

OBITUARIES

**Orland Sternquist**

The celebration of the life of Orland Sternquist was at the Dalesburg Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Saturday, April 14, 2012. He left this earth April 7, 2012 to join his wife Harriet for a cup of coffee and a piece of double crust pie in their motor home in Heaven. He was born Dec. 27, 1921 in Alcester to Leonard and Ellen (Carlson) Sternquist. He was the third of four children and the only boy.



STERNQUIST

He grew up on the family farm with his dog Jack at his side. He was baptized and confirmed his faith at Nathaniel Lutheran church in rural Alcester. He attended Cole grade school and Alcester High School. He then took his place on the farm during the "Dirty 30's." A handsome and dashing young man in his '36 Chevy; he romanced a girl from Clay County in the early 40's and married Harriet Eleanor (Berg) in 1943 at the Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

They farmed near Alcester and began their family. In 1947, Harriet's father died and Orland moved his family to Clay County to take over the Berg family farm. He served on the Dalesburg School Board for many years. He was active in the Dalesburg Lutheran Church serving on the council, organizing activities with the Couples Club and adorned in their Swedish costumes he and Harriet participated in Midsommer celebrations throughout their lives.

His children remember him as a man of honesty and good intent. He taught life lessons by example. One of the lessons learned from Orland was to never give up. One never actually heard him say as much, that would not be his style. He simply lived the credo that if something doesn't work out, try again. As a philosopher would put it, his actions were so loud you couldn't hear what he was saying. It isn't how many times you are knocked down but how many times you rise after a set back, dust yourself off and try again that makes you a success.

His idea of swearing was to say, "It makes me so stinking mad." It was rarely heard. Later

in his life the phrase became his comic relief. His children remember that although his formal education was incomplete he was the best speller of the family and probably the smartest.

In the 1960s, he developed incurable vision problems which left him legally blind. Rather than act disabled, with his peripheral vision he continued to farm. One of his sons helped with the corn planting. Later that year one could see to the row where the son's rows were followed by Orland's straight rows, an indication that some things are done with an innate sense of correctness. As his eldest son Sheridan took over the farm operation Orland rebuilt old John Deere tractors. His visual problems made it difficult to recognize faces and he fretted that people would think him uncaring because he sometimes couldn't recognize them.

He loved to go camping in their motor home where they would teach grandchildren and great-grandchildren card games and life lessons. They wintered in Texas and treasured the many friends they made and maintained in that community. He loved to sing, his tenor voice filling the nave of the church or the gathering hall in Texas accompanied by his constant companion and pianist, his wife Harriet. His later years were occupied tending to Harriet who died just two months ago. Alzheimer's took her mind leaving her with little, if any, memory of the man who stood by her, holding her hand physically and metaphorically, for 69 years. We imagine Harriet saying, "Well Orland, I didn't think I would see you so soon, but I'm glad to have the company." They were each other's only true love, and it lasted a lifetime.

We celebrate Orland Sternquist as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great-grandfather, brother and friend. He is survived by two sisters, Wilma Holstrom of Robbinsdale, MN, Arla Rodner of Alcester; four children, Sheridan (Phyllis) of Centerville, Alan (Elaine) of Pleasanton, CA, John (Nancy) of Yankton and Brenda Sternquist of Haslett, MI; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. His parents, wife and sister Marion Sternquist preceded him in death.

**Carlton Leikvold**

Carlton Eugene Leikvold was born on June 4, 1926 in the house of the farm where he lived his whole life. His parents were Olvin G. Leikvold and Helen (Helsa) Leikvold. Carlton was united in marriage on Jan. 28, 1961 to Deanna (Anderson) Leikvold. Two sons were born to this union: Karl (wife Robin, daughters, Kelsie and Sophia) and Kurt (wife Diane, sons, Christopher and Michael). He has one dear sister, Betty (Leikvold) Nelson (daughters Diane, Gwen, Susan and Cindy).



LEIKVOLD

Carlton graduated from Vermillion High School in 1943. He was drafted into the US Navy during WWII in 1945 with special assignment to Corpus Christi, TX as Seaman First Class in the Radar Technician Program. After serving his country, he returned home to the farm. He attended the University of South Dakota (USD) from 1956 to 1959 and completed a bachelor of arts degree, majoring in physics and mathematics. By August of 1960, he also completed a masters degree in physics at USD. He continued his

education at Kansas State University, Colorado University and Colorado State University to complete all but his dissertation for a doctorate in physics. In addition, he attended Luther Theological Seminary in 1961. In May 1962, he returned to the farm where he was born, to continue a family tradition. In addition to farming, he became a professor of physics at Yankton College until 1976. With a desire to spend more time with his family, he left teaching and began a career at Clay County Farm Mutual Wind Insurance Co. where he held roles including secretary, president and director.

In addition to these career activities, Carlton also served 16 years on the Wakonda School Board; he held various church leadership positions and various leadership positions for Clay County and South Dakota Farm Bureau. He was one of the original directors for the Southeast SD Experimental Farm Board and served on the Board of Directors for Community First Bank.

Carlton's passions in life were God, family, the land and providing for others. He enjoyed horseshoe, music, gardening and a talent for amazing wood crafting.

Visitation was held at Brooklyn Evangelical Free Church, Beresford, on Tuesday, April 17 from 2 to 8 p.m., with the family present from 5 to 7 p.m. and a prayer service at 7 p.m. The funeral was at Brooklyn Evangelical Free Church on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

**Norma Klanderud**

Norma Ofstehage Klanderud of Vermillion passed away on Monday, April 9, 2012, at the Sanford Care Center in Vermillion.

Norma Staum was born Oct. 21, 1916, on the family farm north of Elk Point to Casper and Anna (Ulvog) Staum. She attended Pleasant Valley School and graduated from Elk Point High School.

On Feb. 19, 1941, she married Robert Ofstehage at St. Paul Lutheran Church, rural Elk Point. They farmed in Union County for over 50 years and were Vermillion residents since 1973. Robert passed away on Aug. 21, 1995. Norma married Delmer Klanderud of Mesa, AZ on July 8, 2000. Delmer passed away on June 24, 2010.

Norma was a career homemaker who enjoyed cooking, sewing and caring for family members. She was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and was active in most church organizations. Norma especially loved participating in the church choir. While she was a resident at Sanford Care Center, she created numerous beautiful quilt tops that St. Paul WELCA members made for various missions. While spending winters in Arizona, she was an associate member of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Mesa.

Norma was a former

volunteer at the Vermillion Nursing Home, a former member of the Dakota Hospital Auxiliary and Vermillion Civic Council. She was a member of the Clay County Farm Bureau, Senior Citizens and Elephant Club.

Survivors include her daughter, Mary (Ronald) Minske of Mesa, AZ; twin granddaughters, Carrie (Sean) Crowley of Sonora, CA, and Angela Sabbe; and great-granddaughters Hannah and Kelsie Sabbe of Santa Monica, CA; a brother, LTC (Ret) Vernon E. Staum of Marietta, GA; and many special nieces, nephews and cousins.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands, Robert Ofstehage and Delmer Klanderud; her brothers, Arthur and Clarence Staum; and sister, Gladys Egan.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 13, 2012 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, rural Elk Point with Pastor Tim Thies officiating. Burial was in church cemetery following the service on Friday. A visitation was held from 4 to 7 p.m., with a prayer service at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2012, at Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion.

Services were entrusted to Kober Funeral Home.

Condolences may be posted online at [www.koberfuneralhome.com](http://www.koberfuneralhome.com)

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Lori Kober, Funeral Director, and Tom Kober, Co-Owners  
James Bartels, Intern  
Eleanor Eagle Bear, Personal Assistant  
Lynn Lawrensen, Videographer  
Rick Steinholt, Assistant

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**USD SYMPHONIC BAND & CONCERT BAND**  
*Spring Concert!*

**Rolf Olson & Gary Reeves,**  
Conductors

**Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 7:30pm**  
Knutson Theater  
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Free Admission

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**FREE ADMISSION**

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