

Dec 14, 2011

Paul W. Wagner, 96

Paul W. Wagner, 96, Groton, SD, and formerly of Roslyn, SD, died Friday, Jan. 20, 2012, surrounded by his family at Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen, SD.

His funeral was Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012 at Roslyn Lutheran Church, Roslyn, SD, officiated by Janet Johnson. Burial followed at the church cemetery. Visitation was Tuesday, with a prayer service at Fiksdal Funeral Service, Webster.

Paul William Wagner was born Friday, Dec. 10, 1915 to Paul and Laura (Schmidt) Wagner at Steele, ND. He was baptized into the Lutheran faith and was confirmed at Langford Lutheran Church in Langford, SD. Throughout his childhood he attended various country grade schools in the rural Groton area. After completing his education he traveled to numerous states working as a hired farmhand. In 1940 he obtained his auctioneering certification and began his own auctioneering business which he ran for the next 50 years. In 1941, Paul was working in San Francisco, Calif., when WWII began and then took a job with the United States government doing construction work in Maui, Hawaii.

He married Vanda Christensen, September 24, 1943 at Clarks Grove, Minn. To this union six children were born. The couple made their home and farmed in the Andover, SD area until 1952, when they moved to a farm northwest of Roslyn. Paul's great passion for farming was his motivation to start his own farming operation. Vanda died December 23, 1985.

In addition to farming, Paul was dedicated to being active in many organizations. He was a member of Roslyn Lutheran Church and served on the church council for many years. He was also on the board of directors for Lake Region Electric Association, Security Bank, and Soil Conservation Service. He was granted "Friend of 4-H" award for his volunteer auctioneering services and also received the meritorious service award from the Day County Crop Improvement Assn.

In 1987, he married Jackie Sippel and the couple made their home on the family farm near Roslyn. Paul loved traveling in his motor home and the couple spent several years wintering in Texas. He continued to be actively involved in farming until moving to Groton in 2007.

He enjoyed playing cards (especially solitaire), playing pool, current events, watching his grandchildren's sporting events, but most of all enjoyed spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife Jackie, Groton; four children, Cheryl (Jay) Dwight, Langford, SD; Bill (Mary) Wagner, Roslyn, SD; Marilyn (Jim) Vietor, Pierre, SD, and Terry (Patty) Wagner, Roslyn, SD; two step-sons, David Sippel and Dana (Aimee) Sippel, both of Pierpont, SD; one brother, Carroll (Billie) Wagner, Groton; 11 grandchildren, eight step grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and three step great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Vanda; two sons, Loren and Allen; one grandson, Michael Vietor; five brothers, and three sisters.

