



Raymond V. Dugaard
July 29, 1914 - August 6, 2004

Raymond Dugaard of rural Garretson passed away on Friday, August 6, 2004 at his home on the farm, approximately one week after his 90th birthday. He was known to be the longest living member of the South Dakota Association of the Deaf (SDAD). His involvement with the organization started when he joined at the age of 14 during one of the conventions held in Sioux Falls.

Ray was born on a farm near Garretson, SD on July 29, 1914. He attended the South Dakota School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls. Ray married Florence Kennedy in Council Bluffs, IA on July 9, 1950 and they live the remainder of their lives on the family farm.

Ray participated in farming all of his working years. He was one of those farmers who picked corn by hand, plowed with a team of horses, and pitched hay with a fork. His childhood home was heated with wood and corncobs, and lit with oil lanterns. The house did not have electricity until Ray was in his 30's. Ray dug a basement under the existing farmhouse by tunneling down under the building, using a hand shovel to excavate from under the house.

Ray also had skills other than farming. He was skilled in carpentry, built cabinets and houses, and replicated historical benches for the Siouxland Heritage Museum, without using nails. He was an adept mechanic, and could tear down and completely reassemble his tractor. He worked many years as a custodian for Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

All the hard work paid off and built character in Ray. He believed in hard work, cheerfulness, honesty, and grugality. He was stoic in the face of hardship and illness, and rarely complained. He was patient, and forbearing.

Family life was a top priority in Ray's life. He and Florence raised their three children, Joyce, Dennis and Sandra on the family farm. Ray unfailingly attended their choral and instrument concerts, demonstrating love and pride through his presence, unable to hear a single note. He faithfully attended the activities of his grandchildren.

Ray was active in the deaf community, mentored sign language students, and served as President of SDAD. He also was a member of the National Fraternal

Society of the Deaf for over 75 years, and was active in Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association. He was inducted into the SDAD Hall of Fame in 2004.

Ray loved to travel. In addition to travelling all over the United States, he visited Canada, Mexico, England and Israel. He loved taking pictures of his travels.

Ray is survived by his three children, Joyce (George Noble) of Minneapolis, MN, Dennis (Linda) Dugaard of Garretson, and Sandra Spencer of Omaha, NE; his four grandchildren, Blake Spencer, Laura, Sara and Chris Dugaard; and his brother Howard (Lucile) Dugaard of Sioux Falls.

Ray was preceded in death by his wife, Florence, his parents and two sisters.

His funeral service was held on Tuesday, August 10, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. in the Lutheran Church in Dell Rapids.