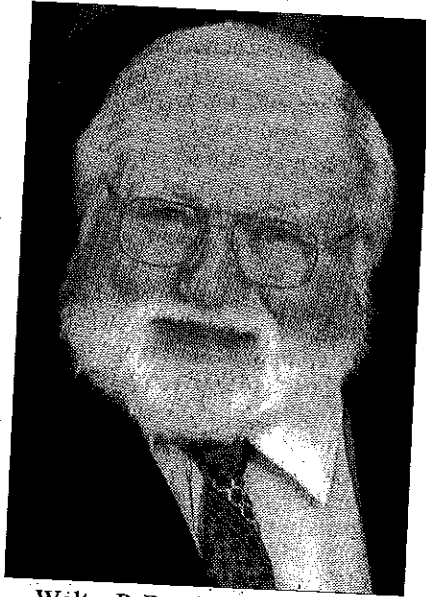


Walter P. Bender



6th 9-1-2011

Walter P. Bender, 82, of Grinnell, died on Monday, Aug. 29, 2011, at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

A memorial service will be held 10:30 a.m., Friday, Sept. 2, at the United Methodist Church in Grinnell. There will be no visitation.

Memorials may be directed to PALS or to the Drake Library and sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Walt was born on April 12, 1929, in Peoria, Ill., to Walter and Mildred Hedden Bender. The family moved to Mason City and he graduated from Mason City High School with the Class of 1947. He served with the United States Army for a brief period and in 1956, he entered the insurance business as an agent. He was co-founder of General Equity Services, which was sold to Old Northwest Insurance Company in 1972. He lived in Minneapolis, Fairfield and Denverport. He retired to Bella Vista, Ark., in 1992 and lived there until returning to Iowa in 2000.

He enjoyed playing golf, cribbage or pitch, and singing with various choruses, as well as delighting children by playing Santa Claus at the Fayetteville Mall in Bella Vista for one month each year. He also took great delight in the accomplishments of his own children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Yeakel Bender of Grinnell; three children, Christine Holmlund of San Mateo, Calif., Walter Charles Bender of Battleground, Wash., and David Bender of Eugene, Ore.; three step children, Jane Campbell of West Liberty, Stephanie Higgins of Des Moines and John Luciano of Des Moines; 13 grandchildren and three great grandchildren, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.