

LaVerne Raffety

The son of Samuel and Jeanie Brierley, LaVerne was born June 18, 1900, in Grinnell, where he was reared and received his education. He was a 1918 graduate of Grinnell High school and a 1922 graduate of Grinnell College. He later received his Master of Art's degree from the University of Iowa. He was a coach, principal, and superintendent in the Brooklyn School System from 1922 through 1929.

He was married to Iness Straight July 25, 1926, at her parent's home near Bedford. The couple made their home in Brooklyn before moving to a farm northwest of Grinnell in 1930. He had been a resident of Mayflower since 1982. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church and the Kiwanis Club, and a long-time member of the Fort-nightly Club. He served as Grinnell Hospital director and Poweshiek Mutual director and class agent for the Grinnell College Class of 1922.

LaVerne was a man of integrity and held a firm belief in the value of an education. He was a farmer, teacher, and "one who knew his Lord". He was a wonderful father-figure, who was very family oriented.

He is survived by his children, Maynard of Grinnell, Seymour of LaCrosse, Wis., Carolyn Kautson of Maple Grove, Minn., Howard of Grinnell, and Donald of Milwaukee, Wis., 16 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

LaVerne died Nov. 12, 1995, at the Mayflower Health Care Center, at the age of 95. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, on July 15, 1969, his brother, Stanley, and two sisters, Lois Greenwald and Ruth Raffety.

Funeral was Nov. 16 at First Baptist Church, Grinnell, with Rev. Tim Stewart, pastor, officiating.

Music was by Denise Baustian, organist; John Knutson, pianist; Milton Severe, soloist, who performed: "I Will Arise" acappella solo, "Intermezzo" by Brahms piano solo. Congregation hymns were: "When Morning Gilds the Sky", and "Softly and Tenderly".

Pall bearers were: Charlie Knutson, Mike Raffety, John Knutson, David Raffety, Jerrett Raffety, Janet Fort, Sara Peck, Megan Veldboom. Honorary pall bearers were: Carla Pence, Marilyn Kennett, Helen Rieland, Linda Kiehne, Kathryn Knutson, Michelle Raffety, Lisa Raffety, Lisa Raffety and Shauna Raffety. Interment was at Hazelwood Cemetery, Grinnell.

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LaVerne E. Raffety, 95, died Sunday, Nov. 12, at the Mayflower Health Care Center.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday at the First Baptist Church, with the Rev. Tim Stewart officiating. Music was provided by organist Denise Baustian, pianist John Knutson and soloist Milton Severe.

Pallbearers were Charlie Knutson, Mike Raffety, John Knutson, David Raffety, Jerrett Raffety, Janet Fort, Sara Peck and Megan Veldboom. Honorary bearers were Carla Pence, Marilyn Kennett, Helen Rieland, Linda Kiehne, Kathryn Knutson, Michelle Raffety, Lisa Raffety and Shauna Raffety.

Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery, with the Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

The son of Samuel and Jennie Brierley Raffety, he was born June 18, 1900, in Grinnell, where he was raised and received his education. He was a 1918 graduate of Grinnell High School and a 1922 graduate of Grinnell College. He later received his M.A. degree from the University of Iowa.

Mr. Raffety was a coach, principal and superintendent in the Brooklyn school system from 1922 through 1929.

He was married to Iness Straight July 25, 1926, at her parents' home near Bedford. The couple lived in Brooklyn before moving to a farm northwest of Grinnell in 1930. Mr. Raffety had been a resident of the Mayflower since 1982.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church, the Kiwanis Club and the Fortnightly Club. He served on the hospital and Poweshiek Mutual boards of directors and was class agent for the Grinnell College Class of 1922.

Surviving are his children, Maynard of Grinnell, Seymour of LaCrosse, Wis., Carolyn Knutson of Maple Grove, Minn., Howard of Grinnell and Donald of Milwaukee, Wis.; 16 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; one brother, Stanley; and two sisters, Lois Greenwald and Ruth Raffety.