

Elmo Wick
(founder of MSFA)

Elmo Harlan Wick, age 84 of Brooten, formerly of Willmar, died Sunday, February 1, 2009, at Minneapolis Good Samaritan Home in Minneapolis. Memorial service was 11 a.m. at Harvey Anderson Funeral Home in Willmar.



Elmo was born on August 27, 1924, in Sunburg, Minnesota, the son of Andrew and Esther (Erickson) Wick. He grew up in Sunburg where he attended school. He was united in marriage to Melba Gunderson September 12, 1945, in Sunburg. The couple moved to Willmar in 1947, where Elmo worked for the Kandiyohi County Highway Department as a heavy equipment operator for 37 years.

He retired in 1983 and moved to Brooten, Minnesota, in 1985. Melba died on December 5, 2002. Elmo was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and was a member of Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar and Trinity Lutheran Church in Brooten. Elmo loved music and played the violin his whole life. He started playing with Morris Chargo at KWLM Radio on a weekly show. He later played with Harry Forsman Band and the Norskies Band.

He entertained in later years at various senior citizens clubs and numerous functions in the surrounding area. He also taught violin and played in fiddlers contests throughout the state. He belonged to the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America and the Minnesota State Fiddlers Association.

He is survived by his children: Maggie (and Mel) Bonnema of New London, Ellery (and Jenny) Wick of Red Wing, Douglas Wick of St. Cloud, Rosanne (and Steve) Shinnick of Murdock, Bruce Wick of Hutchinson, Karen (and Ron) Johnson of St. Cloud, Julie Wick of Brooten, Steve Wick of Willmar; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; sister Corinne Baur of Minneapolis. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents and son Paul in 1997.