

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Senator Robedeaux,  
Harley R. - Represented Cedar, Muscatine and Scott Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place Aug 1919 Muscatine, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

Beverly Overton 18 June 1955 Hilton, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was a member, served as director for the Board, Electric  
Co-ops of Hilton, Iowa 1947-1980

B. Civic responsibilities Mason, Hilton Chamber of Commerce, American  
Legion, Lions Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Hilton Historical Society

C. Profession Owner, editor, and publisher of the Hilton Advertiser News for 20  
years; utility executive

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 63<sup>rd</sup> 64<sup>th</sup> 65 66<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1969-1970; 1971-1972;

6. Public Offices 1973-1974, 1975-1976

A. Local Hilton town councilman; Hilton school board member; Muscatine  
County Republican Cabal Committee

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 3 June 1996 - Iowa City, Iowa; buried Oakdale Cemetery, Hilton, Iowa

8. Children Renee; Neal; Bruce; Brian

9. Names of parents Orrin and Marcia (Sturkey) Robedeaux

10. Education He was educated in the Muscatine Iowa Schools  
graduating from Muscatine High School in 1937

11. Degrees \_\_\_\_\_

12. Other applicable information Republican

- Military service - World War II - United States Air Force for 4 years, his  
unit flew 35 missions over Germany 1941-1945
- At his death, he served as Pallbearer Emeritus of the Haltom - Sarant  
Advocate News.
- In 1989 he received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Gov. Governor  
Jerry Brandt.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- Obituary			- <u>The Des Moines Register</u> , <u>Des Moines, Iowa</u> , <u>Wed. June 5, 1996</u> , <u>p. 5M, col 4.</u>
			- <u>Iowa Official Reporter</u> <u>1975-1976</u> , <u>p. 47</u>
			- <u>Stilton Museum and Interpretive Center</u> <u>1976</u> , <u>p. 159</u>
			- <u>Our Town Speaker</u> , <u>Stilton Area</u> <u>1855-2005</u> , <u>p. 346</u>
- Obituary			- <u>The Stilton Advocate News</u> , <u>Stilton, Iowa</u> , <u>Thurs. June 6, 1996</u> , <u>p. 7, col 1, 2</u>
- Articles			- <u>The Stilton Advocate News</u> , <u>Stilton, Iowa</u> , <u>Thurs. June 6, 1996</u> , <u>p. 1, col 1, 2 and p. 8, col 3, 4</u>
- Article			- <u>The Muscatine Journal</u> , <u>Muscatine, Iowa</u> , <u>Thurs. June 6, 1996</u> , <u>p. 1, col 2, 3, 4, 5</u>

d Aug. 3

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Jerry C. and Darleen



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r. and Mrs. Chris Blake  
and Mrs. Earl Martz of  
parents are Mary  
lcott and Maude Martz



### W.R. "Bill" Rabedeaux

W.R. "Bill" Rabedeaux, 76, of Wilton died June 3 at University Hospitals in Iowa City. Visitation will be Thursday, June 6, from 3-6 p.m. at Lacock-Bentley Funeral Home in Wilton and one hour prior to the services at the church.

Funeral services will be Friday, June 7, at 11 a.m. in the United Methodist Church of Wilton with the Rev. Paul Pennington officiating. Music will be provided by organist Eva Lu Murrison.

Pallbearers are Adam Rabedeaux, Andy Rabedeaux, Robert Ruby, Geoff Shuger, Scott Shuger and Bob McIlwain. Burial is in Oakdale Cemetery, Wilton, with graveside military services conducted by the Wilton American Legion Post #584.

A memorial fund has been established.

Wesley R. Rabedeaux was born Aug. 7, 1919 in Muscatine, a son of Orren and Mecia Shirkey Rabedeaux. His marriage to Beverly J. Oveson took place June 18, 1950 in Wilton.

He served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, flying 35 missions over Germany.

He was retired as a Member Services Director for Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative serving from 1947 to 1980. He was the former owner, editor and publisher of the *Advocate News* in Wilton for 20 years and a partner in the Trico Publishing Company. He

also served as an Iowa State Senator from 1970 to 1976.

Mr. Rabedeaux was instrumental in forming the Wilton Chamber of Commerce in 1961 as well as the Wilton Industrial Development and the Wilton Commercial Development Corporations.

His memberships included the United Methodist Church of Wilton, the Wilton Masonic Lodge #167 AF&AM, the American Legion Post #584, the Wilton Chamber of Commerce, Wilton Industrial Development Corporation, Wilton Commercial Development Corporation and was on the original Board of Directors of the Waukonsa Country Club.

He was a member of the Wilton Historical Society and had worked on the Wilton Historic Depot project. He was responsible for the Downtown Greenspace, raising funds for the project. He was an honorary board member of the Wilton Chamber of Commerce and currently served as Publisher Emeritus of the *Wilton-Durant Advocate News*.

In 1989, Mr. Rabedeaux received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Governor Terry Branstad. He had been slated to be the Grand Marshal of the 1996 Wilton Founders Day Parade.

Survivors include his wife, Beverly; a daughter, Renee Rabedeaux of Clive; sons Neal of Clive, Bruce of Wilton and Brian of Minneapolis, Minn.; a sister Gertrude Hohenadel of Davenport; and nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters.

### Elizabeth A. Grunder

Funeral services were held June 5 for Elizabeth A. Grunder, 62, of Pleasant Valley at Our Lady of the River Catholic Church, LeClaire. Burial was in Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

Mrs. Grunder died June 1 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minn. McGinnis, Chambers & Sass Funeral Home in Bettendorf was in charge of the arrangements. Memorials may be made to the family.

Elizabeth Marine was born Dec. 30, 1933 in Muscatine County, a daughter of William and Katherine Ayres Marine. She married





**One of a Kind**—Bill Rabedeaux received the Volunteer Hall of Fame Award in 1990 from Gov. Terry Branstad, a well-deserved honor to a man who dedicated his life to the betterment of his community. Shown with Bill is Bev, his wife of nearly 46 years.

Advocate News File Photo

## Bill Rabedeaux was Wilton

by Barb Rochholz

The passing of Wilton's Bill Rabedeaux is the end of an era. If there was anyone who epitomized community activism, it was Bill—a man of compassion, wisdom and unselfishness—who wanted nothing but the best for this town he called home.

Jake Davies said of his best friend, "He was one heck of a pal who would do anything for anyone. He and Gene Saylor did a great job when they ran the paper here." Jake added, "Wilton's going to miss him."

Bill Rabedeaux was Wilton. He helped form the Wilton Chamber of Commerce in 1961 and worked on the Wilton Industrial Development and Wilton Commercial Development Corporations to bring businesses to town.

During the 1960s and 1970s he was owner/editor of the *S-R Advocate News* with a nose for news and the ability to know what makes a small-town newspaper tick.

He represented our district in Des Moines while serving as a State Senator from 1970-76. He saw changes in the growth of the rural area when he served as a Member Services Director for Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative from 1947-1980.

Bill remained extremely active following his retirement. He may have played golf more

involved in the growth and improvement of the community. According to Jerry Johnson of the Wilton Savings Bank, "Bill was very unselfish and gave his time to many community projects and chamber activities. He was instrumental in fixing up the Depot and was involved in the community in various ways."

Johnson added, "The main thing, Bill always sacrificed his time for the betterment of the community."

Eva Belitz, executive vice president of the Wilton Chamber of Commerce, recalls one of Bill's outstanding talents. "He was a wonderful mediator," she said. "He had a way of smoothing things out when they got rough. There wasn't anything he wouldn't do for Wilton," Eva said.

Bill's relationship with Wilton can best be summed up by another quote from Eva, "No doubt about it, Bill loved Wilton."

Services are scheduled for Friday, June 7, at 11 a.m. in the United Methodist Church of Wilton. For the complete obituary, see page 7.

**Durant wastewater plant to be completed within two years**

## Wilton S in need o

by Craig Dueker

The Wilton Swimming Pool needs some major repairs to its roof and motion for those to be addressed this year.

Members of the Wilton School Board met with the Wilton City Council at its meeting on May 28 to discuss future repairs. Chris Wheeler, president of the board and member of the school board, said that they have contacted an architectural firm who designs swimming pools, to establish costs on an existing roof.

Gantz provided construction estimates with various roofing materials and recommended that they investigate the present condition of the materials below the shingles and sheathing.

On April 8, a thermocore test was performed on the swimming pool to pinpoint possible areas of further damage. It was determined that two minor areas of the roof would need to be replaced.

The option the council and board agreed on would entail removing the shingles and plywood deck; installing wood blocking parallel to roof joists; and installing new plywood deck, felt paper and shingles.

## Primary Mus

William Arnold (R)  
Frank Draper (R)  
Paul Elshoff (R)  
Ron Hazen (R)

## Supe

David Watkins (R)  
Earl Arney (R)

proverbial clean slate. She often heard about students and their problems, she made her own assessments after working with the children. Under her tutelage and finely-tuned teacher's intuition, our son had a wonderful fourth grade experience with Mrs. Nolte. I was amazed and forever grateful for what she accomplished.

I'm certain there are many gifted teachers in our local school systems, and excellent young graduates are joining them all of the time, but I know Mrs. Siebke and Mrs. Nolte will still be missed. Many thanks to both of them for all of the years that these special women spent educating young people—one of the most important jobs in the world.

# Tribute to Bill Rabedeaux

It doesn't seem like long ago, that Friday afternoon of Aug. 15, 1980. I, and my partners, Bob and Frances Melvold of Maquoketa, and Bob Parrott of DeWitt, accepted Bill Rabedeaux's invitation to visit about the future of the *Advocate News*.

(The paper was then named the *S-R Advocate News*. The name represented a blending of the former *Wilton Advocate* and the *Durant News*. The "S" was for Bill's former partner, the late Gene Saylor, and the "R," of course, was Rabedeaux.)

This "high level" business meeting was conducted over lemonade on a picnic table next to the camper in Bill's back yard on a quiet side street on the east side of Wilton. Also present was Bill's wife, Beverly.

Prior to that date, we'd come to know Bill through Iowa Press Association circles and our common friends, Gene Saylor and Hugh Doty, who were in the printing and publishing business in Wilton in the early and mid-1970s. There is a camaraderie that pulls members of the community press together, and this day, we were happy to accept Bill's hospitality.

The fact that the paper might be for sale had been discussed. As neighbors in a contiguous market, we were interested, and it was surprising how quickly a deal was reached. Bill made a realistic proposal and we accepted. No brokers, agents or drawn-out negotiations. In an afternoon, the agreement was settled. It became official on Oct. 1.

Our hearts are heavy upon learning of Bill's death early this week. For 16 years he has been a friend and a valuable resource. Though his involvement with the paper was minimal, out of respect we named him "publisher emeritus" in our masthead. He understood the dynamics of the Wilton, Durant and

I think it adds a lot of flavor. Combine all of the ingredients, using the 1/2 cup water to rinse out the tomato soup cans. The original recipe called for diced potatoes, but I prefer to use the lazy woman's method and thus sliced both vegetables in the food processor.

Pour into a large, greased casserole dish or a 9x13 pan. Bake at 350° for 1 to 1 1/2 hours, until the carrots are tender. The original recipe said to bake for an hour, but it took a little longer than that the times that I have made it. I used a large casserole dish and I had made it ahead of time so it was refrigerated; if you mix it right before baking or use a 9x13 pan (the mixture wouldn't be so dense) it might take closer to an hour.

## Impressions



by Bill Tubbs

communities—and the challenge that presented to the newspaper—better than anyone.

It is hard to imagine how anybody could pour more of his heart and soul into a community. Bill's list of civic involvements is impressive, but do not fully tell the depth of his commitment—the passion—he had for his hometown. He provided leadership and vision—and a gentle push forward, direct but with humor and goodwill—to whatever he did.

One of Bill's achievements as a state legislator was playing a key role in writing the public employee bargaining laws, an effort that needed a good dose of pragmatism and compromise. Bill had an abundant supply of both, as was evident in his weekly column, "So He Sez," in this publication.

In 1989, Bill gave us a reprise of "So He Sez" and also provided an opportunity for leaders in Durant and Wilton to write about their visions for their communities. An appropriate tribute to the life of this one, remarkable man, would be to keep those visions alive.

—Bill Tubbs, Publisher  
(*Impressions* is published weekly in the

**Blast Off**—Marvin Si off her rocket as pa successful mission.

## Wilton

The Wilton City Co imous approval to the l officer at its regular me Marc McConnell wi lice force in the near fi date has not been set. H Tim Walters.

Most recently, McC the Johnson County Sh three and a half years a has also worked for Ha Inc. in Coralville.

Since McConnell is; he will have to attent future.

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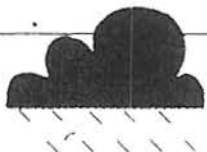
In observance of Na Cedar County Conserv; hike on Wednesday, Jt Anliker Trail, Cedar V

## Harkin assi

Sen. Tom Harkin ar assistants Rita Vargas. travel to Muscatine Co duct open meetings or issues. Harkin wants fe policing and other inn

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OUTSIDE



**Forecast:** Chance of showers and thunderstorms in the morning.  
**Low Tonight: 55. High Tomorrow: 71.**

ARC



...the biggest  
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Chicago victory in the  
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# Rabedeaux 'was a friend to everybody'

PEGGY SENZARINO OF THE JOURNAL

WILTON - Bill Rabedeaux was a "friend to everybody" who poured heart and soul into making his community a better place to live and work.

The longtime Wilton resident died Monday at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. Rabedeaux was born in Muscatine in 1919. Visitation is from 3 to 8 p.m. today at Lacock-Bentley Funeral Home in Wilton.

Jerry Moylan of Wilton met Rabedeaux in 1952 when he came to work for Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative.

"We were very close," Moylan explained. "He was a great friend. Once

you had him for a friend, you had him for a friend for life."



Rabedeaux

The men worked together until Rabedeaux's retirement in 1980. Moylan, his wife and Rabedeaux and his wife took vacations together. The men liked to play golf and relax.

Rabedeaux was the kind of person who liked to laugh.

"He was always funny," Moylan said. "Everybody had a story about Bill." Jake Davies, the owner of Jake's

Supermarket in Wilton, said Rabedeaux was "one of the greatest guys that ever walked.

"Bill was a friend to everybody. I don't think he had an enemy. He's too young to have died."

Davies said he wonders sometimes what Wilton would be like without the legacy of economic growth left by Rabedeaux.

"He was a great spark plug for our community," Davies added. "He'd done a lot of good for a lot of people and didn't get credit for it either."

Rabedeaux was instrumental in the formation of the Wilton Chamber of Commerce in 1961. He was also a found-

ing member of the Wilton Industrial Development Corp. and the Wilton Commercial Development Corp. He owned the Wilton-Durant Advocate News from 1960 to 1980.

"Bill was very adept at bringing people together," said Bill Tubbs of North Scott Press, which purchased the newspaper from Rabedeaux in 1980.

"We're going to miss him greatly. Bill could create compromise and move things forward," Tubbs said. "I feel a great sense of loss personally and for the community."

Funeral services for Bill Rabedeaux are scheduled for 11 a.m., Friday, at the United Methodist Church in Wilton.

# Mistake or fraud?

## Travel office faces more questions from Starr

WASHINGTON (AP) - With presidential aides saying they made a bureaucratic mistake,

Whitewater prosecutor's office has contacted the White House about the matter. FBI Director

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.



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ch and AmVets.

Among survivors are two sons,  
Ronald and Larry, both of Sully;  
three daughters, Christina Steen-  
hoek of Pella, Lois Harthorn of Sul-  
ly and Lucille Vos of Garner, N.C.; a  
brother, Henry of Wellsburg; 19  
grandchildren; and 22 great-grand-  
children.

Friends may call after noon today  
at Sully Garden Chapel Funeral  
Home, where the family will greet  
friends from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Memorial  
contributions may be made to his  
church's library.

**Christina Marie Richman Capps,**  
10, of the Convalescent Home for  
Children, 5900 Pioneer Parkway,  
Johnston, died Sunday of asphyxia-  
tion due to suffocation. The death  
was ruled accidental. Services will  
be at 11 a.m. Thursday at First Bap-  
tist Church in Winterset, and burial  
will be in Winterset Cemetery.

Christina was born in Des Moines  
and had lived at the care center most  
of her life. She was in the process of  
being adopted and moving to Winter-  
set.

Surviving are her adoptive par-  
ents, Jeff and Leah Capps, five  
brothers, Jeremy, Dustin, Daniel,  
Lucas and Nathaniel, and two sis-  
ters, Amy Capps and Shelby Capps,  
all of Winterset.

Friends may call from 8 a.m. until  
service time Thursday at Collins Fu-  
neral Home in Winterset.

**Carol G. Nolan, 53,** of 108 E. 29th  
Court died of a heart ailment Satur-  
day at Mercy Hospital Medical  
Center. Services will be at 9 a.m.  
today at Hamilton's Funeral Home.  
Burial has been changed to Glendale  
Cemetery.

## DES MOINES BIRTHS

- DES MOINES GENERAL HOSPITAL**  
MAYLAND — Wendy and Joseph of Des Moines, a  
daughter, Monday
- IOWA LUTHERAN HOSPITAL**  
ADAMSON — Susan and James of Des Moines, a  
son, Monday
- CORNELISON — Angela of Des Moines, a daugh-  
ter, Tuesday
- FOLKERS — Kimberly and Steven of Des Moines,

children; 29 great-grandchildren;  
and 30 great-great-grandchildren.  
Friends may call after 9 a.m.  
today at the funeral home.

## IOWA DEATHS

**Former State Sen. W.R. "Bill"  
Rabedeaux, 76,** of Wilton died of a  
respiratory ailment Monday at Uni-  
versity Hospitals in Iowa City. Serv-  
ices will be 11 a.m. Friday at Wilton  
United Methodist Church. Mr. Rabe-  
deaux served as a state senator from  
1970 to 1976 and was member serv-  
ices director for Rural Electric Co-op  
of Wilton from 1947-1980. He was  
also the owner, editor and publisher  
of the Advocate News in Wilton for  
20 years. Survivors include his wife,  
Beverly; a daughter, Renee Rabe-  
deaux of Clive; three sons, Neal of  
Clive, Bruce of Wilton and Brian of  
Minneapolis; a sister, Gertrude Hoh-  
enadle of Davenport; and nine  
grandchildren.

- BEDFORD** — Claire A. White, 83
- BLUE GRASS** — Wanda L. Maroff, 45
- CHARLES CITY** — Russell Gregory, 84; Metanc-  
thon Jones, 86; Doris Clay Wall, 69; Olga  
Bluhm, 74; Frieda Hildebrand, 95; Agnes K.  
Kluwe, 93
- COLUMBUS JUNCTION** — Dorothy Griswold, 94.
- CORNING** — John A. Riegel, 91.
- CRESCO** — Giovanna Walton, 69; Elsie Sovereign,  
86
- CRESTON** — Roy N. Foster, 87
- DAVENPORT** — Louis H. Dengler, 87; Vera Farley,  
86; Dorothy J. Lobdell, 57; Robert E. Cornish,  
71; Marie E. Timmer, 88; Anthony P. Ortiz, 84;  
Edward E. Herring, 76; Emil Schneden, 94;  
Waldo Hartog, 78; Jorge V. Perez, 23; Teresa  
G. McGuinness, Ethel Wold, 89; Daniel F. Denny,  
55; Dathryn M. DeReus, 78; Robert L. Schmidt  
Sr., 74; Helen M. Banks, 72; John R. Sayers Jr.,  
64; Herbert Luethje, 94; Phyllis I. McCleave,  
78; David P. Pope, 95; Robert F. Kuchis, 74;  
Virginia Beilstein, 85; John A. Sorensen, 93;  
Mildred E. Anderson, 96; Charlene P. Dittman,  
65; Anna M. Mayer, 86
- DECATUR** — Donald Edwin Kenter, 77; Adria Phil-  
lips, 88
- DECORAH** — Ernest J. Zeien, 82
- DONAHUE** — Elmer Marti, 90
- DONNELLSON** — Richard Whitcanack, 74
- DURANT** — Darlene L. First, 74
- ELDRIDGE** — Kenneth F. Peeters, 83
- ELLSTON** — Gaylan Bullock, 77
- ELMA** — Helen Jacoby, 90
- FAYETTE** — Mona L. Quinn, 92
- FORT MADISON** — Floyd Moine, 81
- FREDERICKSBURG** — Frederick W. Severin Jr.,  
80
- GARDEN GROVE** — Marilyn LaVerne Woolsley,  
61
- GRAND RIVER** — John W. Harrison, 45
- INDEPENDENCE** — Richard Cone, 75; Bessie  
Loeck, 99
- INDIANOLA** — Joshua Michael Hall, newborn.
- KALONA** — Lula Breneman, 89

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# WILTON, MOSCOW and YESTERYEAR



WILTON AND MOSCOW, IOWA  
1976

## Putting Up Ice for the Candy Kitchen

by Lydia Nagel

The ice house behind the Candy Kitchen was about 20' x 20'. The ice was cut at Mud Creek by hand and a horse pulled it up on a platform. Rudy Walters caught it quickly and put it on a wagon. It would freeze to the platform if it were not moved quickly. Another platform was at the storage place. A horse was used here, too, for pulling up the ice much as farmers pulled up their hay. George and Leo Nopoulos helped by filling baskets of sawdust for packing. Layers of sawdust were put around every cake of ice. These cakes weighed up to a couple of hundred pounds each. When ice was needed for use, it was dumped from above. Gus packed the cabinets in the Candy Kitchen with ice and drained the water twice a day. Sometimes someone would come in the night and want a little ice— 5 or 10 cents worth— maybe for a sick person. Usually Gus did not charge for it, even though he had been called out of bed. "That was one of the disadvantages of living close to your business."

### The S-R Advocate News

Today the Advocate-News is Wilton's only paper but in 1870 this town had two, the True Republican and the Wilton Chronicle.

Wilton's first paper began publication in October, 1867 when Charles Baker and M.H. Thompson created the Wilton Chronicle. Later, in 1868, they were joined by C.D. Eaton. Eaton then began his own paper, the True Republican, in 1870.

The Wilton Herald was formed in July 1874. One month later the Wilton Exponent also came into existence. A merger of these two papers was called The Wilton Review.

The Review continued publication until 1895 when it was merged with the Wilton Advocate which had been founded a year earlier by E.W. Clark. Mr. Clark published the Advocate until his death in 1909. Later owners and editors were Pierrot, Parsons, George Mockmore, Hamilton, Herman Thurston 1923-'42, Lorenze, Robert Hansen, M.J. Hauck, John Steffens, Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Arrowsmith, W.R. Rabedeaux and Harold E. Saylor 1960-1972 and W. R. Rabedeaux 1972 to the present time.

The present Advocate-News is a merger of the Wilton Advocate and Durant News. The combination took place March 5, 1970. The paper has a current subscription list of approximately 2500 and covers the Wilton, Moscow, Durant, Stockton and Walcott areas.

A brother firm, Trico publishers, was formed June 28, 1965 and is located at 1315 West 5th St.

### Daut's Jewelry

Guyford Daut came to Wilton in April, 1956 and opened a jewelry store in the Jacobson building (the old cigar factory) in the 400 block on Cedar Street. In October 1968 the store was moved to the old Union Bank building on the corner of Cedar and 4th. It is now known as Daut's Jewelry and Gift Store.

# *“Our Town Speaks”*

**WILTON, IOWA**  
**1855 to 2005**



*Cedar Street in 1876, when Wilton was called Wilton Junction*

Taken from the foot of Cedar St., looking North. Man on flatcar, left, is H.F. Kaufmann. Man on threshing machine, left, is Oscar Shaw. Third bldg. from left, the old Reed Bldg., now owned by G.G. Leith. White bldg. with awning down, on right, now houses the Wilton Candy Kitchen. Last bldg. now houses Star Drug Store. Shack, left foreground, the old grain office.

*Taken from Henry Wildasin's "History of Wilton" 1947*



## Wesley R. "Bill" Rabedeaux

1919-1996

Born at Muscatine, Iowa on August 7, 1919

Wesley R. "Bill" Rabedeaux was born in Muscatine, Iowa on August 7, 1919. He graduated from Muscatine High School in 1937. When World War II was declared he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. His Unit flew 35 missions over Germany. (1941-1945) After WWII Bill was employed with the REA which was then located in Davenport, Iowa.

In May, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order establishing the Rural Electrification Administration. In July, 1936, Eastern Iowa Light and Power was established when county electrical cooperatives in Clinton, Muscatine and Scott counties consolidated. In 1949, F.E. "Tody" Fair, manager, located the Cooperative's headquarters in Wilton Jct. bringing in many employees, including Bill. Housing boomed in Wilton! Bill was employed at the REC for 33 years before retiring.

Bill was editor/publisher of S-R Publishing Company for twenty years. He spent twelve of those years in partnership with Gene Saylor. S-R published the Wilton/Durant Advocate News.

He was also on the Board of TRICO Publishers, Inc. for a number of years. Bill was a member of the Wilton Methodist Church, served on the Wilton Community School Board, the Wilton Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Development and Wilton Commercial Development. Bill served in the Iowa Senate for seven years (1970-1976).

He met a Wilton girl, Beverly Oveson, at the Wilton Candy Kitchen where she was employed during high school. Love blossomed at the soda fountain and on June 18, 1950, Wedding Bells rang out for Bill and Bev. They



celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary on June 18, 1995.

Together Bill and Bev promoted Wilton. They are the parents of Neal, Renee, Bruce and Brian and enjoy their nine lovely grandchildren. Bill passed away June 3, 1996. He is dearly missed by family and friends.

The Wilton Chamber of Commerce honored W.R. Rabedeaux by asking his family to represent him as Grand Marshal of the Wilton Founders Day Parade on August 26, 1996. The family felt honored.

To Bill ... Wilton was his hometown!

*This information was compiled by Beverly Rabedeaux.*

*Beverly J. Rabedeaux*

February 10, 1997



*Community Clock in memory of Bill Rabedeaux located on the corner of Maurer and 4th St. - Dedicated in 1997*



*L to R: Brian - Bruce - Renee - Neal Rabedeaux  
1988*