

Joseph Lee Bartunek

May 13, 1982 – November 16, 2002

Joseph Lee Bartunek, age 20, died November 16 at Avera McKennan Hospital. He was born May 13, 1982 in Parkston, S.D.

Survivors include Sharon bartunek, mother, Mitchell, S.D.; Glen Bartunek of Mitchell, half brother; Dennis and Jane Souhrada, foster parents, and Teresa Nold and Paula Souhrada, foster sisters, all from Sioux Falls; Kevin Souhrada, foster brother, of Seattle, Washington; Oscar Bartunek, grandfather, of Parkston, S.D., and Eleanor Bartunek, grandmother, of Armour, S.D.; 19 uncles and aunts and 26 cousins

Services were held on November 21 at Eastside Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, officiated by Pastor eugene Tjarks. Burial at Minnehaha County Cemetery, Sioux Falls, S.D. Casket Bearers: Stephanie Darveaux, Arlin Devish, Andrew Veith, Dustin Roth, Jason Ruzicka, Sadie Red Bear. Iverson-Siecke Funeral Home handled service arrangements.

Article by Argus Leader – November 18, 2002

Train hits, kills man walking on track

Deaf hunter's companion able to leap out of the way

Sherman – A deaf Sioux Falls area man died Saturday from injuries suffered earlier in the day when a train struck him while he hunted along railroad tracks one quarter mile east of Sherman.

The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department did not release the man's name. He was taken by air ambulance to Avera McKennan Hospital with head, face and leg injuries

"He was unresponsive and pulseless," Bruce Wieskus, chief of the Garretson Fire Department, said at the scene. " He had a lot of injuries."

Wieskus described the man and his companion, who jumped out of the way and was not hurt, as deaf and in their early 20s. They were walking southwest along the railroad ties, facing a blazing midafternoon sun, when the accident occurred, he said.

"The people in the train were blowing their horn and hollering out the window," Wieskus said. "Apparently, these two guys just didn't hear it."

Wieskus said the two hunters had parked their vehicle on 487th Avenue – or Minnehaha County Road 103 – at the east edge of Sherman and walked northeast along the tracks searching for pheasants.

They were on their way back to the car when the accident happened just after 2:30 p.m.

The 40-car Burlington Northern Santa Fe train came to a stop quickly.

Emergency personnel from Garretson, Sherman and Sioux Falls responded to the accident, as did the county sheriff's department.

Article by Argus Leader – November 18, 2002

Man killed by train identified

Law enforcement officials have identified a 20-year-old Sioux Falls man who died after being struck by a train Saturday afternoon while hunting east of Sherman.

Joe Lee Bartunek of 3515 S. West Ave., died after being flown by helicopter to Avera McKennan hospital, the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department reported.

Bartunek and his hunting companion, both deaf, were walking southwest on the outer railroad ties of the track while hunting pheasants just east of Sherman.

A Burlington Northern Santa Fe train heading the same direction hit Bartunek. His companion, who has been identified, wasn't injured.