

February 2, 1956

## Frank Feser

(From Claremont Correspondent.)

Frank Thomas Feser, was born in Elkhorn, Wis., June 22, 1893, to Ida and Charles Feser. At the age of two he lost his father, by drowning. He came to Claremont, S. D., with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Brillintine in 1908, settling on a farm ½ mile west of Claremont. He attended Aberdeen Business College during two winters after which he decided to make farming his career.

He engaged in farming for himself in 1911, with his sister Florence he settled on a farm 2 miles north of Claremont. On November 6, 1913, he was married to Elizabeth Henry at Viroqua, Wis. To this union were born four sons, Winston, Clayton, Harold and Paul. Harold was killed in action in the service of his country in the Philippines in World War II.

In June 1940, they moved to their present home, north of Claremont where Mr. Feser passed away on Thursday, January 19, at 7:30, at the age of 62 years.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, Beth and sons, Winston and Clayton of Claremont and Paul, a student at the Normal and Industrial College, Ellendale, N. D.; one sister, Mrs. Florence Neitert of Washington state; a half brother, Henry Brillintine of Minneapolis; a step sister, Mrs. Ella Neitert of Aberdeen and four grandchildren.

This obituary would not be complete if Mr. Feser's religious and civic activities were not noted. Frank was constantly active in his church and Sunday school, serving as lay minister and leader, and as a teacher and superintendent of Sunday school. He was the leader of Claremont 4-H Club Leaders Association. He was always active in AAA and PMA activities both on local and county basis, besides serving many years as a township committeeman. He was also devoted to the eradication of harmful weeds, serving on various boards in this endeavor.

The years of dust storms started Frank on what eventually became his "heart and soul," of civic activities, "soil conservation." He was supervisor and chairman of the Brown-Marshall Soil Conservation District from its organization in 1937 until his death. In 1940 the State Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors was organized. Frank was an original member of this board and became president in 1947, serving until his resignation in the fall of 1955. He was a member of the National Committee which organized the state associations into a National Association, but declined a membership on the national board to devote full time in South Dakota. In 1949, Mr. Feser was appointed by the Governor of the State to serve on the State Soil Conservation Committee, resigning in the fall of 1955.

When Sam Walter Foss wrote "Let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man," he might of had Frank in mind. No case of need in his community was left unnoticed by our departed brother. His cheery greeting, his great kindness will be missed by his many friends but the memory of his goodness will be a precious possession.

Funeral services were held Monday at 2:00 o'clock at the Methodist church in Claremont. The Rev. A. W. C.