William E. “Ed” Rice

October 24, 1915 – July 21, 2002



Photo by Deb Curry

William E. Rice

  William E. "Ed" Rice, 86, Decatur, died at 12:50 p.m. Sunday in Woodcrest Nursing Center. He was born on October 24, 1915 in Decatur to Benjamin and Bertha Bishoff Rice and married Eileen Zimmerman; she died on February 10, 2000.   
  He retired after almost 32 years at the International Harvester plant in Fort Wayne and was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Decatur and Moose Lodge 242 in Bluffton.   
  He also played with his uncle, the late Bob Rice of Decatur, in bands during the Big Band Era of the 1930s and 1940s. Later, he and his wife were musicians at dances conducted by Elks and Moose lodges.   
  Surviving are a son, Gordon L. Rice of Beverly Hills, Michigan; two sisters, Bertha O'Dell of Mishawaka and Norma Jean Mill of Wyatt, Indiana; two brothers, Victor Rice of Lakeville, Indiana, and Ferdien Reidenbach of Wanatah, Indiana; three grandchildren; and seven great- grandchildren.   
  A sister and a brother are deceased.   
  Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday in Haggard and Sefton Funeral Home, Decatur, with burial in Pleasant Dale Cemetery, rural Decatur.   
  Visiting hours are 5-8 p.m. today.   
  Preferred memorials are to the church.

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