GRABER, Erwin

April 30, 1908
Freeman SD
January 18, 2007
Sioux Falls

Viborg Enterprise
January 25, 2007

ERWIN GRABER

Erwin Graber, 98 of Sioux Falls, formerly of Yankton, died Thursday, January 18, 2007 at the Royal C. Johnson Veteran's Memorial Hospital in Sioux Falls. Funeral services will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, January 20, 2007 at Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, SD with Joe Hobbs and Jim Chafee, officiating. Burial will be in Yankton City Cemetery following the funeral with military honors by Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post #791, Yankton, SD. Visitation will be held from 5-7 PM on Friday, January 19, 2007 at the Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, SD. Visitation will resume on hour prior to the service at Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory.

Erwin was born on April 30, 1908 to Dan and Marie Graber in Freeman, SD. He was the oldest of 12 brothers and sisters. Erwin grew up in the Freeman, Dolton, and Bridgewater areas. Erwin worked on area farms during the Depression until enlisting in the U. S Army in 1935. He was stationed at Fort Snelling, MN until October 1938. Erwin re-enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1938 and requested transfer to Hawaii in 1939. He was assigned to 16th Coast Artillary at Fort Ruger as a Staff Sargeant in the supply company.

Erwin was on duty as a supply sergeant on December 7, 1941 when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Erwin remained in Hawaii until May 1943, when he was assigned to Fort Irwin to train new recruits for desert warfare. In April 1944, Erwin was sent to England to prepare for the invasion of mainland Europe. Following D-Day, July 1944, Erwin was sent to France with the 580th Signal Supply and spent the remainder of the war in Europe. Erwin was honorably discharged in July 1945. He married Mabel Hellwig in January 1947. Mabel and infant daughter, Marilyn, died in May 1950. On April 25, 1955 Erwin married Eleanor (Krantz) Morrill.

Erwin worked in the Sioux Falls area for the Ross Lumberyard, and Dekalb seed corn company. In 1947, Erwin moved to Menno, SD where he owned and operated the Gamble Hardware Store. In 1961, Erwin moved to Viborg, SD where he worked for Ver-Beek Plumbing and Heating until his retirement in April 1978. Erwin served on the Viborg City Council and a term as the Mayor of Viborg from 1971- 73.

In 1990 Erwin and Eleanor moved to Yankton where they lived until Eleanor died in 2003. Erwin then moved to the Greenleaf Independent Living Facility in Sioux Falls where he lived to the present.

Thankful for having shared in his life are his daughter, Betty Simmons of Selah, WA; son, Daniel (Shannon) Graber of Sioux Falls, SD; 4 grandchildren, Nathan Simmons, Cody Simmons, Annika Graber, Grant Graber; brother, Dale Graber of Clearwater, KS and sister, Janet Green of Tucson, AZ.

Erwin is preceded in Death by his parents; three sisters, Mabel, Delma, Hilda; six brothers, Rueben, Palmer, Earl, Lester, Roy, Donald; his first wife, Mabel, infant daughter, Marilyn and second wife, Eleanor.