

11-5-86

Gary A. Johnson

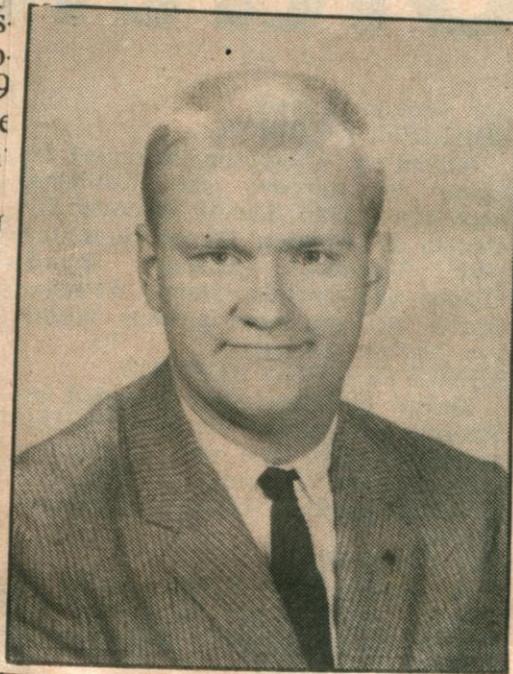
Gary A. Johnson of Houston, Tex., and a former Groton resident, died Oct. 29, 1986 in Webster, Tex., at the age of 46 of an apparent heart attack.

Services were held at the Emmanuel Lutheran church in Groton with Rev. F. Philip Strain officiating. Burial was in the Groton Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral chapel.

He was born December 1, 1939 at Britton, S.D., son of Ruben and Jennie Johnson. He attended rural grade school and graduated from Groton High School and SDSU in Brookings.

After graduation from SDSU he was employed by the US Air Force at White Sand, N.M. from 1963 to 1966. He then went to Houston, Tex., and worked for Lockheed Corporation and in 1978 he went to work for Computer Science Corporation. He wrote the computer program for the first U.S. landing of an object on the moon, the first program for Astronauts orbiting the moon, the program for all shuttle landings. He developed TACANT which is the guidance system for all air navigation. He was team leader for the development of artificial intelligence in space flight.

He was baptized and con-



firmed at Augustana Lutheran Church, Claremont.

Survivors include his mother and step-father, Jennie and Art Totzke, Groton; one sister Mrs. Keith (Arlys) Zoellner of Manhattan, Kan.; two brothers, Merton, Groton and Lyle, Houston, Tex.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ruben Johnson.

Casketbearers were Richard Feser, Chester Howard, Neil Johnson, Loren Johnson, Gerald Osterman and Emery Sippel. Ushers were Donald Waage and Jay Howard. Organist was Mrs. Stanley Knudsen and soloist was Manley Green.