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## Obituaries

# Ralph Jopp, 81, dies; was voice for agriculture in the Minnesota House

Ralph Jopp, a former Minnesota legislator who represented Carver County for 16 years, died Saturday.

Jopp, 81, of Hollywood Township, was best known as a voice for agriculture in the Minnesota House, where he served from 1960 to 1976. A dairy farmer before becoming a legislator, he headed the House subcommittee on the use of agricultural land in the metropolitan area.

Jopp worked to balance the interests of farmers in the outlying metro areas with industrial and residential growth, said his successor, former Rep. K.J. McDonald.

"He authored 132 bills that became law," said Jopp's daughter, Bonnie Eberle, of New Germany. "He was on many committees. He chaired the Co-ops and Marketing Committee, the Towns and Counties Committees, the Metropolitan and Urban Affairs Committee."

Jopp also was known for the exotic birds, waterfowl, buffalo and the hundreds of varieties of flowers that he cultivated on his farm in Hollywood Township in Carver County. He cultivated ornamental shrubs, more than 30 varieties of rose bushes, highbred irises, peonies and many other ornamental plants.

"Busloads of people — school kids, senior citizen groups — would come to the farm," Eberle said. "He was well-known for his flowers."

Jopp was the director of the Carver County Fair Association during the 1950s and was the superintendent of the horticulture division at the fair for many years, Eberle said. He was a member of the Minnesota Dahlia Association and Texas Longhorn Association for years, she said.

In addition, Jopp and his wife were long active in the St. John Lutheran Church of Hollywood. He was chairman of the congregation for 20 years,



**Ralph Jopp in a 1975 photo**

Eberle said.

Besides his daughter, Jopp is survived by his wife, Clara, and sons Terry, of Winsted, and Keith, of Cheney, Kan.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at St. John Lutheran Church in Hollywood Township. Visitation will be at 4 p.m. Monday at Johnson Funeral Home in Waconia and at the church before the service. A chapel service will be held Monday at 8 p.m.