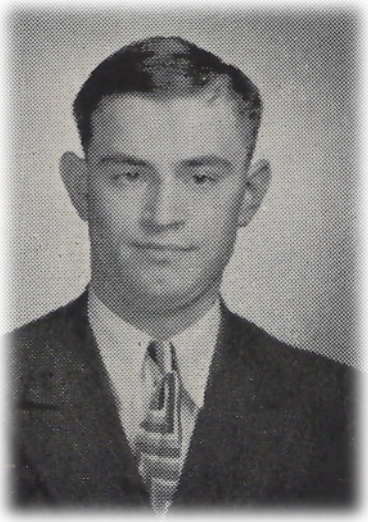
Martin Ziegeldorf

May 27, 1926 – February 15, 1967



Martin Ziegeldorf, age 40, a bachelor, farmed with his brother, Richard, south of Yale, died around Wednesday morning, February 15, 1967 near his farm home.

According to Beadle County Sheriff Mel Scheibe, Mr. Ziegeldorf apparently got out of his stalled car, crossed a fence into a field, then used the fence line as a guide in a vain attempt to fight his way to Yale. At the time of Ziegeldorf's disappearance, the winds were recorded at 40 mph and temperatures were at or below zero. With the two combined, the chill factor was at minus 40.

When he was reported missing, Sheriff Scheibe organized a group party of more than 100 officers and volunteers combed the area near the stalled car by air and ground in the search for the Yale farmer, who had last been seen in Huron bowling alley at 1 AM Wednesday. Sheriff also called on the county highway department snow plow to clear the ditches and fence drifts. This search was concentrated within a 1 ½ miles radius of the stalled car. Resumed search on Friday. His hat and mittens were found just a few minutes before the body discovered under a several inches of snow drift at 3:20 p.m., about 2 days later after he was reported missing. He went a lot further than they thought he would have been able to walk with this kind of weather.

Martin Ziegeldorf is survived by his mother and father, his brother: a sister, Ester, Mrs. Joe Ford, of Yale, five nephews and five nieces.

He graduated from the South Dakota School for the Deaf, Sioux Falls, in 1948, and returned to Yale. He was a member of the South Dakota Association for the Deaf, and was a past treasurer of the organization.

The funeral service held at 2 p.m. Monday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yale, with the Rev. David Ernst officiating. Buried in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery. A prayer service held at 8 pm a the Welter Funeral Home.

Active pallbearers were his cousins, Lyman and Ralph Rich, and Gary, Donald, Lyle, Raymond Bartels. Honorary pallbearers were Madison Stewart, Jerry Berke, Oscar Skorheim, Royce Knapp, Arvin Massey, Everett Ruedenbusch and Lenoard Ortman.

Friends may call at the funeral home Sunday afternoon and evening. The family prefers the memorial.