

# ERVIN HENRY LOCKE JR.

Aberdeen American News (SD) - Saturday, October 25, 1997

The funeral for Ervin Henry Locke Jr., 64, Groton, will be at 2 p.m. today at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. Monsignor Marvin McPhee will officiate.

Burial will be in the Groton Catholic Cemetery, with military graveside rites by American Legion Post No. 39 of Groton. Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel of Groton is in charge of arrangements.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today at the funeral chapel.

He died of natural causes on Wednesday, Oct. 22, 1997, at St. Luke's Midland Regional Medical Center.

Ervin Henry Locke Jr. was born March 21, 1933, to Ervin H. Sr. and Pearl (Freeman) Locke at Lake City. He attended rural grade school near Lake City and graduated from Britton High School in 1953. He was an all-around athlete at Britton, playing football, basketball and baseball. He attended Huron College, where he played football until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in March 1954. He served most of his time in the service in Company B, 12th Engineer Battalion at Fort Carson, Colo.

He married Rose Marie Ordaz on June 4, 1955, at Raton, N.M. After he was discharged in 1956, they lived at Amherst. They moved to Aberdeen and he worked for Firestone and attended Northern State College, where he also played football. In 1955, he and his wife bought Pete's Place at Hecla. He also worked for the Chicago-Northwestern Railroad. He later served as Hecla police officer from 1963 to 1969. They moved the family to Aberdeen in 1969, and he worked for the Brown County Sheriff's Department as a deputy sheriff until 1971. The city of Groton then hired him as a police officer from 1971 to 1975. At that time, he and his wife bought the Red Horse Inn in Groton, which he had owned and operated until his death. He also served as mayor of Groton from 1984 to 1990.

In 1972, he and Paul Karst started an amateur baseball team at Ferney, which they later moved to Groton. He was hired by the city of Groton to coach the Groton Teener baseball team, taking them to state tournaments, where they were the South Dakota state champions in 1981, 1982 and 1983. He also worked with Karst coaching the American Legion baseball team in Groton, winning the state championships in 1976, 1978, 1984, 1990 and 1995. He was inducted into the South Dakota Baseball Hall of Fame on Sept. 23, 1992. Locke Field was dedicated at the new Groton baseball complex in 1995.

He was an avid hunter and gardener and had raised greyhounds and coon dogs all his life.

Survivors include his wife of Groton; four sons, Jerry (Peggy) Locke, Randy (Beth) Locke and Daren (Lisa) Locke, all of Groton, and Bryan (Benji) Locke of Aberdeen; four daughters, Patti (Steve) Daly of Columbia, Lynn (Jon) Knott of Aberdeen, Jan (Harley) Delzer of Groton, and Marcia (Cameron) Goebel of Red Lake Falls, Minn.; three sisters, Eva Seemann of New London, Minn., Bonnie Friebl of Britton, and Audrey Stanley of MiraLoma, Calif.; and 18 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and four sisters.

Casketbearers will be Andy Daly, Mike Daly, Matt Locke, Paul Karst, Tom Phillips and Ivan Quamen.