

Donald Simonson, 85



Donald Simonson, 85, Groton and formerly of Turton, died Monday, Sept. 15, 2003 at Beverly Healthcare Center, Groton. A memorial service will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, 2003 at the First Presbyterian Church, Groton, with the Rev. Terry Kenny officiating. Interment will be in Groton Union Cemetery, with Paetznick-Gamess Funeral Chapel, Groton, in charge of arrangements. Military rites will be provided by the Conde American Legion.

Donald R. Simonson was born June 15, 1918 to Theodore and Josephine (Roe) Simonson at James, SD. He attended East Hanson 25-1 all eight grades of school. He then attended high school in Ferney and Groton, graduating in 1939. Donald worked at home on the farm until January 1941, when he entered the Civilian Conservation Corps. He enlisted in the US Army in February 1942 and served overseas building and repairing airfields for service. He had been trained as a blacksmith and welder, and worked doing repair and maintenance work. He was discharged in November 1945. Donald returned home and continued to farm at Groton with his father and brother. The family moved to Turton in 1949 and continued to farm. He retired in 1980, but continued to help around the farm. He started an inquiry in 1999, about the WWII medals, which he had never received. Fifty-four years after his discharge, he received the European Area Medal with Silver Stars, Good Conduct, European Victory Medal and Germany Occupation Medals.

Donald was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He served on the Township Board for 25 years and also served as Chief of the Turton Fire Department for one term. He received the Bread Winner pin for being enrolled in the NYA, CCC and Public Works Program, as well as, his 50-Year Farming pin from the State of South Dakota. He was an avid woodworker and hand made many toys and clocks.

He is survived by five sisters, Harriet Lee, Aberdeen; Mary (Robert) Thompson, Aberdeen; Elaine Lorenz, Downing, Wis.; Jean (Peter) Amonson, Portland, Ore., and Janice (Willis) Nesheim, St. Louis, Mo.; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Jack Simonson; one sister, Dorothy Fiedler, and one infant sister, Lois.