

## Obituaries

Minneapolis Star and Tribune  
Saturday, July 5, 1986

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# Bernard Carlson dies at 73; served 7 terms in Legislature

Bernard O. (Bernie) Carlson, 73, former DFL state representative from Cloquet, Minn., died Wednesday at the Cloquet Community Memorial Hospital after a heart attack.

Carlson was chairman of the Carlton County DFL Party when Lawrence Yetka, now a Minnesota Supreme Court justice, returned to Cloquet after law school to practice law in 1949. "He was one of my first supporters when I ran for the Legislature the next year, 1950," Yetka said. "I was able to return the favor when I retired and he took my place."

The DFL organization Carlson helped build placed Carlton County among the top counties in the state for percentage of DFL voter majorities, Yetka said. "As a result, this little county, with 30,000 people, was courted by governors and congressmen ... even presidents."

When Yetka announced he would not seek reelection in 1960, Carlson filed to take his place as 54th district representative. He was elected by a wide margin and served seven terms.

Freeman Johansen, acting mayor of Cloquet, said Carlson "was hesitant to get into that race ... We worked on him for about 15 hours before he'd take the job. Bernie was a real

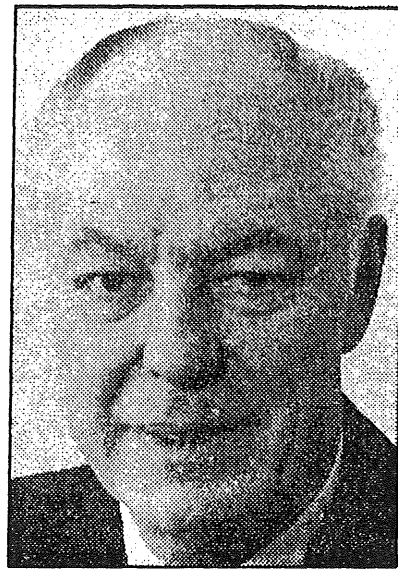
strong leader and commanded a lot of respect. He believed in what he did and he got a lot of following."

During his tenure with the Legislature, Carlson helped establish a pension system for Cloquet firefighters and police officers and sponsored legislation for a water line from Lake Superior to Cloquet that helped keep the paper industry in Cloquet. He also was chairman of the House Transportation Committee his last two years in office.

Carlson, a lifelong Cloquet resident, worked as a welder at Northwest Paper Co. (later Potlatch Corp.) and in civic and labor activities. He was a member of the Cloquet school board from 1948 to 1960; a director of the Cloquet Community Memorial Hospital; an organizer and member of Cloquet's labor-clergy council, and president of the AFL-CIO Firemen and Oilers Local 939 for eight years.

Carlson retired in 1975. He later was appointed to the Federal Housing Commission by Gov. Wendell Anderson and campaigned for Eighth District Congressman James Oberstar, D-Minn. He enjoyed golfing, did carpentry work and spent time at his cabin on Prairie Lake.

He is survived by his second wife, June; a son, Gary, of Cloquet; step-



**Bernard Carlson**

sons Scott and Sean Bakken of Cloquet and Philip Bakken of Virginia, Minn.; a daughter, Gail Ministo of Cloquet; stepdaughters Susan Bakken of Madera, Calif., and Patricia Bakken of Cloquet; a brother, Melvin of Cloquet; four grandchildren, and four step-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. today at the Bethany Evangelical Covenant Church in Cloquet.