

Helmer T. Foss

The funeral for Helmer T. Foss, 97, of Groton was held Sunday, April 9, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Groton with the Rev. Stephen D. Swenson officiating. Burial followed in the Groton Union Cemetery with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel in Groton in charge of arrangements. He died Thursday, April 6, 2000, at Beverly Healthcare Center in Groton.

Helmer Theodor Foss was born February 26, 1903, to Lars and Martha (Eide) Foss near Churchs Ferry, N.D. He grew up on the family farm and graduated from high school in 1922. He taught at Beaver No. 3 school near Leeds, N.D., in 1924 and 1925. He attended North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo, graduating in 1929. After graduation he taught school in Roslyn, where he started the Future Farmers of America chapter and served as its first adviser in 1930.

He married Dorothy Swenson August 16, 1931. She was a fellow teacher in Roslyn. After leaving Roslyn he taught school in Sykeston, N.D., and Rugby, N.D., until moving to Groton in 1934. They opened a Gambles store in the Cassel's Building. After many moves he bought part of the Farmer's Co-op building on Main Street. He also served as assistant postmaster from 1959 to 1962. After closing the store in 1968 he worked as Groton city auditor until he retired in 1980. She died March 18, 1991.

He was an active member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Groton, where he held many offices and served on several committees. During his years in college he became a charter member of Kappa Sigma Chi Fraternity of the Tau Kappa Epsilon organization. In 1936 he was elected



to the Groton School Board, and served for 12 years. He later served as the board's clerk for many years. He helped to found the Groton Kiwanis Club in 1952, and served as treasurer for many years. He maintained a perfect attendance record for 47 years. On January 12, 2000, he received the Kiwanis Fellow Award from the Groton club. He served as the official time keeper for the Groton High School football and basketball teams for 40 years. He served as a committee member for Groton's 75th anniversary celebration. In 1990 he was honored and the Groton homecoming grand marshal and had a school's "Tiger" annual dedicated to him. In 1995 he became a supporting charter member of the Olive Grove Golf Course in Groton. The same year he was presented the Outstanding Community Supporter award by the Groton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Survivors include one son, John "Joe" (Nancy) Foss of San Francisco; one daughter, Corinne (Douglas) Scott of Edina, Minn.; and four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife and 10 brothers and sisters.

Casketbearers were Andrew Scott, Brian Scott, Larry Schelle, Anton Schwab, Robert Johnson and Eugene Abeln.