

Merlyn Dittberner

October 6, 1927 - January 11, 2020

The funeral service for Merlyn Dittberner of Parkers Prairie will be held at 11:00a.m. on Friday, January 17, at the United Methodist Church in Wrightstown with Pastor Mark Bateson presiding.

Visitation will be held on Thursday at the Domian-Anderson Chapel in Bertha 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. and will resume at the church on Friday one hour prior to the service.

Merlyn, age 92, passed away on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at Tri-County Health Care Hospital, Wadena, MN.

Merlyn "Merle" Allan Dittberner was born to William and Anna (Holt) Dittberner on October 6, 1927, near Parkers Prairie, MN. Merle lived his entire life in southeast Otter Tail County, the last 70+ years in Woodside Township until his passing.

Merle and Jacquelin "Jackie" McKellep married on October 24, 1948, eloping in the Fargo-Moorhead area. They returned to Woodside and soon started their own small beef and crop farm which is going yet in 2020. Merle supplemented that small farm income with several decades mowing road ditches for OTC, starting with a two horse team and mower. He served his neighborhood as Woodside Cemetery sexton for 46 years and also as a

township board officer.

Whether with family or friends, Merle always found time to visit. He had lasting friendships with people from Nimrod to Ashby, Osakis to Ottertail, and all points in between. If those visits include horse talk or playing cards he was happier yet. Merle was a yearly deer hunter, in younger years an excellent water skier, and loved going to the Huntersville Trail Ride each fall. Polka music and dancing were high on his list, as was completing another Sudoku puzzle book.

Merle lived and survived by his own terms: using horses rather than tractors to farm when he could, never bought a new car or machine, stayed away from bank loans, had no credit cards, and never used the internet, but was always happy and content throughout his long life.

A middle child, Merle was preceded in death by his brother Ralph and sister lone Frandle, and also grandson Travis Dittberner.

He will be greatly missed by his wife Jackie of 71+ years, son Kenneth (Lynette) from Hinckley, daughter Dawn (Gene) Captain in Bertha, and son John (Rhonda) of rural Parkers Prairie, 7 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Serving as pallbearers will be Merle's grandchildren.

Close friend, Dave Kaste and his horse-drawn wagon will bring Merlyn to Woodside Cemetery, near Wrightstown, MN for burial.

Cemetery Details

Woodside Cemetery (Wrightstown)

Woodside Cemetery
Parkers Prairie / Hewitt, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 16. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Domian-Anderson Chapel
309 2nd Avenue NW
Bertha, MN 56437
(218) 924-4000

Visitation

JAN 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church - Wrightstown
21494 Church Road
Hewitt, MN 56453

Service

JAN 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church - Wrightstown
21494 Church Road
Hewitt, MN 56453

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - January 14, 2020 at 08:58 PM

IN



Irene Ritchie, Great niece - January 15, 2020 at 01:09 AM

RM

Robert & Maria Miner

Robert Miner - January 15, 2020 at 01:06 PM

ML

*Mike's old freind.
Will miss him....*

Mike lesnau - January 15, 2020 at 10:40 PM

SS

I am so sorry for your loss he will be missed from the the Shamp family

Sandy Snook - January 16, 2020 at 12:28 AM

TB

“ Tom And Joan Brauch lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner



Tom and Joan Brauch - January 19, 2020 at 04:08 AM

AL

“ Jackie you & your family are in my prayer & thought during this time. Take care of your self. A friend Arliss Lovelace

Arliss Lovelace - January 16, 2020 at 09:01 PM

LB

“ Loren & Kathy Buchholz lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner



loren & kathy Buchholz - January 16, 2020 at 07:56 PM

VB

“ My favorite memory of Meryl was when Ken, my good friend, Meryl, and I, put out a large grassfire! I went home with Ken, on the bus, Bill Carey was driving the bus and I was going to be staying overnight with Ken, Dawn, Jackie and Meryl. We were in first grade, with Mrs. Captain, another favorite person of mine. Ken, and I, went down to a neighboring, vacant, farm setting, about a mile from Meryl and Jackie’s home. I don’t remember who had been living there but the house had lots of kitchen utensils, plates, pots and pans, etc. The area around the setting was fenced in and had been used, was being used, to pasture cattle. As we explored the house, one of us found some matches. We went back outside. We had noticed that there was a 2 to 3-foot stand of dead grass surrounding each cow pie! Those stands of dead grass were very flammable! We would light one of those grassy stands on fire, go back into the house to do more exploring....for about 30 seconds, come back out and make sure the fire had gone out. It always just went out.....except one! Our cow pie fire had spread 8 to 10 feet and it was windy enough to feed the flames. I don’t think we panicked but we set out to put an end to the fire. I had a blue jean jacket that I had worn to school. I took it off and used it to beat the flames. Ken went to the front of the fire line. A 15 to 20 foot fire line had developed and you were rolling along the edge of the fire! Your dad must have noticed our dilemma. I don’t remember what he did but we got the fire out. I like to think that Meryl just drove up as we successfully put out the fire but, chances are, Meryl helped us....big time! My next worry was what would my dad say when he found out from your dad, that we had been playing with matches and that the fire had gotten away from us! All of my worry was unnecessary as Meryl never squealed on me, on us! What a guy! Can you imagine how I must have smelled when I went to the school the next day? It’s surprising no one pulled the fire alarm because the smelled the strong smell of smoke! Meryl was one of my first heroes! He, and his wife, Jackie ,remain heroes for me today! Jackie made many of my very best shirts when I was growing up! Virg B

Virgil Boehland - January 16, 2020 at 01:30 PM

KD

“ *Until I was about 10 or 12 years old, I thought my dad was the smartest man in the world, but then the teenager and young adult phase of life landed and I wasn't that sure he knew much of anything anymore. Lo and behold middle age hit and I realized again how really smart he was. Hopefully some of that wisdom has been rooted in me for the road ahead without him. I am proud to be his son.*
Ken

Ken Dittberner - January 16, 2020 at 09:59 AM

ES

“ *Elvin And Judy Shultz lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*




elvin and judy shultz - January 15, 2020 at 12:34 PM

BP

“ *Barry & Sandi Pratt lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



Barry & Sandi Pratt - January 15, 2020 at 10:05 AM

 **Connie Wells**

“ *He was the best of the best--from Donald Wells*

Connie Wells - January 15, 2020 at 08:18 AM

MM

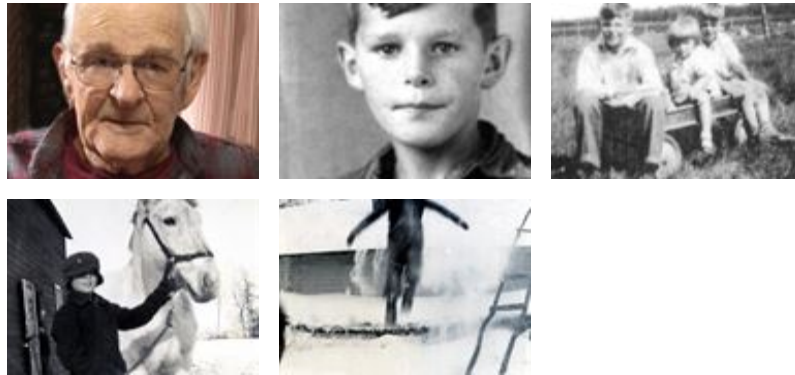
“ Mitch & Kelly Messer lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner



Mitch & Kelly Messer - January 15, 2020 at 06:59 AM



“ 50 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - January 14, 2020 at 08:56 PM

NB

“ Neal Leona Bowman lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner



Neal Leona Bowman - January 14, 2020 at 07:57 PM

BB

“ *Bob Branstner lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



bob branstner - January 14, 2020 at 06:57 PM

PH

“ *John, Rhonda and family,
Thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.
Patsy Holmquist*

Patsy Holmquist - January 14, 2020 at 05:20 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Merlyn Dittberner.*



January 14, 2020 at 04:52 PM

JJ

“ *Jon Johnson lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



Jon Johnson - January 14, 2020 at 04:36 PM

IH

“ *Ida Hennagir lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



Ida Hennagir - January 14, 2020 at 03:37 PM

MG

“ *We lost a great historian when Merle died. His memory was still sharp as a tack. We will miss his stories and words of wisdom. Our sympathy to his entire family.*

Maria Greenwaldt - January 14, 2020 at 03:19 PM

JF

“ *John And Audrey Blashack Family lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



John and Audrey Blashack Family - January 14, 2020 at 01:04 PM

DO

“ *Donna lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



Donna - January 14, 2020 at 12:37 PM

RG

“ *Roland & Ginger Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



Roland & Ginger Gilbert - January 14, 2020 at 12:36 PM

RA

“ *Rita Anderson lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



Rita Anderson - January 14, 2020 at 12:31 PM

TC

“ *Tabitha Captain lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



Tabitha Captain - January 14, 2020 at 12:26 PM

JP

“ *John And Judy Pokorney lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



John and Judy pokorney - January 14, 2020 at 12:20 PM

TO

“ Tina Olson lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner



Tina Olson - January 14, 2020 at 12:07 PM

DP

“ Donavon And Joan Payne lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner



Donavon and Joan Payne - January 14, 2020 at 11:42 AM

DV

“ Dorothy Voge (Bernie Voge) lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner



Dorothy Voge (Bernie Voge) - January 14, 2020 at 11:32 AM

JP

“ Jerry And Kathy Peterson lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner



Jerry and Kathy Peterson - January 14, 2020 at 11:22 AM

DN

“ *Deb Nelson lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



Deb Nelson - January 14, 2020 at 11:22 AM

GK

“ *Gene & Sandy Kapphahn lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Dittberner*



Gene & Sandy Kapphahn - January 14, 2020 at 10:57 AM

WS

“ *Meryl was as honest person as the day was long. Such a nice man with so much history of the area, he will be missed. Hugs & prayers to Jackie, Ken, Dawn, & John & families.*



Wilferd & Shirley - January 14, 2020 at 10:49 AM