



Edward DeBuhr

Edward DeBuhr, 97, of Willow Valley Manor, Lancaster died May 29 of natural causes. Edward DeBuhr was born Edward Thoren in Grundy County, Iowa to parents Benjamin and Etta (DeBuhr) Thoren on February 18, 1911. Nine days after Edward's birth his mother died and he was placed in the care of his maternal grandparents, Heie and Gesina DeBuhr. After the death of Gesina, his grandfather legally adopted Edward. Heie died when Edward was 16 and the remainder of his youth he boarded with relatives.

Edward graduated from Aplington High School in 1930 and then attended Iowa State College (now Iowa State University) graduating in 1934 with a degree in mechanical engineering. In 1935 he married M. Joyce Humes. They were married for more than 69 years when she died in 2004. During the Great Depression he worked first as a pumping station engineer at Natural Gas and Pipeline in Truro, Iowa and later as refrigeration engineer with Swift and Company in Chicago, IL. In 1940 Edward was employed by the Dupont Company and remained with this company until his retirement in 1975. During WWII Edward worked on the highly classified Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb. Most of his career with Dupont was spent in Wilmington, DE in the petrochemical industry where he developed machines to produce films and fibers including rayon, nylon, cellophane, and Kevlar. In this field he received two awards for patents for Dupont.

Edward DeBuhr designed and built a house in the Chadds Ford area where he raised his family and resided for 36 years. He was an active member of Elam United Methodist Church serving as a Sunday school teacher, lay leader, and president of the trustees. In years past he was also very involved in Chadds Ford Civil Defense.

In 1991 Edward and his wife Joyce moved to Willow Valley Manor near Lancaster, PA. His almost daily hobby was working in the wood shop where he often did repair work for fellow residents, never charging for his time. He crafted many beautiful items and was especially known for his miniature grandfather clocks. Most of his work was done for family members who treasure his creations. Edward spent the last two and a half years of his life in supportive living at Willow Valley.

Edward is survived by a son, Milton DeBuhr (and wife, June) of Yreka, CA; a daughter, Anne Hoffman (and husband, Darrell) of Chester Springs, PA; seven grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

A memorial service will be held in July at Willow Valley Manor. Burial will be at the Elam United Methodist Church cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Lancaster County, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Lancaster or Elam United Methodist Church, Glen Mills, PA.