

Swartzendruber, John E.

John Edward Swartzendruber, Sr., 85, of Pigeon, passed away Wednesday, January 4, 2006, at Country Gardens in Pigeon. He was born in Iowa on January 24, 1920, son of the late Jacob and Lydia (Gascho) Swartzendruber and graduated from Pigeon High School. On November 16, 1941, he was united in marriage to Alta G. Maust at Pigeon River Mennonite Church. The couple had been married nearly 53 years when Alta passed away on October 13, 1994. Mr. Swartzendruber sang with the Gospel Messengers Quartet for many years. He especially loved music and played many instruments, including the harmonica and several stringed instruments. He enjoyed fishing, nature, admiring the crops in the field, and was known as a problem-solving mechanic. Mr. Swartzendruber dearly loved his grandchildren and great-grandson, and was looking forward to meeting his great-granddaughter. He was a faithful member of Pigeon River Mennonite Church. He is survived by three sons and daughters-in-law, Wayne J. and Geraldine Swartzendruber, of Pigeon, John E. and Gloria Swartzendruber, of Pigeon, and Richard D. and Nancy Swartzendruber, of Bad Axe; seven grandchildren, Brian (Tracy) Swartzendruber, Dawn (Christopher) Putnam, Holly Swartzendruber (fiancé, Douglas Miller), Steven Swartzendruber, Andrew Swartzendruber, Shawn Swartzendruber, and Corbin Swartzendruber; one great-grandson, John Christopher Putnam; a sister, Freda (James) Maust, of Bay Port; a brother, James (Arlene) Swartzendruber, of Pigeon; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by three sisters, Dorothy Swartzendruber, Marie Maust and Marjorie Maust. Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 7, 2006, at the Pigeon River Mennonite Church, with the Rev. Tom Beachy, pastor, and the Rev. Luke Yoder officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. All visitation will be at the church. Times are from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday and from noon until the time of the service on Saturday at the church. Meyersieck-Bussema Funeral Home in Pigeon is conducting the arrangements. Memorials may be made to Pigeon River Mennonite Church, Country Gardens, or Youth for Christ.