



Harold A Skibbe

July 13, 1914 - August 10, 2014

Harold August Skibbe, 100, died on Sunday, August 10, 2014 at the Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph.

Harold was born in Dowagiac, Michigan on July 13, 1914 to Henry and Emma (Koch) Skibbe. He graduated from Dowagiac High School in 1931, married the former Jeannette Rogien in 1940, and worked for many years with his father on their large fruit farm in Eau Claire. This work led him to invent, design and engineer a particular mechanism to improve farm seeding and fertilizing procedures, for which he was granted a U.S. patent. In 1952 he expanded the Skibbe Manufacturing Co. and built a shop in Sodus for the production and sales of his product, the Skibbe Seed and Fertilizer Spreader, and later added Skibbe Sprayers. Harold ran this business successfully for many years with his wife and father until his retirement and sale of the business in 1982.

Harold was a generous, humble and considerate man, whose innate goodness and kindness continued to be exhibited into his advanced age of 100 years. He and his wife were longtime members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sodus and they were charter members of the Michigan Lutheran High School Association in St. Joseph.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife of 74 years, Jeannette;

daughter Jean (Whitney) Gee of Atlanta, GA; son, John (Elizabeth) Skibbe, of Milford, MI ; daughter, Ruth (Albert) Hafer, of Sodus; 7 grandsons, Mark, Peter, Andrew and Philip Gee and Chris, Adam, and Nick Hafer; 6 great-grandchildren; and his caregivers for the past 2 years Charles Belin, Michele Verville, Mia Cockrell, and Nolan Martin. Harold was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Elmer Skibbe and his sister, Eleanor Glass.

Funeral services will be held at 11 AM on Thursday, Aug. 14, at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sodus. Burial will follow in Eau Claire Cemetery. The visitation will be held from 5 pm to 8 pm on Wednesday at the Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in St. Joseph. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sodus or the Michigan Lutheran High School. Please share messages, memories, or photos at www.florin.net. .

Cemetery Details

Eau Claire Cemetery

Eau Claire, MI 49126

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **13**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service - Closed 2013
2506 Niles Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-1514
staff@florin.net

Service Celebrating His Life

AUG **14**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Sodus
3713 Naomi Road
Sodus, MI 49126

Burial

AUG **14**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Eau Claire Cemetery
Eau Claire, MI 49126

Gathering

AUG **14**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Lutheran School
3713 Naomi Road
Sodus, MI 49126

Tribute Wall

RC

“ I am sorry to hear of my cousin Harold s passing. I'll always remember him as a kind ,thoughtful, softspoken gentleman, I have fond memories of visiting him and his parents {Aunt Emma and Uncle Henry} on their farm ,usually in late summer before school started. I think in the late 40's after WW II. My sympathy to Jeanette (the historian of the Koch Family], Jeannie, John and Ruthie and their spouses and children, Harold made the world a better place. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. I hope to contact you in the near future. Love and prayers. Ronald August Cook. (one of Auggie Cooks kids)

Ronald August Cook. - August 15, 2014 at 08:18 AM