October 18, 1962

Leonard L. Ragels

Leonard L. Ragels, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Ragels, Groton, was born at Webster, S. D., on Sept. 26, 1931. The early years of his life were spent in the Verdon vicinity. He graduated from the Brentford High School and then went to live at Cody, Wyo. He was employed there until he enlisted in the navy where he served four years in the Naval Air Corps.

On April 7, 1956, he married Beverly Cotant at Manhatten Beach, Calif., where they continued to make their home.

After leaving the service, Leonard, studied at home and took instruction until he had received his air transport rating. Since then he has been employed in the Los Angeles area as a commercial pilot, flying charter planes. His death came as the result of a plane crash at Santa Maria, Calif. on Oct. 1st. This crash also took the lives of six passengers, all of whom were technicians and scientists of the Martin Missile Company on their way to work at Vandenburg Air Force Base.

Funeral services were held from the McCormick Mortuary, Manhatten Beach, on Oct. 6, 1962. Interment was in Holy Cross cemetery in Los Angeles.

Survivors in addition to his widow and parents include, two small children, Mary Lee and Michael; two sisters, Mrs. John (Ramona) Schinkel, Verdon and Joyce, attending Dakota Wesleyan University at Mitchell; two brothers, Richard of Rapid City and Larry at home. Also surviving is his grandmother, Mrs. Ethel Ragels, Groton and a number of other relatives. He was preceded in death by a brother, Vance in 1952.

Leonard was a quiet, reserved person, greatly loved by his family and held in high regard by his fellow-workers and other pilots with whom he was associated in the area.