

Joe Frank Hafner, 100, of Carrington, formally Sykeston, was welcomed into the kingdom of heaven on October 21st, 2019, at CHI St. Alexius in Carrington.

Joe was born on July 17, 1919, on the family farm, located twelve miles south of Sykeston, to Nick and Elizabeth (Tischler) Hafner. His parents paid the doctor, who rode out on a horse and buggy, with a rooster for the delivery fee. Joe's mother Elizabeth died when he was only three years old. Joe only spoke German for the first few years of country school. He then attended the catholic school from third to eighth grade. When Joe turned sixteen, he served in the Civilian Conservation Corps, located in Mohall, ND running a bulldozer for \$30.00 per month, which he sent \$15.00 of that back home to his family.

He married the love of his life, Margie Lukenbach, on October 8, 1941. They had two children, Gary and Sheila. While living on their farm, they raised polled Hereford cattle, milked cows, and farmed many grain crops. In 1985, they moved into Sykeston. Joe was a longtime member of St. Joseph's Society, the city council, park, township, and housing boards.

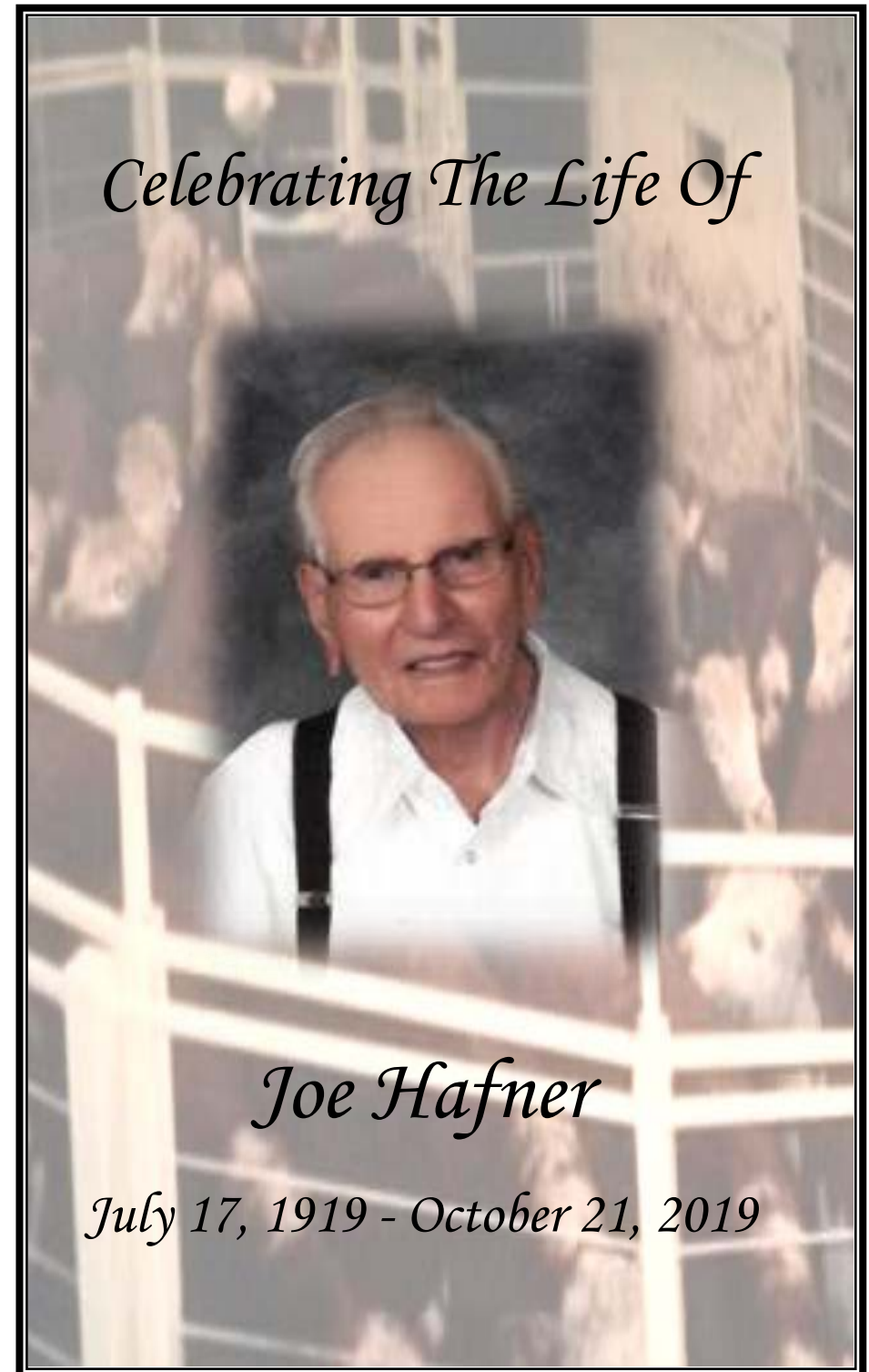
If ever anyone in the community needed a helping hand, you could always count on him to be there, and was never too busy to spend time with his family and friends. He rarely missed an evening bike ride, and you could always find him in his immaculate garden. He was known for his gardening green thumb, and thoroughly enjoyed sharing the fruits of his labor with his family and friends.

Joe and Margie spent fifty-one wonderful years together, until Margie passed on in January of 1993. He continued to plant flowers in her pots and kept everything just as she left it, until he moved into Golden Acres Manor in 2002. Joe had spent 12 ½ years there, and had become a deeply loved resident and helper up until his passing.

Most importantly, Joe was a strong and mighty tower of the Christian faith. One could always find him with his rosary in hand, at a church service, or saying daily prayers for his family and friends. He was a man with a heart of gold and great faith, and made it well known to all that knew him, how patiently he was waiting to be taken to heaven. He had to wait 100 years, but his prayers were finally answered, and we all rejoice with Joe, that he was finally able to meet Jesus.

Joe is survived by his daughter, Sheila (special friend Lee) and daughter-in-law, Gloria. His grandchildren; Tammy (Mike) Stevens, Todd (Missy) Hafner, Bobby (Sharon) Hoyt, Shannon (Brenda) Hoyt, Valerie (Daren) Eli, Ryan (Mandy) Hoyt, and Cody (Shian) Hoyt; twenty-two great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren, a special niece Dianna (Jim) Heidinger, Bev Hafner, as well as a special great nephew Troy (Connie) Hafner and Travis Hafner.

Joe was welcomed into heaven by his wife, son Gary, sisters Gloria and Rosemary, brother John and his wife Mary Jane, his parents, son-in-law Vernon, his grandson Cory and his wife Rhonda, special nephew Terry, and many other relatives and friends.



Celebrating The Life Of

Joe Hafner

July 17, 1919 - October 21, 2019

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board." So God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours." So God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place. So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark. It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church.

"Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'" So God made a farmer.

In Loving Memory of

Joe Frank Hafner

July 17, 1919 - rural Sykeston, ND

October 21, 2019 - Carrington, ND

ROSARY/ VIGIL SERVICE

Sunday, October 27, 2019 ~ 6:45PM
Evans Funeral Home, Carrington, ND

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Monday, October 28, 2019 ~ 10:30AM
St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, Sykeston, ND

OFFICIATING

Rev. Rick Loewen ~ Prayer Service
Father Pfau ~ Mass of Christian Burial Service

SPECIAL MUSIC

Celebration Singers
Todd Hafner ~ Soloist

CASKET BEARERS

Bobby Hoyt ~ Shannon Hoyt ~ Ryan Hoyt
Cody Hoyt ~ Todd Hafner ~ Troy Hafner

HONORARY BEARERS

Joe's Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, & Great-Great-Grandchildren

BURIAL

St. Elizabeth's Catholic Cemetery
Sykeston, ND

Arrangements by

Evans Funeral Home - Carrington & New Rockford, ND

www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com