

News-Sentinel, The (Fort Wayne, IN) - Tuesday, November 25, 2008

EVERETT E. "GENE" RYDELL, 86, of Decatur, died Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008, 1:28 p.m., at his residence. Born June 14, 1922 in Ford County, Ill., the son of the late Fred A. and Maude E. (Phillips) Rydell. He served his country in the United States Marine Corps during World War II from February of 1942 to February of 1946, being discharged at the rank of Corporal. It was during this time that he met Helen A. Hiscocks. They were married on May 20, 1945, in Los Angeles, Calif. After World War II ended, he went to work at Bag Service Inc. (Central Soya) where he became the manager, retiring in 1978. In 1987, he also retired from First State Bank, Decatur where he was a former Chairman of the Board. He was a member of the Decatur Rotary Club, Elks Lodge 993, Moose Lodge 1311, Adams Post 43 American Legion, and the Decatur Chamber of Commerce. He had received special recognitions including the Silver Beaver from the Boy Scouts and was a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Helen A. Rydell of Decatur; two daughters, Judith Ann (Thomas) Mettler of Hoagland and Barbara L. Isch of Decatur; son, William P. (Bonnie) Rydell of Allison Park, Penn.; six grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; 10 great- grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Charles F. Rydell; and sister, Dorothy E. Hill. Funeral service is 11 a.m. Wednesday at First Presbyterian Church, Decatur, with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Laura Sherwood officiating. Friends and family will also be received from 2 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m. today at Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home, Decatur. Burial will follow the service in the Decatur Cemetery, with military graveside services being conducted by the Color Guard of Adams Post 43 American Legion. In lieu of flowers, he requested that preferred memorials be given to First Presbyterian Church, Decatur or Strickler Cancer Institute at Adams Memorial Hospital.