This is your life Norman Herbert Storlie

Norman was born in Blackhammer on April 16,1919 to Alfred and Lena Storlie. He was one of 11 brothers and sisters and he was 7th in the order. He attend school at the Rauk School, District 69, which was just down the road from their farm and was close enough to the farm they could go home for their noon meal. He helped on the farm growing up. The family made and sold delicious Sorghum and the family also operated a saw mill, which was created by using a Packard car engine and various other parts.

Norman began his carpentry career by working for the Spring Grove Lumber Company.

On February 1,1942, Norman was drafted and entered the army and was assigned to the Army Air Corp. For 3 ½ years he worked as a member of the ground crew on B-25's and A-20 medium bombers. He first worked as a ground crew member and later became a Crew Chief. On March 19,1942, he boarded the USAT Mariposa (a luxury liner fitted for troop transport) at Angel Island in San Francisco Bay and arrived in Melbourne, Australia on April 8th. He then traveled by troop train to Charters Towers in North Eastern Australia and on to New Guinea, The Philippines, and ended up in Okinawa as the war ended. He came home on a slow Liberty Ship. Norman's rank was as a Staff Sergeant.

After returning from the war, he helped his family build the large barn on the family farm.

Norman married Alma Burmester in 1951. Shortly after they were married, they built their house on 3rd St. NE and lived there since 1953. They have 3 children: Carol and Gerald Geving who live in Mabel; they have 4 children, 14 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Craig and Jill Knueppel who live in Atlanta, Georgia and Diane and Dave Lorenz, from Elk River, Minnesota who have 2 daughters. Alma died in 2010 and in the fall of 2012, Norman moved to Spring Grove Assisted Living and in January 2014, he moved to Tweeten Lutheran Health Care. Family holidays and gathering were commonly held at the Geving home in Mabel. It was a fun, large group when we are all together and never a shortage of food, activities, laughter and fun.

In the early years of his marriage, Norman worked with Clarence Bjorlo and co-owned a furniture and flooring store with him in Spring Grove. Norman installed tile and linoleum flooring and Clarence installed carpeting.

Norman is well known for being a carpenter.. He was extremely creative, crafty and skilled in the work he did with wood. An artist with wood.... He has built barns, houses, did remodeling, added additions, turned and old barn into a house and fixed, repaired and turned something old into something new. Over the years, he has worked in and on so many places in our community, in one way or another. It was fun to drive around town and through the countryside and he would point out the places he built, remodeled or worked on in some way. His basement was his workshop and after a full day of work, it was common for him to be 'putzing' or working in the basement on another project or building the cabinets for the house he was building. Hearing the sound of a power saw or tool was a common occurrence. His attention to detail was the key to the beauty of the work that he did. He had the ability to build from scratch, create, fix, restore and make something that was old into something new and beautiful again.

He was inventive and creative. Norman was always curious about how thing worked and he could fix almost anything. He made a lawn tractor out of parts from various engines and machines. He made a boat from the top of a hearse and a family sawmill from a Packard car engine. When something needed fixing or repair, he had the knack to quietly identify what the issues were and make the needed repairs to return it to the original state or make improvements to make it work or look better.

Norman was helpful and generous...he served on church boards, was a member of Legion Post #249, a 50 year member of the Sons of Norway and a member of community organizations throughout the years. When Norman's brother Irvin and his wife Erna had a baby in 1952, Erna tragically died after giving birth. Norman and Alma helped Irvin by taking the baby (Leighton) home from the hospital to care for. Leighton was a part of our family and household for many years during the early years of his life.

Other Fun Stuff:

1. Dancing- Norman and Alma met at a dance and continued to enjoy dancing throughout their married years. Together, they were smooth on the dance floor, enjoying the waltz, fox trot and two-step at dance halls and at special events. It was fun to see them glide across the dance floor.

2 Trail rides- With horse and wagons to Yucatan, Riceford and other destination Going with Enoh and Lila Anderson and Kenny and Winefred Buxengard and with Ray Sweeny (from Waukon). This group would also get together to also do some old time threshing with their horses.

1. Fishing- Years ago, he made a boat out of the top of a hearse to start the journey with the river. This progressed to owning a boat house on the Mississippi and after that, his enjoyment and talent for fishing continued by fishing off the shores of Brownsville with friends.
2. Gardening - At one time, there were three large vegetable gardens that produced great vegetables and fruits. Norman, in the more recent years has helped a grandson pull his garden's weeds when he no longer had a garden of his own.
3. Auction Sales - Norman enjoyed going to auction sales and would often find a few new /old treasures. Sometimes they may need a bit of repair. If they were made from wood, he would strip off the finish and repair the damage; including legs and ornate details and would refinish it and it would look like new.
4. Travel - Norman and Alma liked to travel and also did many bus trips; Niagra Falls, Washington, D.C., Branson, Missouri, and many army reunions at various cities. They made frequent trips to see Diane and her family in Elk River and also many trips to see Craig and Jill in Colorado, Texas and Atlanta. They also made multiple road trips with Irvin and Clarice to visit Irvin's son (nephew) Leighton and his family in Colorado.
5. Freedom Honor Flight - In June of 2009, Norman participated in one of the Freedom Honor Flight., A one day flight from LaCrosse to Washington, D.C. for about 160 WWII veterans to see the WWII memorial and other historic monuments in Washington. Others from Spring Grove that went on this flight were, Mervin Dvergsten, Morris Tweeten, Milford Landsom and Junior Wirth. Also, on the trip was Norman's daughter Diane, and Mervin's daughter Beth. It was a very full day, leaving Spring Grove by 4:00 a.m., arriving in Washington, D.C. by 9:00 a.m., loading buses to get to the monuments, visiting multiple monuments and sites and then returning home that same day, arriving in LaCrosse about 11:30 p.m.to a huge 'welcome home' crowd. A very memorable day for everyone.
6. Lefse making and flatbread making- An annual task done by Alma and Norman together and recently, he continued to run the grill, if lefse making was attempted.
7. Visiting Planes - In July 2013, the Big Bombers, from WWII made visits to the area. In July 2013, Norman went with Diane and Dave and saw a P-51, B-24J and a B-17 in Blaine, Minnesota and in August, 2013 went with the Assisted Living group to visit and autograph a B-25 in Winona. These are such fun events for everyone and especially magical when the aircraft prepare for takeoff, start their engines, take off and return for the landing. Not sure who had more fun, Norman or those that were with him.
8. Army Memories - Captured by Giants of the Earth. One of the interviews included Norman and Mervin Dvergsten to discuss their WWII experiences. Another interview includes Norman with Craig and adds more WWII travels and details.
9. Norman's Best Friends -the morning coffee guys at Solies .... Plus, Jigs, Pepper, Benson and Murphy, his four legged friends.

Norman was a farmer, crew chief, business owner, carpenter, gardener, traveler, fisherman, lefse maker, husband, father and grandfather. He was an all around, good, kind and generous soul who was always willing to help anyone at anytime with a great wit and a kind sense of humor.

Some may describe Norman as 'quiet' or 'stoic' ....these were his beautiful qualities that provided him with very thoughtful,

meaningful and respectful words....and the lasting wisdom to respect that there are always 'two sides to every situation'.

You have been loved by many and will be missed.

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