

Obituaries

Former legislator Sam Franz dies

Sam M. Franz, 95, a former state representative from Mountain Lake who was an advocate of Minnesota conservation efforts, died Sunday at the Good Samaritan Village in Mountain Lake.

Franz was elected to represent Cottonwood County in southwestern Minnesota in 1952. He caucused with the Liberals, at a time when state law made the Legislature officially nonpartisan. DFLers belonged to the Liberal caucus and Republicans to the Conservative caucus. Franz was chairman of the Drainage and Soil Conservation Committee and sponsored a bill establishing an agricultural experiment station in Lamberton.

He was well known for successfully backing a bill that required pheasant hunters to get farmers' permission before hunting on their land.

During his 10 years in the House he also was chairman of the Agriculture Committee and its Appropriations Subcommittee. He was a member of committees on dairy products and livestock; cooperatives and marketing; elections; public institutions, and rules and towns and counties.

Franz was born in Midway Township in Cottonwood County. He attended a country school near his home and later attended the University of Minnesota for two years. He married Evelyn Janssen, of Mountain Lake, in 1920. They farmed about 475

acres until the mid-1960s. They moved to Good Samaritan Village last year.

He was president of the Cottonwood County Farm Bureau for 12 years; an organizer and member of the board of the Cottonwood County Soil Conservation District; vice president of the South Central Electric Association in St. James, and director of Midland Cooperative from 1947 to 1972.

He was chairman of the board of School District 33 for 10 years; a member of the Cottonwood County Fair Board; president of the Cottonwood County National Farm Loan Association; secretary of the Superior Seed Growers Association of Moun-

tain Lake, and past president of the Southwest Minnesota Crop Improvement Association.

He is survived by his wife; daughters Doris Heins, of Rochester, Minn., and Phyllis Mattson, of Two Harbors, Minn.; sons Martin (Bud), of Mountain Lake, and Stephen, of Richardson, Texas; a brother, Ferdinand, of Camarillo, Calif.; 17 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Bethel Mennonite Church in Mountain Lake. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today and from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Eifert Funeral Home in Mountain Lake.