

Obituary
Wayne W. Yokel

Wayne William Yokel, of Friend was born on May 17, 1931 in Lincoln Nebraska to William and Eunice (Aitken) Yokel and peacefully entered heaven's gates on September 29, 2007 in Friend at the age of 76 years 4 months and 12 days. As a young boy, Wayne attended Friend Public School and graduated with the class of 1949 and furthered his education at Doane College graduating in 1953. On December 1, 1957, Wayne was united in marriage to Doris Lewis and they have lived in Friend all their married life. To this union, the couple was blessed with four children: Sarah, Diane, William and Jana.

In 1920 Wayne's grandfather, John founded what became a family business – Yokel's Hardware and Furniture. Wayne began a long career with the store in 1954 and after their marriage he and Doris continued to run the store. As a Maytag dealer for many years, Wayne was known as "Friend's Old Lonely". Wayne was a dedicated son, husband, father and grandfather. He always enjoyed his grandchildren's activities. In July, 2007, the Yokel's celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the United Church of Christ with over 350 family and friends in attendance.

He always enjoyed the high school alumni gatherings recalling good times and fond memories. As a member of the Doane Alumni Council, he enjoyed his continued association with fellow alumni as they lived in the motto "We Build On Christ". Over the years, Wayne always appreciated his association with Doane and encouraged young people to consider Doane College as their home. Wayne was honored to receive the Doane Builders Award in May 2007.

Wayne was a lifetime member of the United Church of Christ serving his church on many committees, leading a variety of activities and received his 50-year pin. He spent many years serving his hometown and community beginning with a charter membership in the Friend Jaycees, then continuing with Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Friend Public School Board of Education for 31 years, Friend Country Club Association and the Friend Masonic Lodge #73AF&AM, Scottish Rite and Shrine, and was also a member of Order of Eastern Star Rose Standish Chapter #265.

He was a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge and Scottish Rite and was the current holder of the Jordan Medal. He received the Friend Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" award and the Friend Rotary Club "Business of the Year" award. Wayne also was involved in the restoration of the Warren Opera House; Wayne is survived by his loving wife, Doris, son and daughter-in-law, William "Will" and Sherryl Yokel, Friend, daughters and son-in-law, Sarah Yokel, Friend, Diane and husband Michael Lewis, Des Moines, Iowa, Jana Yokel, David City, six grandchildren, Andrew, Jonathan, Peter and Katherine Lewis, Des Moines, Iowa, Emily and William Yokel, Friend, and granddog "Oscar", sister and brother-in-law, Marian and Larry Sims, Lincoln, brother-in-law, Standley Lewis, many nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, William and Eunice Yokel.

A Funeral Service was held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3, 2007, at the United Church of Christ with Rev's. Timothy and Virginia Adams officiating, assisted by

Fr. David Bourek. Interment was in Andrew Cemetery. Masonic Lodge rites by the Friend Lodge. Memorials to establish a Yokel Scholarship fund at Friend Public School.

Visitation

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. with family greeting relatives and friends from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - noon at Lauber-Moore Funeral Home, Friend and one hour prior to services at church.