

April 1, 2003

Robert Peterson



- Robert Peterson, 88, Oakdale, Minn., and formerly of Groton died Friday, March 28, 2003 at his residence.
- His funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 1, 2003 at the First Presbyterian Church in Groton with the Rev. Bill Duncan officiating. Burial will be in the Groton Union Cemetery.
- Robert Alonzo Peterson was born on August 16, 1914 in Groton, to John and Mary (Mulligan) Peterson had lived in Groton for much of his life. He married Lucille Gerth on April 3, 1936 and they lived in Groton for a year before moving to Eagle Butte, where he worked in the city power plant. In 1937 they moved to Dupree, where he was employed as manager of the city's light and power plant. While living in Dupree their two sons were born, Robert Allen Peterson in

1940 and John Arno Peterson in 1941.

- In 1942 the family moved to Mendota, Minn., where Peterson accepted a job as diesel engine operator and worked on power line construction.
- They moved back to Groton in 1944 when Peterson accepted a position as superintendent of the city's light and power plant. A daughter, Margaret Ann was born in 1946. In 1955 Mr. Peterson was hired as the first manager of the newly created James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company. He retired from that position in 1981.
- He was a longtime member of the Groton Presbyterian Church and served on the church's board of trustees. Peterson served on the Groton Public School board of Directors and was a member and officer of the Groton Commercial Club, Kiwanis Club, and the South Dakota Telephone Pioneers, an organization of founders of the state's telephone cooperative.
- Robert is survived by his wife, Lucille of Oakdale, MN, two sons; John (Shirley) of Oakdale, MN, and Robert (Kathleen) of Pittsburgh, PA, and one daughter, Margaret (Fahey) Peterson of Salem, OR, six grandchildren, six great grandchildren one brother, Dewain (Arletta) Peterson of Groton.
- He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, one brother, and one infant daughter.
- Memorials preferred in lieu of flowers to: Robert Peterson Scholarship at the James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company Groton.

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