

WILLIS WAYNE EADES

Feb. 10, 1916 - March 9, 2008

Willis Wayne Eades, 92, died at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, March 9, 2008, at Century Villa Health Care, Greentown. He was born Feb. 10, 1916, in Kokomo, the son of the late Lorin W. and Alice (Sader) Eades. On Nov. 18, 1943, he married Mary (Collins) Eades, and she died May 12, 2005.

Better known as Wayne, he became quite an entrepreneur at an early age. When he was in the eighth grade, he wanted to buy a Straight Eight Stutz Car for \$5 and quit school. His father told him he could, but he had to get a job. He got a job, but still could not afford to buy gas for the car, even though his family owned and operated the first filling station in Kokomo, along with its grocery and mercantile shop. He sold the car six weeks later for \$8 and made a profit. That was only the beginning of a long and successful career. Wayne owned and operated approximately 13 businesses that can be recalled of. Some of them were joint adventures with his wife, Mary. To mention a few of them, they had a door-to-door grocery business, filling station, promotion company, magic and medicine man with the Drago's Amusement, John Eades Cushman Scooter Shop, Mobile Public Announcement Advertising Truck, Sign Painting, the first roller skating arena in Kokomo during the 1930s called the Bell-



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mont Roller Rink, it was under a big top carnival tent, the first drive-in restaurant in Kokomo in 1944 called the Humpty Dumpty. Eades Camera Shop and Eades Concessions, where they were famous for their homemade caramel corn, cotton candy and pulled taffy.

When greeting their friends, family and customers, they lovingly referred to everyone as "Chick-a-Dee."

He was in the Army during World War II, serving in the capacity of medic and X-ray technician, ambulance driver, public relations officer and managing the PX. Wayne was even a personal driver for General Patton. He was a lifetime member of the VFW and American Legion.

Although Wayne and Mary never had any biological children, they shared their parental love with a special nephew, Michael Collins, Kokomo; neighbor girls, Lorelee (Cox) Love, Greentown, Diana (Cox) Eads, Galveston, and Brenda (Cox) Underwood, Kokomo; special grandchildren, Justin Collins and wife Amanda, Melissa Wisheart and husband Rick; and special great-grandchildren, Amelia and Alexandra Collins and Nolan Wisheart.

Also surviving are two sisters, Jeraldine Deardorff, Kokomo, and Sonnie Porter, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Dale Eades.

Graveside services will be 1 p.m. Friday at Sunset Memory Gardens, Kokomo. There will be no public visitation. Military graveside rites will be conducted by the U.S. Army and the Kokomo Military Rites Team. Entombment will follow.

Ellers Mortuary is handling arrangements.