

August 31, 1977

Roy N. Wahl

Services for Roy N. "Swede" Wahl, 78, Columbia, were held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 27, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Aberdeen with the Rev. John V. Halvorson officiating. Burial was in the Columbia Cemetery with military graveside rites by the Columbia American Legion Post.

Mr. Wahl passed away Wednesday, Aug. 24, on his 78th birthday at St. John's Regional Medical Center in Huron where he had been a patient for eight days.

Jude Borgesen of Aberdeen, organist, played a medley of favorite hymns of the deceased and also accompanied the singing of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" by the congregation.

Casketbearers were grandsons, Thomas C. Wallace of Evanston, Ill., William R. Wahl of Kearny, Ariz., Andrew C. Wahl of Mitchell, and Scott K. Wahl of Tucson, Ariz.; and husbands of his granddaughters, Ron Ronshaugen of Watertown and Tom Richards, Brookings.

Ushers were O.H. Koch and Otto Hunstad, both of Aberdeen.

Roy N. Wahl was born August 24, 1899, to Gustav and Matilda Carlson Wahl at Columbia. He attended school there and Northern Normal and Industrial School where he played basketball and later baseball. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1917 and served his country until 1919 when he returned to Columbia following his honorable discharge. He remained active in baseball for many years as a player, and later as a coach, working with many young people. Later he was an umpire and organized the South Dakota Umpires Association.

He married Ida Simonson September 1, 1921, at Columbia, and they made their home there where he was employed as a rural mail carrier until his retirement in 1967. His wife died in 1974. Mr. Wahl was still a resident of Columbia at the time of his death.

He was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, the S.D. Rural Mail Carriers Association, the Roy L. Hall Post No. 58 of the American Legion at Columbia, the U.C.T., the Columbia Commercial Club, a member and past president of the World War I Barracks of Aberdeen and a past member and officer of the 40 et 8 at Aberdeen.

He was a lifetime member of the state Umpires Association and was admitted to the State Baseball Hall of Fame in 1958. A trophy for the most valuable player has been provided annually at the Schliebe Midget Baseball tournament by Mr. Wahl, and will be continued by his sons.

Survivors include two sons, Theodore (Ted) of Huron and Kermit of Tucson, Ariz.; one brother, Lester, Chico, Calif.; and 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, one son, one daughter, two brothers and one sister.

The Huebl Funeral Chapel was in charge of arrangements.