



The Cottonwood Tree

How our lives have paralleled each other:

We moved to Highmore in fifty-eight;
The cottonwood tree was in its prime.

It stood 60 feet tall and gave good shade
For the livestock to stand under and cool

And I was in my prime at 36

Together we stood through drought and storm.

We were always able to survive them all.

The Grandkids built a tree house in which to play,

And part of it yet, is still there this day.

But as the years went by and I became old and feeble,

The years took its toll on you as well.

And now as I am ready to die,

I look at you and see the same;

You're almost dead with only a few green branches

And a few green leaves.

Perhaps you'll live another year, as so will I,

But a new generation of kids have come

And new trees are growing to take your place,

And all will be well in God's good Grace.

Bill — July 1, 2009

Arrangement Entrusted To



Highmore, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

In Loving Memory



William E. Knox

June 22, 1922 – September 22, 2012



William Knox, 90, of Highmore, passed away Saturday, September 22, 2012 at the Highmore Health, Highmore, SD.

William Evert Knox was born June 22, 1922 to Virgil and Philora (Strong) Knox in a stone farm house northwest of Dixon, South Dakota. He grew up in Dixon as his father Virgil became a rural mail carrier out of Dixon. He graduated from Gregory High School in 1940. On January 11, 1940, Bill married his high school sweetheart, Norma Graesser. To this loving union three children were born: Richard, Gerald, and Carol. Out of high school, Bill decided he wanted to farm. His Dad co-signed a loan for \$275.00 with which he bought a unbroken team of horses from Norma's uncle, a set of harnesses and a 8 foot horse drawn disk. He rented 160 acres of land near his father and mother-in-laws farm, Tom and Neta Graesser, and started his life long career of farming. In 1958, he and Norma moved to Hyde County and purchased the G.F. Mader ranch. Bill and Norma lived there until Norma passed away in 2008 and Bill then moved into the Highmore Health in May of 2010.

While farming in Hyde County, he was a member of several boards; the local Cenex board, First State Bank, Hand-Hyde County FHA board and FSA board in Hyde County. He was awarded the Federal Land Bank Golden Anniversary Medal in the late 1960's for his outstanding contributions to American agriculture. He was one of 18 awarded in South Dakota. Bill's love was family and farming; He had a passion for both. His grandchildren and great grandchildren were the joy of his life. He was a true farmer until the end and proud of his sons and grandsons for following his lead.

Bill's memory will be cherished by his two sons: Richard (Bernadette) Knox of Highmore and Gerald (Doris) Knox of Highmore; one daughter: Carol (Reid) Huber of Pierre; brothers: Norman Knox of Ammon, Idaho and Ronald Knox of Springfield, IL; sisters: Donna Matejka of Flagstaff, AZ and Doris Knox of Bonesteel; 11 grandchildren; and 27 great grandchildren.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Norma of 68 years; brother, Gene Knox; and an infant grandson.

In Loving Memory

William E. Knox

June 22, 1922

Dixon, South Dakota

September 22, 2012

Highmore, South Dakota

Funeral Service

10:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 26, 2012

United Methodist Church

Highmore, South Dakota

Officiating

Pastor Kori Lehrkamp

Casketbearers

Aaron Knox

Paul Knox

Jesse Knox

Dan Knox

Doug Knox

Brent Novotny

Chris Novotny

Guestbook

Renee Cowan & Andrea Knox

Flowerbearers

Kim Peterson, Jill Borgeson & Jolene Gordon

Ushers

Treg Cowan & Tod Peterson

Organist

Vi Pfeifer

Congregational Hymns

"Old Rugged Cross" – "How Great Thou Art"

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

Interment

3:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 26, 2012

I.O.O.F. Cemetery

Gregory, South Dakota