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Ralph S. Bantz, 98, Dunkirk, died Tuesday in Randolph County.

Born in Millgrove on Oct. 14, 1906, to Daniel and Doshua (DePoy) Bantz, he graduated from Dunkirk High School in 1924. He played basketball from 1921 to 1924 and is credited with naming the team the Speedcats.

He married Edith M. Goodyear on Oct. 3, 1925. She died in 1993.

A lifetime farmer, he and his brother Norman had also owned the Standard Filling Station in Dunkirk from 1946-52. He had worked at the Hartford City Paper Mill; Harts Glass Factory; Armstrong Glass Factory, Dunkirk; Borg Warner, Muncie; Dunkirk Implement Co. and was a carpenter.

He had been a former Trustee of Jackson Township in Blackford County. Memberships include Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge No. 275, Sympathy Club of Warner Gear and the Kingsley Church.

Survivors include a son, Terry R. Bantz, Dunkirk; two daughters, Mrs. Clarence (Phyllis) Ritter and Mrs. George (Sharron) Watson, both of Dunkirk; a sister, Pauline Frazier, Dunkirk; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Services are Saturday at 11 a.m. at M.J.S. Mortuaries-D.W. Jones Chapel in Dunkirk. Burial will be in the Dunkirk I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

Visitation is Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church.