

Russell Max Clayton, Sr.

Funeral services were held for Russell Max Clayton, Sr. at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 18, 2001, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Brooklyn. Rev. Maynard Brothersen officiated. Scripture service was held at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2001, at Nevenhoven Funeral Home, Brooklyn. *D: January 15, 2001*

The organist was Marilyn Kriegel and vocalists were Janet Pilcher and Mary Kate Pilcher. Special Selections were "On Eagle's Wings," "Amazing Grace," "You are Mine," "This Day in New Jerusalem" and "How Great Thou Art." Reader was Heather Carter; servers were Cliff Rhoads and Greg Manatt; ushers were Julian DeGeeter and Don Van Ersvelde; and flower attendants were Dean and Becky Roth and Stan and Susie Altemeier.

Honorary casket-bearers were Joseph Max Clayton, Jordan Clayton, Lauren Clayton, Chris Bulson, Kelly Trance, Jessie Snoeberger, Heather Carter, Lynn Marshall, Nikki Clayton, Michelle Clayton and Lindsey Marshall. Casket-bearers were Terry Clayton, Pete Clayton, Justin Clayton, Jimmy Clayton, Lance Marshall, Reed Clayton and Joshua Allen. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Brooklyn, Ia.

Russell Max Clayton was born Aug. 8, 1930, son of Walter R. and Hazel Hall Clayton in Brooklyn, Ia. He was raised on a farm northwest of Brooklyn until he joined the Marines in 1948. When his father died, he was given an early discharge to help on the family farm.

Max and his high school sweetheart, Marilyn Ann (Annie) Manatt, were joined in Holy Matrimony on May 10, 1950 at St. Patrick's in Brooklyn. This turned out to be a lifetime commitment of love, lasting 50 years.

Max worked construction most of his life, as a concrete paving foreman for Manatt's of Brooklyn, and as a pole builder, concrete foreman and supervisor for Morton Buildings in Chariton, Ia.

He owned Blue Max CB and Guns, a business he operated out of his home. He enjoyed CB radios, hunting, fishing, camping and tinkering in his wood shop making signs and "stuff." Max always had a big garden, enjoyed working in his yard, and recently became an amateur greeting card maker on his computer.

He had a love of music. In years past, you could find him picking out a tune of his own invention on his piano. More recently, you could find Max enjoying bluegrass music at an occasional jamboree.

Even in retirement he would stay busy with a project of his own or just helping one of his neighbors. The problem was he thought everyone was his neighbor. Max always had a sense of humor. Most people in Brooklyn can recall an encounter with the "critter," or a funny sign in the yard wanting to rent a nonexistent mushroom dog, or the cows grazing in the front yard.

There was no such thing as a stranger in his life. A common practice in the Clayton household was to share meals with just about anyone who happened along at supper time. Strangers stranded in a snow storm would spend a couple of days in the Clayton home, become lifelong friends and would stop to visit whenever they traveled through the area. Neighbors and relatives always found a warm meal and a kind visit in their time of need.

He is survived by his wife Marilyn and their family: Russell M. Clayton Jr. "Rusty" and wife Jeanne of Brooklyn; Jody and wife Carol of Liberty, Mo.; Jim and wife Sandy of Brooklyn; Kathaleen and husband Jim Snoeberger of Rockfield, In.; Joel and wife Judy of Albia, Ia.; Annette and husband Carl Marshall of Chariton, Ia.; eighteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A sister Norma and husband Jack Hicks of Marion, Ia. also survive.

He was preceded in death by sisters Marjorie, Joan, Phyllis, a brother Bill, and a daughter, Mari Lynn.

BC January 27, 2001