

JAMES FARNSWORTH

June 29, 1907 - June 26, 2003

Allegan, MI

James was an outstanding businessman and civic leader who cared deeply about his community and his family. James died Thursday June 26, 2003 at the Villages Regional Hospital, The Villages, Florida. He was born June 29, 1907 in Alma Twp. VanBuren County Michigan to Lewis and Etta (Griffith) Farnsworth. He was a 1926 graduate of Paw Paw High School. He married the former Thelma Sprague in 1930; this marriage ended in divorce. In 1930 he founded and operated Otsego Chevrolet, which later became Farnsworth Chevrolet



Oldsmobile, located at 1-31 and M-89 since 1961. The Auto dealership prospered in the Plainwell, Otsego and Allegan area for 56 years. James had owned and operated the Homecrest Hardware Store in Allegan during World War II. He married Margary Meyle in 1947; she died in 1999 after 52 years of marriage. He was always interested in local activities and in government; he served as mayor of Otsego and on the Allegan County Board of Supervisors, now known as the Allegan County Commission. He was elected the Allegan County delegate to the state constitutional convention of 1961. After the Convention James was elected to six terms in the Michigan legislature. He was appointed by then Gov. William Milliken to serve as Assistant Director of the Department of Budget and Management before his retirement in 1979. James was a charter and life member of the Allegan Elks Lodge and the Rotary Club of Plainwell. James spent his winters in Florida and enjoyed playing golf year round, he had great love of music of all kinds, he also liked to fish and spend time with his family. His daughter Diane Crown of Lady Lake Fla., a son Stanley and his wife Marilyn of Richland survive James, also surviving are sisters Cynthia Coler of Three Rivers, Lettie VanWyk of Paw Paw and a brother Wilford Farnsworth of Arizona, grandchildren James, Joseph, John, Jeffrey and Jerome Farnsworth, Michael and Brian Crown, as well as 13 great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews including Nancy Johnson of Florida. James was preceded in death by his wife Margary, a sister Margaret Harter, and brothers Robert and Charles. The family will receive friends at 12:30 PM Thursday July 3, 2003 at the Rupert Durham Marshall and Gren Funeral Homes, Plainwell Chapel, where a Celebration of Life Service will be held at 2:00 PM Thursday. Friends may leave a memory for the family, order flowers online, or make a memorial contribution to the charity of their choice.