

OLESON, Burdette Robert "Ole"

June 16, 1921
rural Hurley
July 7, 2005
Rapid City SD

Viborg Enterprise
July 14, 2005

Burdette Robert "Oleo" Oleson

Burdette Robert "Ole" Oleson, 84 of Rapid City, passed peacefully Thursday, July 7, at his home, surrounded by his family.

Ole Oleson was born June 16, 1921, on a farm southwest of Hurley, S.D., to Giles and Lillie (Thompson) Oleson. His early years were spent on the farm, but as soon as he was old enough he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on Nov 12, 1942, and served as Technical Sergeant with Company E, 5th Infantry Regiment, 71st Division. He served in Germany and assisted in the liberation of the concentration camps. While on furlough, he married his hometown sweetheart, Elaine L. Sherman of Hurley on May 17, 1943. After the war he apprenticed as a carpenter in Yankton, S.D. His family grew with the births of his oldest son, Robert,

his daughter, Jean, and second son, Bud. In 1956 he moved his family to Rapid City where his youngest son, Greg, was born. He went to work for Corner, Howe and Lee Construction Company which was later Corner Construction Company. In 1978, he started his own construction company, Eagle Enterprises, in Gillette, Wyo. In 1982 they moved to the West Coast where they spent several years before being recruited by Calvary Lutheran Church to return to Rapid City to be the church caretaker.

He was a life member of the Carpenters Local 587. He managed, coached, umpired and later cheered his sons in baseball, and later his grandchildren in softball and soccer and baseball. He was involved with building the new Girls ASA Fastpitch Parkview Complex. When he finally retired in 1991, he spent his time visiting his children and grandchildren. He especially loved helping his daughter, Jean, and son-in-law Bill Kessloff, harvest walnuts at their ranch in Lower Lake, Calif. He spent his "leisure" time helping his children with various home remodeling

projects in Omaha, Neb., Hill City, and Rapid City. His last "job" was helping his son build his home which included apartment for himself near Hill City.

He was a proud lifelong Democrat, a full blooded Dane, a life member of the V.F.W and an avid Green Bay Packers fan. He was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church since 1956. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, watching sports and playing with his grandchildren.

Survivors include three sons, Robert and Kristine Oleson, Omaha, Burdette L. "Bud" and Lisa Oleson, Hill City, and Greg and Susan Oleson, Rapid City; his daughter, Jean Kessloff and her husband, Bill, Rapid City; one sister, Donna Jean Arens, Sequim, Wash.; and five grandchildren, Jordan, Kaitlyn and Mikennah Oleson, and Parker and Ethan Oleson; and his very special friend, Yvonne Glaze.

He was preceded in death by his wife, infant daughter and his only brother, Gordon L Oleson.

A memorial has been established.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.osheimcatron.com