

Alvin T. Abeln

2-8-1997

Mass of Christian burial for Alvin T. Abeln, 64, Groton, was held Tuesday at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Groton with Monsignor Marvin McPhee officiating.

Burial was in the Groton Catholic Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel of Groton.

He died of a brain tumor Saturday, Feb. 1, 1997, at Colonial Manor in Groton.

Alvin T. Abeln was born September 29, 1932, to Edwin and Vera (Troy) Abeln at Groton. He grew up in the Groton area and graduated from Groton High School in 1950. He graduated from South Dakota State University in Brookings in 1953, with a bachelor's degree in agronomy. He was a member of Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at SDSU.

He married Loretta Meier on June 27, 1953, at Aberdeen. He served in the U.S. Army. After he was discharged, they returned to Groton, where they had farmed ever since. He received the Outstanding Young Farmer state award in 1967. He served as director of First Bank in Aberdeen for a time.

He enjoyed his family, traveling and golf, and had been a charter member and president of Olive Grove Golf Course.

He was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. He was past president of Brown County Extension Board, Groton Farmers' Elevator, Groton Kiwanis Club and Groton Jaycees. He served on the Groton School Board, and was a board member of the County and State Crop Improvement Association. He was a past president of the State Extension Advisory Board, the County Livestock Association and the Hampshire (Swine) Association. He was also a past member of the Mid Dakota Pork Council, the Angus Association, a member of



the North Central & State Livestock Association, and a past 4-H leader.

Survivors include his wife of Groton; four sons, Doug (Della) Abeln, Groton, Don (Yvonne) Abeln, Aberdeen, Dale (Dianne) Abeln, Billings, Mont., and Rob (Lisa) Abeln, Phoenix; one daughter, Denise Abeln, Minneapolis; one brother, Eugene Abeln, Groton; and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Casketbearers were Dennis K. Larson, Dick Kolker, Tom Daschle, Alfred Larson, John Schwan, William Engelhart, Jerry Johnson and Wally Fischer.

Honorary Casketbearers were Don Henley, Ken Jark, Robert Johnson, Dale McGannon, Robert Snyder and Don Walter.

The lector was Monte Mason and the server was Nathan Furman. Matt Hinds was the organist and Traci Sundling was the soloist.

Ushers were Bob and Karen Groeblichhoff, Phyllis Haiar, and Terry Thompson.

A Father's Work Is Never Done

You grew up a young man on your family's farm.

You left for college, but only to return, for you knew that

A Father's work is never done.

You married and started raising a family.

The hardships of the farm were many, but you knew

A Father's work is never done.

You taught your children to live by two certain rules.

Rule #1: Dad is always right. Rule #2: See Rule #1.

A Father's work is never done.

You instilled the meaning of true values in your children -

Hard work, dedication, community service and family love.

A Father's work is never done.

You loved to laugh, play golf and talk about farming.

You shared your thoughts, ideas and success with many.

A Father's work is never done.

You have left us now to be with God's angels.

But we know you will always be there for us because

A Father's work is never done.

- Rob Abeln, February 2, 1997