

April 26, 2001

Earl Oscar Ruden

- Earl O. Ruden, 75, Groton, died Monday, April 23, 2001, at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen. His funeral will be held Friday, April 27, 10:30 a.m., at the United Methodist Church, Groton, with the Rev. Richard Collman officiating. Burial will follow in the Groton Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.
- Visitation will be today from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral chapel with a prayer service at 7:30 p.m., and will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.
- Pallbearers will be John Ewalt, Tony Ewalt,



Paul Ewalt, Joshua Atherton, Adam Atherton and Nathan Atherton. Honorary pallbearers are Kristen Ewalt, Kevin Pray, Lisa Pray, Jasper Pray and his many friends.

- Arliss Alberts will be the organist and Pam Hanson will sing a solo. The United Congregation Choir will also sing and the congregational hymns are "Shall We Gather At The River" and "Are Ye Able."
- Earl Oscar Ruden was born on April 28, 1925, to Oscar and Lill (Thielke) Ruden on the family farm in rural Groton. He attended grade school in Putney Township and graduated from Groton High School in 1943. He was a lifetime farmer and on September 28, 1952, he married Twila Sanborn in Aberdeen, S.D. Together they made their home on a farm in rural Groton. Following retirement, Earl worked for Brown County as a weed sprayer. He also had a furniture repair and refinishing business.
- Earl was a life member of the Methodist Church in Groton, S.D., where he served on many boards and committees, a 50 year member of the Groton Masonic Lodge #65, a 35 year member of Diana Chapter #83 OES where he

was worthy patron several times and was also 2001 Grand Chapter committee member, a Henry Township Supervisor for 26 years, served on the Brown County Fair Board for six years, a member of the Centennial Village Committee, a member and leader of Lazy Farmers 4-H Club, a member of the Brown County Historical Society, trustee for the Trinity Episcopal Church in Groton, a recently appointed member of the Aberdeen/Brown County Landmark Commission, member of Sons of Norway, Dakota Midlands Corral of Westerners, a 1959 Outstanding Young Farmer in Brown, McPherson and Edmunds counties, 52 year member of the Brown County Crop Improvement Association, a former member of the Brown County Weed and Pest Board and he was a member of the YMW (Rural Youth) of South Dakota.

- Earl is survived by his wife, Twila, of Groton; two daughters, Laurie (Frank) Ewalt, Billings, Mont.; and Carna (Cliff) Pray, Groton, S.D.; a son, Bradley (Kay) Ruden, Bruce, S.D.; seven grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, a brother, Richard (Gertrude) Ruden, Groton, S.D.; and a sister, Clara Rix, Groton, S.D.
- His parents and one infant son preceded him in death.

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