

Raymond M. Schmitz

June 15, 1919 – October 12, 1982



Raymond M. Schmitz, age 63, of Howard, Miner County, South Dakota, passed away on October 12, 1982, at Luther Manor.

He was born on June 15, 1919, in Howard, South Dakota, where he spent most of his life. Schmitz attended the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD) and graduated in 1940.

In 1936, at approximately age 17, he briefly attended St. John's School for the Deaf, becoming one of the earliest known South Dakota students to enroll at the Catholic Deaf institution.

Historical records suggest his enrollment may have been connected to receiving intensive catechism instruction and preparation for First Holy Communion, a practice occasionally followed by Deaf students at that time.

After completing his education, Schmitz returned to Miner County. He later worked as an employee of John Morrell & Company and lived a quiet life rooted in his hometown community.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors included two sisters: Tillie (Everist) Neises of Howard and Silvina (Burdette) Maurice of Sioux Falls.



Funeral services were held at St. Agatha Catholic Church in Howard, with visitation at Willoughby Funeral Home.

Raymond Schmitz is remembered as one of the early Deaf individuals from rural South Dakota to pursue both state and religious Deaf education opportunities during the early 20th century.



1937-38 SDSD Boys Basketball team

Front row L to R: Harry Pischek, Glen Ziegler, Lester Kukuk, and Leonard Heater.
Back row L to R: Coach Albert Krohn, Frances Huffman, Joe Strandell, Raymond Schmitz, Palmer Larson, Carroll Christianson, Royce Knapp, Orville Rust, and Ivan Curtis, Athlete Manager.

