

Lester Kukuk

December 13, 1921 – August 11, 1997



Lester Kukuk appreciated the simple things in his life. He enjoyed fishing, a cigar and spending time with his wife.

"A cigar in his mouth and to go fishing was all he ever asked for," said Mr. Kukuk's step-daughter, Judy Altstiel of Yankton.

Another favorite past time was going to Sunshine Food Market with his wife, Eileen. "The people at Sunshine on Kiwanis Avenue could count on them like clockwork," Altstiel said. "They would go there almost every day for breakfast. And when his wife had to get her hair

fixed, he would go to Sunshine for a cigar and coffee."

Mr. Kukuk, 75, of 500 S. fourth Ave. No 113, died of lung cancer Monday, August 11, 1997, in the Covington Heights Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Mr. Kukuk was an outgoing man who didn't let his deafness hold him back, his stepdaughter said.

He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, the South Dakota Association for the Deaf, Deaf Senior Citizens and the South Dakota Deaf Anglers Club.

Mr. Kukuk's wife also is deaf and is legally blind. "They were inseparable," Altstiel said.

The couple met while they were students at the South Dakota School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls, SD. "Never in a lifetime did they dream they'd be married," Altstiel said. They went their separate ways after graduation and met again after Eileen's first husband died. They began dating. Mr. Kukuk was living in Huron and he would fly to Sioux Falls to see Eileen.

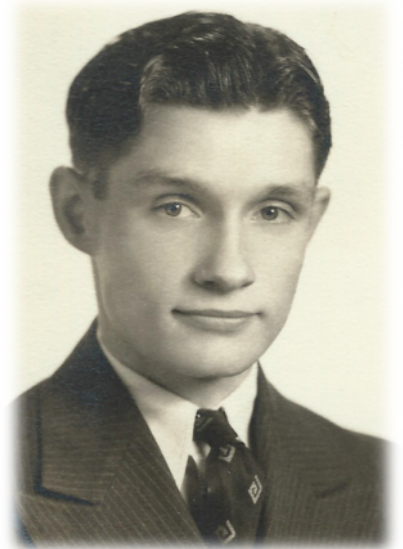
"He was a quiet man and was content with the small things," Altstiel said. "It didn't take much to please him. He was satisfied with his wife being happy."

Mr. Kukuk was born December 13, 1921, in Huron to the parents of Charles and Elma (Mattke) Kukuk. He attended South Dakota School for the Deaf and graduated in 1941. He participated in basketball during his time at SDSU.

He married Eileen Rich Soukup on April 5, 1969, in Sioux Falls.

He worked at the Armour Packing Co. in Huron for more than 40 years. He retired in 1983, and the couple moved to Sioux Falls.

In addition to his wife and stepdaughter, survivors include two stepsons: Ben and David Soukup, both of Sioux Falls; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; four brothers: Donald of Reno, Nevada, Keith of Alpena, SD; William of San Diego; and Howard of Yuma, Arizona; and one sister, Alice Landon of Spearfish.



Services held at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf with burial at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Pallbearers were Jerry Berke, Everett Ruebusch, Laurell Kaple, Palmer Larson, Duane Rohde, Delbert Erickson, Dave Carlson, Jason Soukup, and Christopher Soukup.