

Gettel Jr., Herbert J.

Herbert J. Gettel Jr., 83, of Pigeon, passed away Tuesday, December 27, 2005, at his home. He was the second son of Dora and Herb Gettel, Sr., born March 11, 1922 and raised on the family farm on Sturm Road near Pigeon. He graduated from Pigeon High School in 1938. He married Doris A. Stoll from Unionville on November 2, 1946. Together with his father and brothers, Herb farmed the home acreage until 1950, when the family founded Gettel Implement Company, a John Deere dealership in Pigeon with Herb as the co-owner and salesman. Later locations included dealerships in Sebewaing and Bad Axe. During the years prior to 1950, he also worked odd jobs and sold cars for Sebewaing Motor Sales, seed for Wallace & Morley Company, and enrolled in short courses at Michigan State University. In 1973, Herb and his brothers diversified and purchased the GM car dealership in Sebewaing, and a few years later, they bought the GM dealership in Reese. Herb also was involved in community affairs. He was co-founder of the Sebewaing Sugar Festival, served on the Chamber of Commerce, the USA school board for 10 years, was a member and past president of the Sebewaing Rotary Club, and a member of the Caseville United Methodist Church. He was director and past president of the Michigan Equipment Dealers Association and also director and president of the National Farm and Power Equipment Dealers Association. Herb remained active on the Saginaw Valley State University Board of Fellows, was a member of the Scheurer Hospital Board for eight years, and a Director of First of America Bank for eight years. He is survived by his wife of more than 59 years, Doris, of Pigeon; two sons and their wives, Kent and Kari Gettel, and Mark and Cindy Gettel, all of Pigeon; two daughters, Janet Weatherhead, of Lake Zurich, Illinois, and Karen and her husband, Michael Millerwise, of Chandler, Arizona; nine grandchildren, Kevin, Jason, Marshall, and Kelson Gettel, Morgan, Kylie and Chelsey Weatherhead, and Graham and Sydney Millerwise; a sister, Dorothy and her husband, Charles Parks, of Port Austin; a brother, Douglas Gettel and his wife, Judy, of Bloomfield Hills; a sister-in-law, Mary Gettel and her husband, Gordon Guyer, of East Lansing; a brother-in-law, Don Stoll and his wife, Marie, of Unionville; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a son, Gary, in 1990; and brothers Loren and Clarence. A private family committal service will take place at Grand Lawn Cemetery in Pigeon. A funeral memorial service will be conducted at 2 p.m. on Friday, December 30, 2005, at the Caseville United Methodist Church with the Rev. Philip Voss, pastor, officiating. Visitation will be from 1 to 4 and 6 to 9 p.m. today at Meyersieck-Bussema Funeral Home in Pigeon and from 1 p.m. until the time of the service on Friday at the church. Memorial contributions may be made to the Scheurer Hospital Herb and Gary Gettel Fund, Heartland Hospice, or Caseville United Methodist Church.