

Obituaries

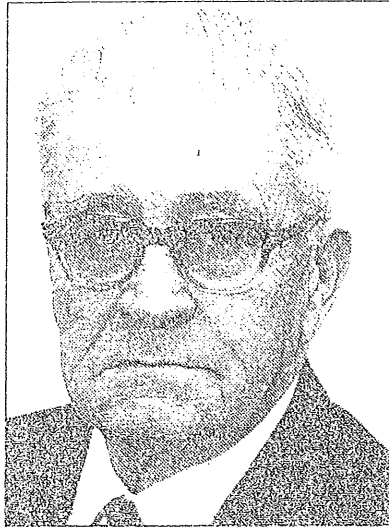
Former agriculture leader, state senator Ernest Anderson dies

Ernest J. Anderson, 89, a former state senator from Frost who served in the Minnesota Legislature for nearly 20 years, died Monday at St. Luke's Lutheran Home in Blue Earth, Minn.

Anderson spent most of his life on a 160-acre farm just north of the Minnesota-Iowa border in Faribault County that his grandfather, Jeff Anderson, homesteaded in 1860. He graduated from high school in Brice-lyn, Minn.

"Community service led him into the Legislature," said his son, Larry, of Frost. "Then it was a natural extension of community service."

He was elected to the Senate in 1954 and reelected in 1958, 1962, 1966 and 1970. He retired after the 1973 session. At that time the Legislature was nonpartisan by law. Republicans called themselves the Conservative caucus and DFLers were the Liberal caucus. Anderson caucused with the Conservatives, "but not to the extent of retarding progress," he wrote in his campaign literature. He knew firsthand the problems of southern Minnesota, and Faribault County in particular, and made agriculture one



Former state Sen. Ernest Anderson, in 1968 photo.

of his priorities. "He was a rural person with strong ties to the land," his son said.

He was chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee during his last term and was chairman of the Labor Committee for many years. He also

served on interim commissions that studied juvenile delinquency and adult crime and employee-employer relations.

Anderson was a 20-year member and past president of the Frost school board. He was a director of the Frost Co-op Creamery Board, the Faribault County Co-op Oil Co., the Minnesota Farmers Elevator Association and other local groups.

He had lived in an apartment attached to the original farmhouse near Frost for the past 15 years. "Our kids are the fifth generation in the same house," Larry Anderson said Tuesday.

Anderson's wife, Olive, died in 1970. Besides his son Larry, he is survived by another son, James, of Cold-spring, Texas; a daughter, Marilynn Martinson, of Edina, and seven grandchildren. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the United Lutheran Church in Frost. Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the Patton Funeral Home in Blue Earth. Memorials to the church or its cemetery are suggested.