

Brinker, Clayton

Clayton E. Brinker, 86, a former resident of Bad Axe and Kinde, died Sunday, July 13, 2003, at Canterbury-on-the-Lake Nursing Center in Waterford Township after a brief illness. Clayton was born Nov. 22, 1916 in Kinde to the late William and Lucy (Stoner) Brinker. He was a graduate of Kinde High School and the Detroit Business College. While attending college, he traveled with and played saxophone in the Johnny Mercer Orchestra. On April 25, 1936, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth May (Aisthorpe) McDonald of Kinde at LaGrange, Ind. In the spring of 1944, Clayton and Elizabeth moved to Bad Axe where they resided until the late 1970s. During World War II, Clayton traveled throughout the United States and South America under commission by the U.S. government to locate and purchase timber for military use including the lumber used in aircraft carrier flight decks. Clayton was the owner and manager of the Brinker Lumber Company with yards in Bad Axe, Cass City, Kinde and Saginaw. He constructed the McDonald IGA Foodliner in 1954 and founded Northgate Plaza in 1957 when the new Brinker Lumber Company yard was built on the site presently occupied by Mortimer Lumber. He designed and built many homes and buildings throughout Huron County. He retired from the Brinker Lumber Company in the mid-1980s and worked as a consultant and independent architectural designer into the 1990s. Clayton was a member of the Kinde Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Bad Axe. He was also a member of Verona-Huron Mason Lodge #365 F&AM, Bad Axe. Clayton was a member of the Bad Axe Industrial Development Corporation and served as a trustee, and on the Bad Axe Board of Education. He was also a member of the Verona Hills Golf Club for many years. Surviving are his daughters, Kaye McDonald and her husband, David, of Bad Axe, Charlotte Patton and her husband, Jack, of Lake Orion, Carmen Ferguson and her husband, Robert, of Seward, Ala., Kirsten Brinker and her friend, Michael Mundth, of Pontiac; ten grandsons; two granddaughters; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth (Betsy); son, William Kurt Brinker; and daughter, Constance Elizabeth Wilson. Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be conducted at 1 p.m. on Friday, July 18, 2003, at the MacAlpine Funeral Home in Bad Axe. The Rev. Theresa Cutler, pastor, will officiate. A Masonic memorial service will follow at 1:30 p.m. Visitation will be from 10:30 a.m. until the time of the service at 1 p.m. Interment will be at New River Cemetery. Memorials may be offered to the Alzheimer's Association, 20300 Civic Center Drive, Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48076.