

Paul W. “Bill” Schmele

Paul W. “Bill” Schmele, 91, of Belle Fourche died Thursday, July 4, 2024, at Belle Estates Senior Living. Born on October 31, 1932, in Rapid City, SD, to Paul William and Sophia Anna (Karinen) Schmele, Bill attended Horse Creek Elementary School and Newell High School.

Bill married Alice Blackburn on June 8, 1961, and they were blessed with six children: Nadine (Dwight) Sandoz of St. Paul, NE, Carol (Klemen) Vidic of Ljubljana, Slovenia, Mary (Nathan) Johnson of Grand Forks, ND, Joanne (Brian) Wise of Orange City, Iowa, James (Jimmy) Paul Schmele, and Donna Phillips of Grand Forks, ND.

A dedicated and passionate cattle rancher, Bill was renowned for raising registered Hereford bulls and cultivating a distinguished bloodline of Hereford cattle traced back to England. His exceptional knowledge and intuition about cattle earned him national recognition. Bill sold bulls for 75 years and was known for performing much of his own veterinary work, a testament to his deep understanding and care for his animals.

Bill had a profound interest in nature. He enjoyed capturing its beauty through photography and had a special affinity for animals. He loved picking fruit and collecting rocks and was an avid reader until the end of his life. His striking blue eyes reflected his compassion for those in need and positivity throughout life. Bill’s extraordinary talent for whistling, complete with vibrato, provided joy for many, and he found great pleasure in riding horses. Rarely seen without his hat, always worn at a slightly tilted angle, his signature look brought smiles to those around him.

Bill is survived by his beloved sister, June Schmele; his five cherished daughters, nineteen grandchildren, and twenty-nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Robert Koskela, son, Jimmy, and great-grandson, Bridger Johnson.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.



*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and a meal
at the Newell Senior Center, following the committal.
Thank you for your presence and condolences.*



In Loving Memory Of

Paul “Bill” Schmele

October 31, 1932 ~ July 4, 2024

Where Friends Have Lived

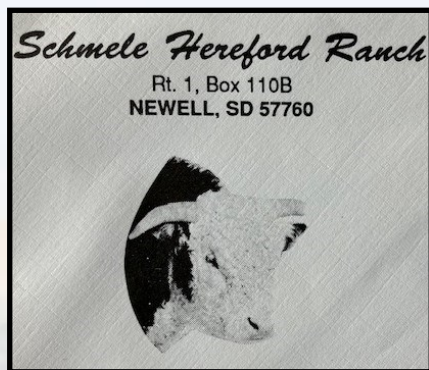
By Prairie Slinger

I baled today where friends have lived
The house was stark and lone.
The lilac bush and other trees
Were thick and overgrown.

Our friend has gone to his long, Home
And he could not longer stay.
For circumstances pointed out
That he must move away.

I had no heart to glean the crops
Or take joy in the land.
For land could not return my smile-
And I missed the friendly hand!

I remembered well the coffee pot
And the "silver" of cake or pie.
And the laughter shared as friend with friend.
And remembering made me cry!



I wept for them, and for myself,
And I guess for all mankind.
For thirty years ago sifting by
And leave us all behind!

The pines trees towered above the field
Belonging to our friend.
And each surrounding hill rang back
That friendships have to end.

Then, tears all spent, I thought again
Of the friendships in Forever
And the Land that's reached by faith in Christ
Where we'll be parted - never!

*- to us all - Son, Daughter & Sister
- alive, & kids
- a reminder - Love, Dad*

In Loving Memory Of Paul W. Schmele

Born

October 31, 1932
Rapid City, South Dakota

Died

July 4, 2024
Belle Fourche, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Dakota Life Christian Center
Newell, South Dakota

Officiants

Nathan Johnson Dwight Sandoz

Musicians

Nadine Sandoz Carol Vidic Mary Johnson
Joanne Wise Donna Phillips

Pallbearers

Joshua Sandoz Bethanie Sandoz Storer
Daniel Sandoz Joel Sandoz Samuel Sandoz
Nathan Sandoz Charitie Sandoz

Steven Johnson Daniel Johnson
Benjamin Johnson

Rebecca Delzer Montoya Gabriel Delzer
Jacob Delzer Jeremiah Delzer

David Vidic Samuel Vidic

Caleb Phillips Carter Phillips
Axel Phillips

Final Resting Place

Hope Cemetery
Newell, South Dakota