

Johnson, 69

5-8-91

William Donald Johnson was born May 28, 1921 to William Joseph Johnson and Lydia (Peterson) Johnson on a farm south of Northville, S.D. He attended school in Northville. He served in the United States Army during World War II and was a member of the American Legion Post #39 of Groton and the Masons Lodge at Groton.

He married Elsie Carlson in Aberdeen, April 2, 1947.

He worked for Northwestern Public Service and Northern Electric in the Aberdeen area before moving his family to Tenino, Wash., where he worked for Puget Sound Power and Light Company. He returned to South Dakota as the Groton Light and Water Superintendent where he served for 25 years. He represented Groton in initial organizational meetings for the WEB Water Development project which eventually brought potable, Missouri River water to Groton and other Northeastern South Dakota towns and farms. He retired in 1979 because of health reasons. After retirement he lived in Washington, Groton, and Marshall and Alexandria, Minn. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping and woodworking.

Johnson died on April 29, 1991 at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Saint Cloud, Minn. He was 69. He was preceded in



death by his father and one sister, Sherwin Grosse.

Survivors include his mother, Lydia, Tacoma, Wash., two sisters, Zella Nordyke, Olympia, Wash., and Sally Updyke Billingham, Vt., seven children, Mary Lou Erickson, Alexandria, Minn.; Bill Johnson, Stratford; Mrs. Jerry (Olena) Gooding, Pierre; Mrs. Ken (Eunice) Wagner, Ramona, Calif.; Martin Johnson, Novato, Calif.; Daniel Johnson, Groton, and Allen Johnson, Columbia. He is also survived by 21 grandchildren.

Memorial Services were held May 2 at the United Methodist Church in Groton with the Reverend Dean Trapp officiating. Interment was in the Conde Cemetery with military rites led by the Groton American Legion Post.