Clayton Feser, 78

7-13-95

The funeral for Clayton T. Feser, 78, Groton, was Saturday at the United Methodist Church in Claremont. The Rev. Steve Olson officiated.

Burial was in the Groton Union Cemetery with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel in Groton in charge of arrangements.

He died Wednesday, July 5, 1995, at the Colonial Manor in Groton.

Clayton Thomas Feser was born May 12, 1917, to Frank and Elizabeth (Henry) Feser in Claremont. He attended rural Detroit Township School and graduated from Claremont High School in 1935. He was active in 4-H clubs.

He married Nell Johnson on Oct. 1, 1942. in Webster. They moved to Centralia, Wash., where he was employed by Timber Co. They returned to South Dakota three year later. They lived and farmed in the Groton-Claremont area for the remainder of his life. He was also a farmers hybrid seed corn dealer for many years.

He was an avid sports fan following family, friends and other sports enthusiasts to sporting events. He was a pitcher for the Claremont amateur baseball team, which gained him much recognition and many honors. He was inducted into the South Dakota Baseball Hall of Fame in 1977. He also enjoyed bowling and was an avid card player. He was active in the Claremont Sportsman Club and Claremont Community Club. He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Claremont. He also acquired many friends the last 37 years as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Survivors include his wife of Claremont; one daughter, Maribeth Hoek of Mitchell; one son, Stuart Feser of Claremont; his mother of the Aberdeen Living Center; two brothers, Winston Feser of Huron and Paul Feser of Bowling Green, Ky.; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, one brother and two sons.

Honorary casketbearers were grandchildren: Tom Feser, Tami Svotos, Aaron Feser, Heather Feser, Carrie Feser, Adam Feser, Justin Hoek, Laura Feser and Lacey Feser.

Casketbearers were Harvey Fliehs, Manley Green, Marvin Sippel, Dale Cutler, Mark Perkins and Charles Berg.

Organist was Joan Thompson, pianist was Yvonne Gibbs, and soloists were the Rev. Bill Duncan and Maribeth Hoek. Trumpet player was Glenda Tullis. A baseball tribute was by Delores Henehan.

Ushers were Roger Schuller, Terry Haaland, Robbin Green and Jerry Johnson.

Dear God:

Help me be a good sport in this game of life. I don't ask for any easy place in the lineup. Put me anywhere you need me. I only ask that I can give you 100 percent of all I have. If all the hard drives seem to come my way, I thank you for the compliment. Help me remember that you never send a player more trouble than he can handle.

Help me, Oh Lord, to accept the bad breaks as part of the game. And may I always play on the square, no matter what the others do. Help me study The Book so I'll know the rules.

Finally, God, if the natural turn of events goes against me and I'm benched for sickness or old age, please help me to accept that as part of the game, too. Keep me from whimpering or squealing that I was framed or that I got a raw deal. And when I finish the final inning, I ask for no rewards. All I want is to believe in my heart that I played as well as I could and that I didn't let you down.