

Keith “Bud” Starks, 95, of Gettysburg, passed onto Heaven, surrounded by his family, on Thursday, July 3, 2014 at Avera St. Luke’s Hospital in Aberdeen, SD.

Bud was born on April 18, 1919, to Leonard and Frances (Lemler) Starks, on the homestead in the northwestern corner of Potter County, South Dakota. He was nicknamed “Buddy” and grew up in the river hills of the Missouri. He later attended Fayette School, a one-room schoolhouse six miles from his home.



After 8th Grade, he went to work with his father and brothers at the home place, eventually helping to create the –S- Ranch. At age 29, he picked out the prettiest new schoolteacher, Mary Helen Lesmeister, met her, and then married her on June 28, 1948, in Parade, South Dakota. They enjoyed 66 years of marriage, ranching together until their retirement.



Bud worked hard his entire life, moving from calving season to haying season to wintering season. He enjoyed baseball, playing shortstop for Akaska as a young man and cheering for the Minnesota Twins. Bud also enjoyed rodeos and loved music. His main

instrument was the saxophone, which he played for many dances as part of local bands, most notably Bob Halsey and the Bobkatz. He played his saxophone and the violin up until his death. He especially loved to play his horn while his daughter JoAnn played the piano, and could often be heard saying, “Just one more tune.”



He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend. He was a gentle and kind man, patient with everyone except himself when there was work to be done. He always had a smile and a

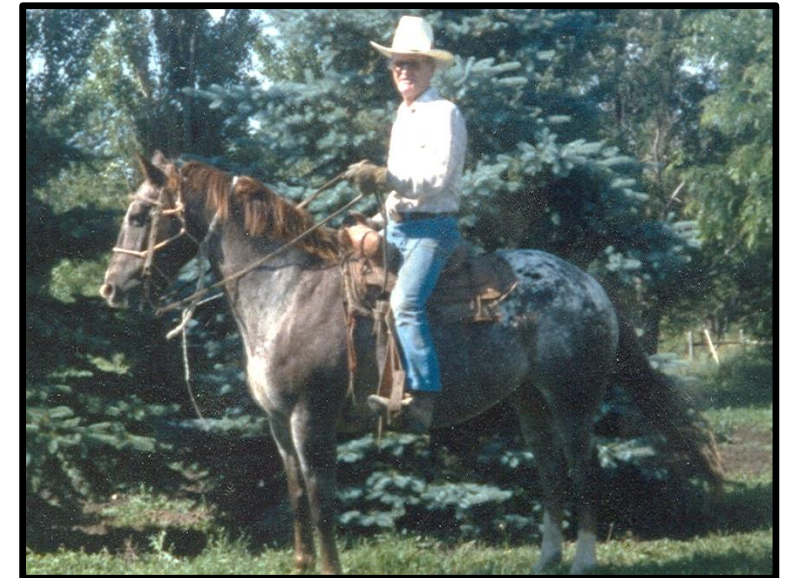


wave, and he will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

Bud is survived by his wife, Mary Helen, of Gettysburg; daughter JoAnn (Jeff) Starks Gunn of Aberdeen, and his two grandchildren: Keith Joseph Starks Gunn and Ashley Rose Starks Gunn; brother Arthur Starks of Gettysburg, sister Vivian (Bev) Roseland

of Seneca, sister-in-laws Ruth Starks of Gettysburg, Marla Lesmeister of Piedmont, SD, and Marie Starks of Akaska, SD, and brother-in-laws Marcus (Audrey) Lesmeister of Mobridge and Lawrence (Charlotte) Lesmeister of Whitewood, SD. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews, four of whom were like Bud’s adopted children because he and his brother Milton married sisters. Those nieces are Diane (Dave) Peters of Wadena, MN and Kathy (Bernie) Hall of Rapid City, and the nephews are Leonard (Sherilyn) Starks of Pierre and Pat (Marlys) Starks of Selby.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister and twin Kathleen, brothers: Clyde Starks, Milton Starks, and Baby Boy Starks (stillborn), sister-in-law Tracy Starks, and brother-in-laws Adam and Louie Lesmeister.



If Tomorrow Never Comes

*If I knew it would be the last time
that I'd see you fall asleep
I would tuck you in more tightly, and
pray the Lord your soul to keep.
If I knew it would be the last time
that I'd see you walk out that door,
I would give you a hug and a kiss,
and call you back for just one more.
If I knew it would be the last time,
I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,
I would tape each word and action,
and play them back throughout my days.
If I knew it would be the last time, I would spare
an extra minute or two,
To stop and say "I love you", instead of assuming you know I do.
So just in case tomorrow never comes, and today is all I get,
I'd like to say how much I love you, and hope we never will forget.
Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, young and old alike.
And today may be the last chance,
you get to hold your loved ones tight.
So if you are waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today?
For if tomorrow never comes, you'll surely regret the day,
That you didn't take that extra time, for a smile, a hug or a kiss.
And you were too busy to grant someone,
what turned out to be their last wish.
So hold your loved ones close today, and whisper in their ear,
Tell them you love them very much,
and you'll always hold them dear.
Take time to say, "I'm sorry", "Please forgive me",
"Thank you" or "It's OK",
And if tomorrow never comes, you'll have no regrets about today.*

By Norma Cornett Marek



Gettysburg, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

In Loving Memory

Keith "Bud" Starks

April 18, 1919
Potter County, SD

July 3, 2014
Aberdeen, SD

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL:

10:30a.m., Tuesday, July 8, 2014
Sacred Heart Catholic Church ~ Gettysburg, SD

OFFICIATING: Fr. Jerry Kopel

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER & LECTOR:

Marcus & Audrey Lesmeister

PLACING OF THE PALL:

Jeff, JoAnn, Keith & Ashley Starks Gunn

ALTAR SERVERS:

Alyson Hageman & Brayden Schlachter

CASKETBEARERS: Greg Steever, Robert Starks,
Kevin Roseland, Keith Lesmeister, Patrick Starks,
Leonard Starks & Dean Simon

HONORARY BEARERS:

Keith & Ashley Starks Gunn
All of His Nieces & Nephews

PRELUDE: Dr. Tyrel Starks ~ "Ave Maria"

MUSICIANS:

Gail Larson, Kathy Hall, Keith & Ashley Starks Gunn

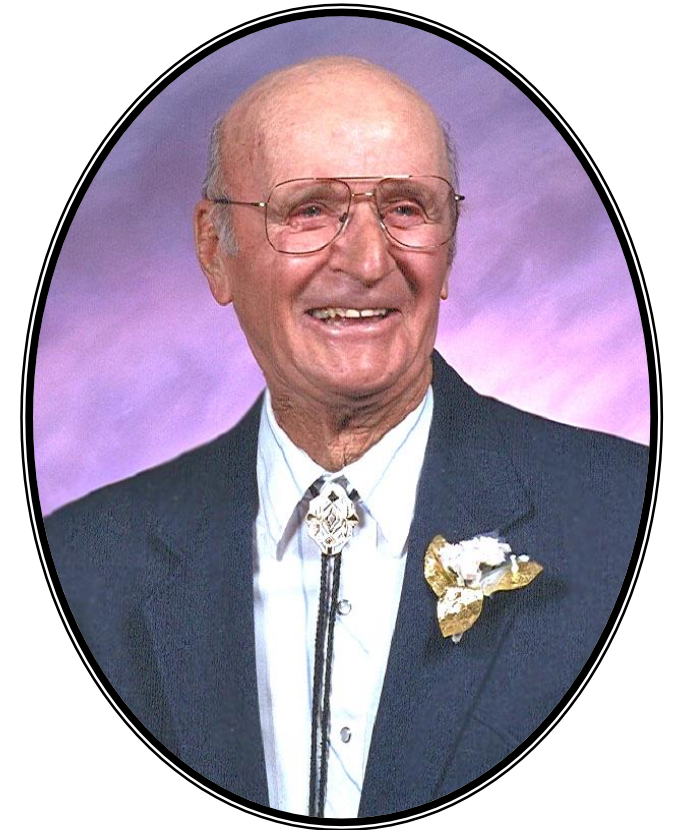
HYMNS:

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" "Seek Ye First"
"Prayer of St. Francis" "Homeward Bound"
"Song of Farewell" "Peace Is Flowing Like A River"

INTERMENT:

Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery ~ Gettysburg, SD

In Loving Memory



Keith "Bud" Starks

1919-2014