

Kretzschmer, Elmer

Elmer C. Kretzschmer, 91, of Naperville, Ill., died Monday, Feb. 12, 2001, at Edward Hospital, Naperville, Ill. He was born on Sept. 9, 1909, in Pigeon to the late Herman and Catherine (Finkbeiner) Kretzschmer. Mr. Kretzschmer grew up in Pigeon. He graduated from Alma College with a degree in chemistry. He began his career with Jewel Tea Co., Detroit, and moved to Dow Chemical Co. in Detroit during World War II. After the war, Elmer was a salesman for Household Paper Products Co. in Detroit. During this time, he lived in Sycamore and Harvard, Ill., where he was active in community organizations such as the Lion's Club. Mr. Kretzschmer later bought Household Paper Co. and renamed it Key Products and managed it until age 75. He then retired to Bad Axe and remained active serving as an interim pastor for a Detroit Baptist Church which was being revitalized in the mid-1970s. He also enjoyed golfing, bowling and fishing. Mr. Kretzschmer then moved to Naperville in 1995 to live with his daughter, Karen. Mr. Kretzschmer is survived by a daughter, Karen Sutherland of Desert Hills, Ariz.; two grandchildren, Clayton Sutherland and his wife, Debbie, of Desert Hills, Ariz. and David Sutherland of Westford, Mass.; two great-grandchildren, Clayton and Courtney Sutherland of Desert Hills, Ariz. He was preceded in death by three wives, Maurine Belding Kretzschmer, Margaret Hereford Kretzschmer and Irene Davis Kretzschmer; his parents, Herman and Catherine (Finkbeiner) Kretzschmer; and four siblings, Doris Jensen, Walter, Raymond and Wesley Kretzschmer. A memorial service was conducted on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2001, at Meadowbrook Manor of Naperville, Ill. A private interment was conducted at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Harvard, Ill. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Mr. Kretzschmer's name may be made to F.I.S.H., c/o Harris Bank, 503 N. Washington St., Naperville, IL 60540. Arrangements were handled by the Friedrich Funeral Home.