Foster S. Rix

6-26-90

Foster S. Rix, 102, Groton, was active on township boards and served on the board of directors for the Groton and Putney Farmers elevators. He worked on government farm programs, was a charter director of Northern Electric Cooperative and director of East River Cooperative. He also contributed to several community projects.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and a 60-year member of Masonic Lodge, both of Groton. He was also a member of the Elks Lodge and Moose Lodge both of Aberdeen.

Rix was born February 8, 1888 to William A. and Julia (Stelter) Rix at the High West Farm 1 1/2 miles north of Groton.

He attended country schools near the farm and then attended the Business and Normal College at Grand Island. An immigrant crew was going to Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, and Rix went with them. He began riding and steering the steam engine on April 6, 1909 and continued to do so until July. He returned home July 17, 1909 via train which dropped him off at Huffton. He caught a ride home with a passerby.

Rix then began fixing canvasses for binders. After harvest, he joined Ed Ritter's threshing rig. Rix hauled five to six tanks a day on the wagon pulled by two horses for the steam engine.

On September 1, 1909, he went to work in the general store in the Brooberg Building in Groton run by Brown and Brooberg. He worked in the grocery area, earning $45 a month, paying $5 a month for board at Uncle Charlie's. At one time he earned $60 a month, but that was during holidays.

He quit working at the store on April 1, 1912 and began working the land, putting in crops on land he rented with his brother, Jim. When school was out that spring, Foster married Sarah Davison June 1, 1912 in the tree grove on the family farm. Later that fall he went back to work at the store and also did some farm work.

Foster and Sarah's son, Merrill, was born August 17, 1913 and they moved back to the Basom Place where Foster had once lived as a child. Foster, along with his dad and brothers, Web and Jim, bought Ed Ritter's threshing outfits. Foster took over as manager when they threshed for several farmers.

Foster and his family moved to the Brooberg Place, seven miles north of Groton, in the fall of 1915. They lived there for 43 years. A daughter, Betty, was born February 12, 1917.

Sarah died in 1962 when returning from a vacation in California. Foster married Ruth Craig in 1962. He retired and they moved into a new home in Groton in September, 1965. Ruth died March 11, 1975.

On February 5, 1976, he married Ruth Doeringsfeld. They went to Hawaii for a honeymoon and lived in Groton.

Foster died at St. Luke's Midland Regional Medical Center on Tuesday, June 19, 1990.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth, Groton; one son, Merrill, Groton; one daughter, Mrs. Dan (Betty Butler) Nay, Fresno, Calif.; two stepsons, Beverly Craig, Madison, Wis., and David Doeringsfeld, Minot, N.D.; one stepdaughter, Mrs. Allen (Kay) Bubolz, Appleton, Wis.; two brothers, Art and Floyd, Groton; one sister, Jesse Sherman, Rapid City; three half brothers, Otho Rix and Arden Rix, Groton, and Bryan Rix, Fresno; one half sister, Mrs. Charles (Ruth) Ingham, Aberdeen; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; 16 step grandchildren; and 23 step great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, first and second wives, two brothers and one sister.

His funeral was held Friday, June 22, at the First Presbyterian Church, Groton. The Rev. Richard Geiger officiated.

The organist was Mrs. Ben Anderson. A duet of Marie Sternhagen and Lee Schinkel sang, "In The Garden" and "How Great Thou Art."

Masonic Rites by Groton Masonic Lodge #65 were conducted by Maurice Webb.

Casket bearers were Larry Fliehs, Jack Schmidt, Gregg Matthews, Roger Rix, Fred Wolken and Mike Doeringsfeld.

Burial was at the Groton Union Cemetery, under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.