NYGAARD, Lowell James

November 19, 1939
Hooker
May 29, 2002
Ft. Collins, Colorado

Viborg Enterprise
June 6, 2002

Lowell Nygaard

Lowell Nygaard, Ph.D., age 62 of Ft. Collins, Colorado, died Wednesday, May 29, 2002 at a rehab facility in Ft. Collins. His death resulted from complications due to Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) which he had been struggling with since 1993. His body was cremated and a memorial service was held Saturday, June 1, 2002 at Trinity Lutheran Church with Pastor Lowell Hemken, officiating.

Lowell James Nygaard was born November 19, 1939 to Martin H. Nygaard and Lavonne Gossman Nygaard in Hooker, South Dakota. He grew up near Viborg, SD, and attended South Dakota State University. At SDSU, Lowell managed experimental nutrition lots and received his B.S. degree in animal science and his M.S. degree in ruminant nutrition. He married Diann Sherard on August 4, 1963 at Spring Valley Lutheran Church in rural Viborg. They moved to Laramie, Wyoming where they lived on the University of Wyoming dairy farm. He worked as the herdsman for about three years for UW while pursuing his doctorate in ruminant nutrition. Up until that time, Lowell had also served in the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserves. In 1970, Lowell took a job as a dairy nutritionist and salesman for Ranchway Feeds in Ft. Collins.

In 1973, Lowell became a self-employed livestock consultant and broker. On one project, he was hired by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation on the Navajo Reservation, teaching native Americans how to manage livestock. In 1983, he bought and created a farm and feedlot north of Ft. Collins, where he lived and raised sheep until PSP forced his retirement in 1997.

A lifelong Lutheran, Lowell was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and was a former church council member there. He enjoyed big game and pheasant hunting as well as woodworking and carpentry. Lowell was a tinkerer who liked to make sure that things worked as they should. He was also an avid fan of CSU sports as well as Rockies Baseball and Broncos football.

Dr. Nygaard is survived by his wife, Diann; a daughter Jill, and her husband, Paul Layden of Ft. Collins; his son, David of Aurora, CO; two grandchildren, Annie and Fisher Layden; his father, Martin H. Nygaard of Viborg, SD; two brothers, Ronald of Davis, SD and Eldon of Vermillion, SD; and a sister, Joyce Vasgaard of Centerville, SD. His mother, Lavonne preceded him in death.

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