

Eckel, Gerald

Gerald F. "Jack" Eckel, 71, of Pigeon passed away on Thursday, May 30, 2002, at Scheurer Hospital in Pigeon. He was born in Hadley on Oct. 7, 1930, son of the late William and Edith (Hauxwell) Eckel. On Oct. 15, 1955, he was united in marriage to Susan E. Snoblen in Lapeer. She preceded him in death on May 9, 1989. He was a 1949 graduate of Goodrich High School. During the Korean conflict, he served with the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division as a fireman stationed at Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. As a teenager in Hadley, Jack began working for International Harvester, and in 1966, he began full-time work in Pigeon at International Harvester, now Osentoski Equipment, Inc. Most recently, he was working two days a week there. Jack enjoyed gardening, playing cards and hunting. He collected International Harvester memorabilia and enjoyed working on his 1950 IH Cub tractor. Mr. Eckel was a life member of the Metamora Hadley No. 210 F&AM. He was a member of the Pigeon Conservation Club as well as a former member of the Pigeon Lions Club. He is survived by a daughter, Judith Vollmer and her husband, Roger, of Bay Port; a son, Thomas Eckel and his wife, Kelly, of Pigeon; three grandchildren, Robin Rau and her husband, Michael, Seth Eckel and Peter Vollmer; a sister, Genevieve Coulter and her husband, Arden, of Lapeer; two sisters-in-law, Irene Eckel of Hadley and Margaret Eckel of Florida; a brother-in-law, Donald Bird of Davidson; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by three brothers, Lorain, Duane and Keith; a sister, Evelyn Bird. The funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 3, 2002, at the Meyersieck-Bussema Funeral Home in Pigeon with the Rev. Alger T. Lewis officiating. Burial will be in the New Bay Port Cemetery. The Hubbard Winsor No. 420 F&AM service will take place at 7 p.m. Sunday. Visitation is from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, 1 to 9 p.m. Sunday and from 9 a.m. until the time of the service Monday at the funeral home.