

Thursday, May 05, 2005 Peru Tribune

Earl "Van" Van Baalen, 87, Peru, passed away at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 3, 2005 at Caring Hands Healthcare, Peru.

He was born Dec. 16, 1917 in Miami County to Irving and Frances Fershee Van Baalen. He married his loving wife of 64 years Betty Van Baalen on Sept. 29, 1940, and she survives.

Van Baalen enlisted in the U.S. Army and was a veteran of World War II. He retired from the Peru Post Office and Carriger Realty, and was a member of First Baptist Church, Peru.

Survivors besides his wife include two daughters, Kathy Sparks and husband Danny, and Connie Hutchison and husband Don, all of Peru; Martha and Larry Hensell and their families, Peru, whom he treated like family; seven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Private family services are planned at Ever-Rest Cemetery Chapel, with Pastor Robert Adelsperger officiating. Burial will be in Ever-Rest Memorial Park, Cass County. No visitation is planned. Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church. Funeral arrangements were handled by Flowers-Leedy Funeral Home, Peru.

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