

May 25, 1972

Rudolph Vitense

Funeral services for Rudolph J. Vitense, 79, retired farmer, Columbia, will be held at the United Church of Christ, Congregational Church in Columbia Thursday, May 25, at 10 a.m. The Rev. George Cushing will be officiating and burial will be at Lakeview Cemetery with Masonic Rites.

Mr. Vitense died unexpectedly at St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen Sunday afternoon after a brief illness.

Music will be provided by Mrs. George Cushing, soloist, accompanied by Mrs. Edwin Karlen, organist.

Ushers will be Gale Kimball, Dean Daly, Martin Weismantel and Robert Zastrow. Serving as pallbearers will be his grandsons, Gary Sieber, Kenneth Sieber, Paul Denert, Larry Frohling, Allan Dayton, Jay Schelbitzki, Keith Vitense and Cal Stange.

A memorial has been established for the organ fund for the Congregational Church of Columbia.

Rudolph John Vitense was born January 9, 1893, at Clarence, Iowa. At the age of twelve he came with his parents to Aberdeen. Later the family moved to South St. Paul, Minn. In 1914 he returned to South Dakota and made his home with his sister, Mrs. John Goldsmith in the Plana area.

On June 1, 1916, he married Mamie Hemen at Columbia and in 1924 they moved to the Columbia area. His wife died in January 1927.

On June 11, 1928, he married Lois McCormick at Aberdeen. They farmed in the Columbia area until retiring in 1953 when they moved into Columbia. He then was engaged in the plumbing and carpentry business.

Mr. Vitense was on the Brainard School Board for nearly ten years and served as a trustee and deacon of the Congregational Church. He served as an alderman and mayor of Columbia and also as city treasurer for many years during his retirement, and was in charge of the Lakeview Cemetery for about fifteen years. He was a past master of the Columbia Lodge No. 43 AF&AM, and also the treasurer for many years and a past greeter of the Yelduz Temple.