



Russell Wayne Wells, 89, passed away Monday, June 14, 2010, in Belgrade, MT. He was born November 10, 1920 to William and Opal (Collins) Wells of New London, IN, where he graduated high school in 1939. He began training for his pilot's license in 1940, flew with the civil air patrol for two years, and joined the Army Air Corp in 1942. Russell piloted B-24s during his European tour of duty in WWII.

In 1953 Russell graduated from Purdue University with a BS in agriculture and pursued a career in farm management. He was the co-inventor of the first mechanical grain dryers for the Midwest in the late 1950s. Some of the original research on the large round hay bales so commonly seen today was done under his direction as Superintendent at the Southern Indiana Purdue Agricultural Center. He enjoyed following the agricultural commodity markets and trading them for many years.

One of Russell's greatest pleasures was vacationing wherever his sons were living each year, which took him and his wife, Margaret to many places around the country, eventually culminating in the decision to move to Montana after retiring in 1982. He spent his time here loving his family, his church, and Montana.

Russell is survived by his brother, Bill Wells of Florida; son, Mike (Jan) of Indianapolis; daughter, Karen (Dave) of Indianapolis; son, James (Donna) of Bozeman; son, Jeffrey (Florence) of Belgrade; son, Jay of Alexandria, VA; 11 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Russell was preceded in death by his wife Margaret, his parents, brother Dean, and son John.