of Decker, died Sunday, Feb. 2, 2003, in St. Mary's Medical Center, Saginaw. He was born Feb. 27, 1918 in Shabbona to George and Grace (Hawkins) Connell. He married Fern J. McKenzie on Sept. 30, 1939 in Detroit. Edsel was Michigan's Light Heavyweight Golden Glove Champ in 1937 and 1938. He worked as a bus driver and safety superintendent for Greyhound for 38 years, retiring in 1979. Edsel and Fern lived in Bay City from 1956 to 1960. After his retirement in 1979, they returned to the Shabbona area where Edsel could pursue his love of gardening and farming. Edsel was a member of Calvary Bible Fellowship Church in Cass City and a member of Toastmasters in Bay City. He was a Sunday School teacher for more than 50 years. Edsel is survived by his wife, Fern; children, Sally Allen and her husband, Bill, of Bay City, "Bud" Edsel Connell II and his wife, Virginia, of Carmel Valley, Calif.; grandchildren, Kim Carey and his wife, Kris, Kameron Allen and his wife, Chris, Keith Allen and his wife, Shelly; great-grandchildren, Kyle Carey, Jonathan Hurrell, Emily Hurrell, McKenzie Allen, Grace Allen, Bob Thomas, Jessica Thomas; sister, Helen Severance of Ann Arbor; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Betty Fredericks; brothers, Howard and George Connell. Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City with the Rev. John Wood of Higgins Lake Baptist Church officiating. Interment is in Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City. Visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday and from 2 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to CB International Missions or Gideons International.