

Wilbur Llewellyn Schield, 98, co-founder of the Schield Bantam Company, died peacefully on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at the Waverly Hospital surrounded by his loving family.



Wilbur was born on January 28, 1909 on a farm in Sioux County – near Haywarden, Iowa – to Fred and Emma Schield. In 1919 the family moved to a 225 acre farm near Montevideo, Minnesota where Wilbur completed 8th grade. He attended Morris Agricultural College. He moved to Waverly in 1929 with his parents and two brothers: Rae and Vern. He attended the Minneapolis School of Business, the McPhail School of Music and Anderson College in Anderson Indiana.

In 1938, Wilbur married Eileen Bernice McKelvey in Anderson Indiana. They were married in the Park Place Church of God by Eileen's grandfather, Alexander Thomas (A. T.) Rowe. They had four sons: Milo (1940), Marlo (1942), Marshall (1946) and Michael (1948) – affectionately known as the "4Ms".



Wilbur enjoyed a distinguished business career. In Indiana he started a wholesale vegetable business. In 1942 he moved to Waverly to work with his brother Vern in manufacturing a small truck-mounted crane. Their business prospered after WW II. Ten years later the Schield Bantam Company was the world's largest manufacturer of truck-mounted cranes and the largest employer in Waverly.



Wilbur traveled to Europe, Africa and South America to visit dealers. In 1960 he was elected President of the Power Crane and Shovel Association.

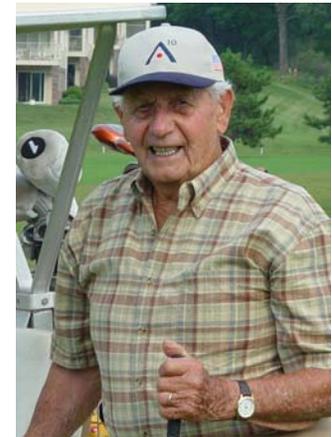
The company was sold in 1963 to Koehring and is now a part of Terex.

In 1952 Wilbur and Eileen built their house on the hill where they raised their four children and hosted guests from around the world.



Wilbur and Eileen have been steadfast in their faith. Together they supported the Church of God Anderson College in Anderson, Indiana. They contributed to the Byrd Library, the Schield music wing of the Krannert Fine Arts building, the Schield Dining Hall and the Reardon auditorium. Wilbur contributed toward Morrison Hall and to the Anderson School of Theology Chapel (a pew dedicated to his parents and siblings). He helped start the Professional and Businessmen's Association at Anderson College. For his many contributions, Wilbur received an honorary doctorate from Anderson College in 1969. He served on the Finance and Investment committee for 14 years and volunteered his time in helping the University monitor specialized investment activities.

Wilbur was an active community supporter. After joining the Lion's club in 1941 in Anderson, he helped start the Waverly Lions club in 1948 and served as President in 1954. He supported the boy scouts and helped improve Camp Ingawanis. He received scouting's Silver Beaver award in 1959. In 1960 he served as a Vice President of the Wapsipinicon Area Council and a director of Region 8. He helped start the Waverly Community Chest and the Waverly radio station (KWAY).



Through the Schield Bantam Company, Wilbur and Vern donated the original Schield athletic stadium to Wartburg College. Wilbur was active for many years on the Wartburg College Finance committee and on the board of the First National Bank. In 1998 he received the Melvin Jones award for 50 years of service in the Lion's club.

Wilbur was a vital man. He liked people. He had a strong handshake. He was a good golfer (he hit cross-handed) and enjoyed music (he played the musical saw and the ukulele). He sang in a men's quartet; he and Vern sang on the radio in the 1930s as the "Limestone Boys". Wilbur even tried down-hill skiing at age 60. He enjoyed a dish of ice cream and a hand of cards before going to bed.

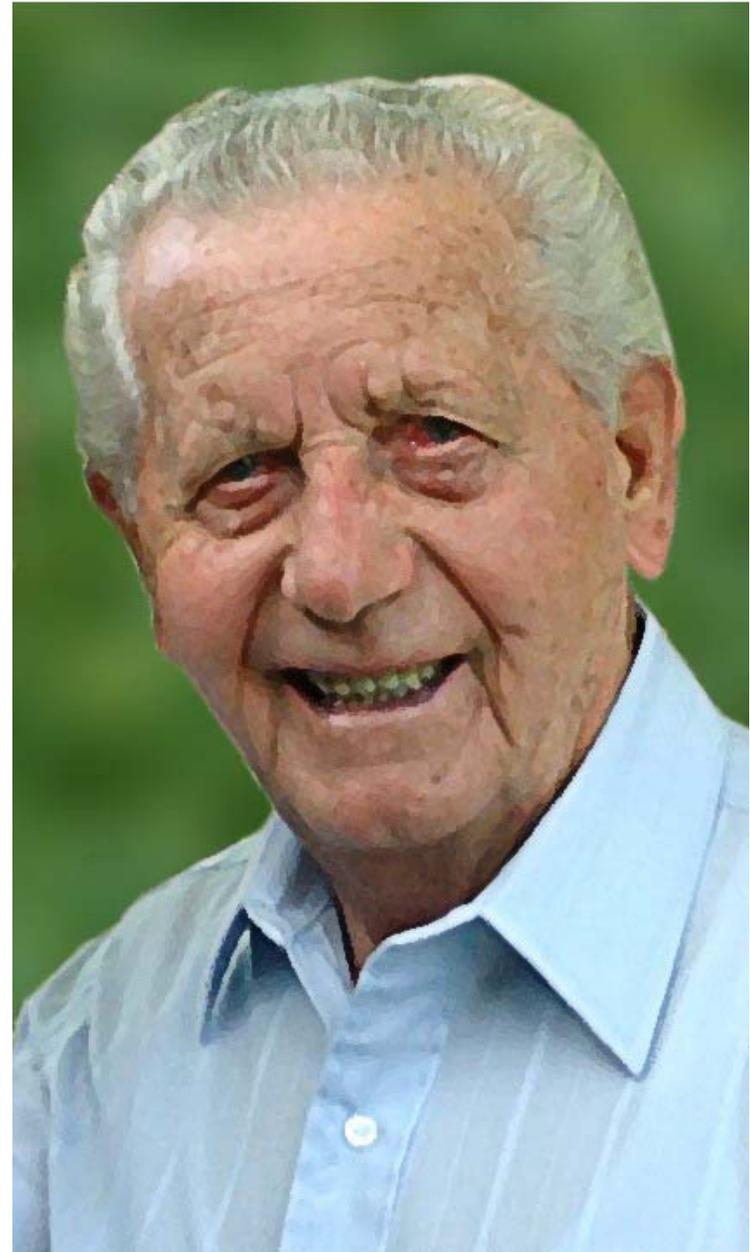
Wilbur's siblings Rae Schield, Myrtle Schield Nelson, Lura Schield Reynolds, Vern Schield, and Russell Schield preceded him in death; his youngest sister Viola Schield survives him.

Wilbur was also preceded in death by Eileen, his beloved wife for 69 years, who passed away this past May. He is survived by his four sons Milo (Cynthia) of Roseville, Minn., Marlo (Connie) of Stone Lake, Wis., Marshall (Sandy) of Durango, Colo., and Michael (Barbara) of Laguna Woods, Calif. Descendents include 13 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Memorial services: 11 a.m. Saturday October 13th at Trinity United Methodist Church, Waverly, with private family burial in Harlington Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be sent to Anderson University, Wartburg College or the charity of your choice.



Wilbur Schield

Jan 28, 1909 – Sept 26, 2007