

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Roelofs,
Harritt E. - Represented Lyon, O'Brien, Cass and Sioux Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 6 June 1900 Prinsburg, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota

2. Marriage (s) date place
Henrietta Reysberg 1921 Grand Rapids, Michigan

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Founder of the Sioux Center News, newspaper of Sioux Center, Iowa

B. Civic responsibilities American Legion

C. Profession Editor; educator

4. Church membership Christian Reformed Church

5. Sessions served 45th, 46th General Assemblies 1933, 1935

6. Public Offices

A. Local _____

B. State First Director of Iowa's Unemployment Compensation Commission

C. National Joined the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1938 as a regional information officer

7. Death 21 Nov 1976 Grand Rapids, Michigan

8. Children Hollis Arnold; Rodman Elmer

9. Names of parents Evert James and Jessie (de Wried) Roelofs

10. Education He attended country school

11. Degrees He attended Calvin Preparatory School in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1916. attended Calvin College in 1921, attended University of Minnesota in 1919 and University of Michigan in 1922

12. Other applicable information Republican

- After World War II he was a civilian consultant in Japan on General Douglas MacArthur's staff

- He also was the public affairs officer at the U. S. Embassy in Tokyo before joining the Agency for International Development as an agricultural advisor in Bogota, Colombia.

- He was the principal of the Christian grammar school at Edgerton, Minnesota for 2 years, taught English Literature for one year at Christian High School in Holland, Michigan, taught history at Western Academy, Hull, Iowa for 8 years the last 4 years as headmaster.

- In 1930 he became joint publisher and editor of the Scout Center News, Scout Center, Iowa

Roe/ofs, Barritt E

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- <i>Obituary</i>			<i>- The Des Moines Register, Des Moines, Iowa, Inss. Nov. 23, 1976, p. 7B, col. 6</i>
			<i>Iowa Official Register 1935-1936, p. 135</i>
- <i>Obituary</i>			<i>- The Simple Center News, Simpleton, Iowa Thrs. Dec. 1, 1976, p. 2, col. 1</i>
- <i>ancestry.com</i>			<i>(accessed 24 Oct 2010)</i>

School board's \$213,000 lost for 4 months

By PAUL LEAVITT

Register Staff Writer

Two checks — totaling \$213,000 and intended for the South Hamilton Community School District — were not cashed for four months because they were misplaced by a school official, State Auditor Lloyd Smith said Monday.

The checks, representing the school district's share of property tax payments, were mailed by the Hamilton County treasurer to Dr. L. Z. Lindemann, who was the president of the School Board at that time.

"I just got mislaid," Lindemann said Monday, explaining the checks were "in a pile of third-class mail and magazines" he had not gone through in his home library.

Smith said the checks were issued last May but weren't cashed until Sept. 17.

Lindemann said the checks were found Sept. 14 and he notified the School Board the next day. He said his wife "was going through some papers in our library... and found an unopened envelope" containing the checks.

Lindemann, who did not seek reelection in September, said he apologized and suggested the school district implement an account control measure to help detect similar foul-ups in the future.

Lindemann said he resents the fact that some people have implied dishonesty on his part. The county treasurer should have contacted the School Board when the checks weren't cashed, Lindemann said.

Smith said he believes the situation has been blown out of proportion by some people who disagreed with his decisions on school closings and who now wish to embarrass him.

In any event, the school district wound up paying \$1,164 in interest on checks it wrote for which there wasn't

Obituaries

EX-IOWA NEWSMAN ROELOFS DIES

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. (AP) — Services for Garritt E. Roelofs, an expert on agriculture and founder of the Sioux Center, Ia., News newspaper, will be held here today.

He died at his home Sunday. He was 76. The Minnesota native was principal of schools in Holland, Mich., Edgerton, Minn., and Hull, Ia., before being elected to the Iowa Senate in 1932. He published the Sioux Center newspaper and later became the first director of Iowa's Unemployment Compensation Commission.

Roelofs joined the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1938 as a regional information officer. After World War II, he was a civilian consultant in Japan on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff. He also was public affairs officer at the U. S. Embassy in Tokyo before joining the Agency for International Development as an agricultural advisor in Bogota, Colombia.

Survivors include his widow and a son, both of Grand Rapids; two brothers, and three sisters.

GARY BEHMERWOHL

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Ankeny Funeral Home for Gary Behmerwohld, 33, of 4755 N.W. Fifty-second St., who died Sunday at Mercy Hospital of cancer. Burial will be at the Oralabor Cemetery.

Born in Lewellen, Neb., Mr. Behmerwohld lived in Des Moines for two months. He lived in

for 10 years.

He was a machinist for V.W. Smith



2
3

Dordt College orchestra to perform

The Dordt College Concert Band will present their first full concert of the year at 8 p.m. Saturday, December 4, in the college gymnasium.

Under the direction of Professor Gerald Bouma, the 67-member band will play many new works for concert band as well as transcriptions of older works such as "Trancredi Overture" by Rossini and "Sheep May Safely Graze" by J.S. Bach.

The Northwest Brass Quintet will perform

Richard Fote's "Sonata" for quintet band. Members of the quintet are Jack and Jack Schreurs, both Dordt; Clarence Doornbos and Gerald B. Dordt professors, and Dr. Herbe of Northwestern College.

Jack Grotenhuis, a junior in from Sioux Center, will appear as a conductor of the band, which is from northwestern United States and Oregon.

Obituaries

GARRITT ROELOFS

Grand Rapids, Mich.--Services for Garritt E. Roelofs, an expert on agriculture and founder of the Sioux Center, Iowa newspaper, were held Nov. 23.

He died at his home Sunday, Nov. 21. He was 76. The Minnesota native was principal of schools in Holland, Mich., Edgerton, Minn.; and Hull, Ia., before being elected to the Iowa Senate in 1932. He published the Sioux Center newspaper and later became the first director of Iowa's Unemployment Compensation Commission.

Roelofs joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1938 as a regional information officer. After World War II, he was a civilian consultant in Japan on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff. He also was public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in International Development as an agricultural advisor in Bogota, Colombia.

Survivors include his widow and a son, both of Grand Rapids; two brothers and three sisters.

MRS. JOE FIIHR

Boyden--Mrs. Joe Fiihr, 67, Boyden, died Nov. 21 in a Hull nursing home.

Services were at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 24 in the United Presbyterian Church in Boyden. The Rev. Paul Moon officiated. Burial was in the Boyden Cemetery under direction of the Vander Ploeg Funeral Home of Boyden.

Mrs. Fiihr, the former Josie Smit, was born July 2, 1909, in Boyden. She was married March 20, 1935. He died Dec. 12, 1970.

Survivors include a son, Dennis of

MRS. MILTON DITTMER

Ireton--Mrs. Milton Dittmer, died Nov. 27 in an Orange City hospital.

Services were held at 1:30 p.m. in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ireton. Rev. Paul Sieveking officiated. Burial was in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Ireton.

Mrs. Dittmer, the former A. Ricklefs, was born Nov. 14, 1902. She was married Dec. 10, 1924.

She was a member of St. Paul's Church, and the church's Lay Society, serving as president, secretary and treasurer. She also served many years as a school teacher at the church.

The couple farmed northeast of Ireton before moving to the community in 1964.

Survivors include the widow and two sisters, Mrs. Rosene O'Meara of Orange City, Mrs. Delbert (Sophia) Dittmer of Meadows, Ill., Mrs. Florence I. Sylmar, Calif., Mrs. Orville (Norma) Hartley and Mrs. Delores H. Harrisonville, Mo.

AREN'T KRAAYENBRINK

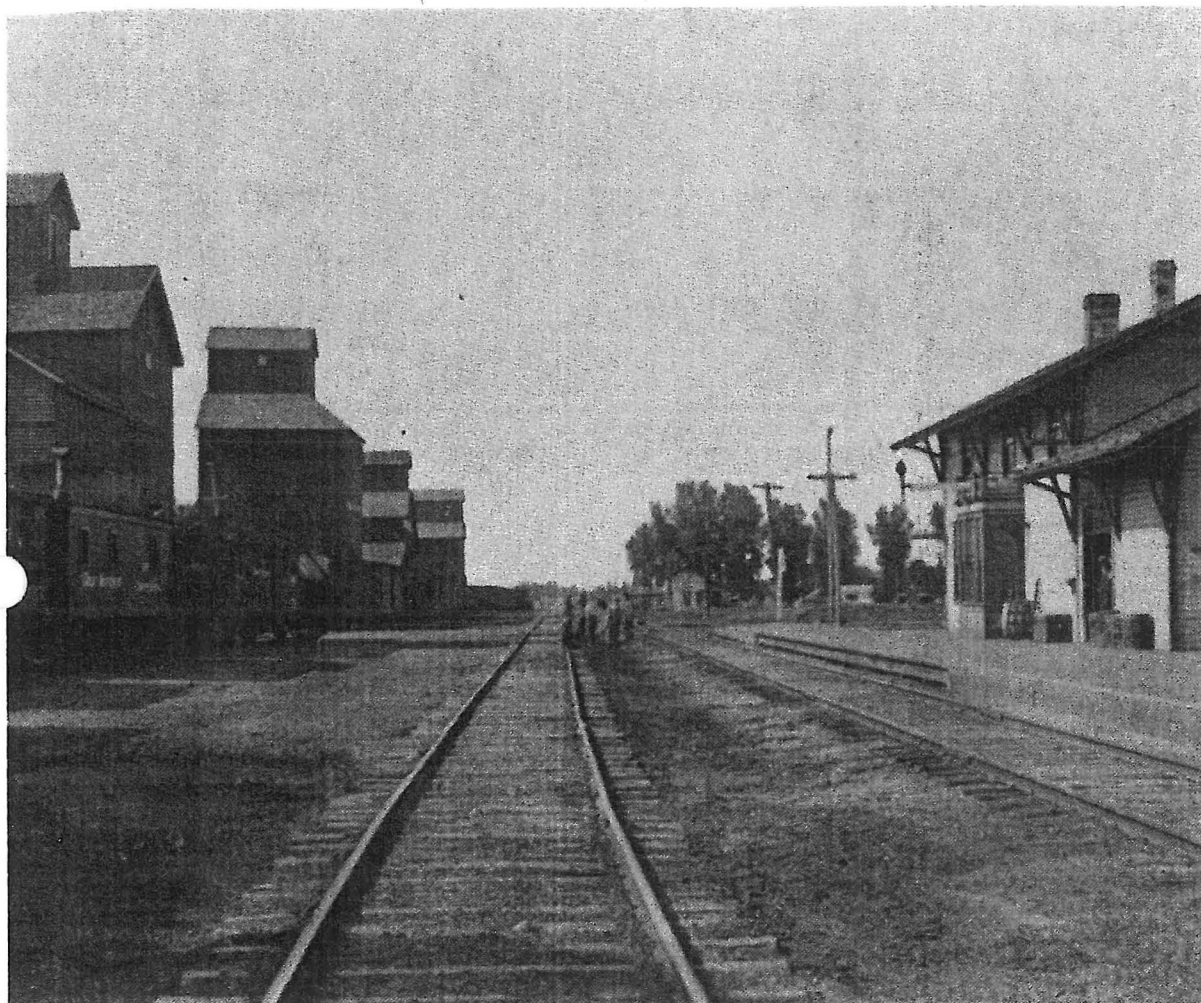
Orange City--Aren't Kraayenbrink, Orange City, died Nov. 22 at an Orange City hospital after a brief illness.

Services were at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 24 in the Vander Ploeg Funeral Chapel Center with the Rev. Henry Vandenberg officiating. Burial was in Memorial Cemetery at Sioux Center.

Mr. Kraayenbrink was born Nov. 14, 1902, in Orange City, Iowa.

Survivors include three brothers, Henry and Ben, all of Sioux Center.

A People With Convictions: A History of Sioux Center, Iowa 1870-1991



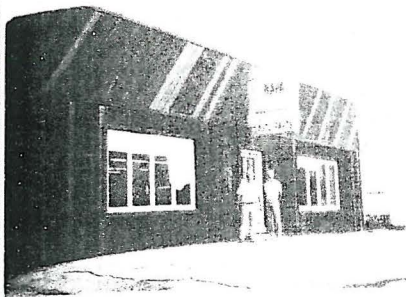
Compiled by the
Sioux Center Centennial Publication Committee
Sioux Center, Iowa
1991

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Harv Van De Berg*, Davis Tebben*, Verlyn Roseboom*, Geene Addink, Alan De Boer*, John Nieuwsma*, Jerry Notestein*, George Boone*.
 *denotes present stockholder

SIoux CENTER AUTO PARTS, INC.

B53



Sioux Center Auto Parts: Irwin DeBoer, owner and manager, Keith Den Hartog, employee

Sioux Center Auto Parts was purchased in 1971 from United Wholesalers, Inc., Sioux City, Iowa. This automotive wholesale business began operation in 1964 at 32 2nd St. N.W., (the former International Harvester building built by Pete Baartman in 1948) with Irwin as manager. This was the first business of this type in Sioux Center. They sell auto, truck, and tractor parts to the community and surrounding territory.

In 1979, Sioux Center Auto Parts utilized the entire building. At that time, extensive remodeling was done with new lighting, fixtures, low profile shelving and a new store front was installed.

In 1980, a complete machine shop was opened in the north end of the building. This was sold to Darlo's Auto Shop in 1989 and Darlo continues to operate this business at the same location.

The business continues to operate with Irwin as manager, and Keith Den Hartog, an employee, who has been with the business since 1973.

by Irwin De Boer

SIoux CENTER LAND DEVELOPMENT INC.

B54

Sioux Center Land Development Corporation, Inc. was formed on September 28, 1964 with a capitalization of \$100,000, with the purpose of encouraging industry to locate in Sioux Center. Authority to sell stock was granted on February 8, 1965. By 1967, 46 individuals had purchased stock and the corporation had acquired an 8½ acre site and an 80 acre site which currently is Sioux Center Industrial Park. There have been 26 annual meetings of the shareholders, with two individuals serving on the Board of Directors for 26 consecutive years.

Major industries at that time were [De

Stigter Brothers Construction, the Sioux Center Creamery, Johnny's Electric Company, the Farmer's Co-op Society and Co-op Produce

One of the first projects that Sioux Center Land Development became involved with was the promotion of the Sale Barn and the acquisition of their property. The second major project was the acquisition of the 80-acre Industrial Park. By December 31, 1976 there were 119 members of Sioux Center Land Development and as December 11, 1985 there were 134 shareholders holding 996 shares in the corporation, currently all shares are sold.

Through the efforts of the Sioux Center Land Development Corporation, manufacturing employment increased from just over 80 manufacturing/processing jobs in 1964 to over 900 jobs by the end of 1989. This amounts to over a ten-fold increase in manufacturing jobs since the inception of Sioux Center Land Development Corporation. Over the years, Land Development has been involved with the promotion of industrial, commercial, retail and professional projects which have benefited the Sioux Center Community. Some of the projects they have been involved with are Sioux Preme Packing Co., Sioux Center Medical Clinic K-Products, Interstates Electric and Engineering, EMW Groschopp, American State Bank, Inc., Harkers, Inc., Link Manufacturing, Inc., Sioux Preme Egg, Inc., Hardee's, Wal-Mart, NOBL Labs Inc. and other community projects.

Current Board Members are John A. Franken, President, Leonard De Stigter, Vice President, A.H. Te Paske, Secretary, Lauren Kaemingk, Treasurer, Dan De Ruyter, Stan Lammers, Marion Mouw, Dr. M.H. Wallinga, Phil Den Herder, Paul Clousing and Dale Den Herder. Paul Clousing serves as Director of Development.

by Paul Clousing

THE SIoux CENTER NEWS

B55



Some of the staff members at The Sioux Center News are (L-R) Kay Disch, Gordon Wolf, Warren Overlie and B.J. Overlie

There were several weekly newspapers in Sioux Center's early days, but the newspaper which survived all the others was *The Sioux Center News*. *The News* traces its origins to the *Sioux Center Nieuwsblad*, first published on March 16, 1892, and printed in Dutch.

However, an even older newspaper, *The Sioux Center Times* had been published some-

time before the town was incorporated in 1891; its editor was Leon Carr. *The Times* ceased publication, it is believed, about the time the *Nieuwsblad* came into existence.

Publishers of the *Nieuwsblad* were Art Kloek and A.J. Snelitjes. Shortly after 1892, Kloek sold his interest in the newspaper to C.H. Vander Meulen.

There were serious problems facing this fledgling Dutch paper. One of the severest setbacks the *Nieuwsblad* encountered during its early period was when the Sioux Center Independent School District floated a bond issue and had the proceedings in the *Nieuwsblad*. Because it was not legal to publish such proceedings in a foreign language, the issue was thrown out. As a result of this incident, H.H. Spinden and his son, Joe Spinden, began publishing *The Sioux Center Times*; it was printed in English, but it lasted only a short time.

Then, in 1898, still another rival emerged, W.H. Vreeland, a Civil War veteran, moved to Sioux Center and started *The Sioux Center Free Press*, a newspaper in English which also only lasted for a brief time.

The *Nieuwsblad* continued to expand its coverage, and succeeded to build up a wide base of Dutch-language readers.

During the 1890s, or early 1900s, Peter Van Donselaar bought the one-half interest owned by Snelitjes. The partnership of Van Donselaar and Vander Meulen continued until 1910, when Vander Meulen sold his one-half interest to H. Brandes.

The Roelofs family entered the scene in August 1930, when the brothers Gerrit, Henry and Edward Roelofs bought the *Nieuwsblad*. They changed the newspaper's name to *The Sioux Center News*, reflecting a policy decision to switch from being a Dutch publication to an English-language newspaper.

The momentous event inspired a subscriber, Dewey Hanenburg, of Chicago, Illinois, to write in the September 4, 1930, edition: "I have just looked through the first issue of *The Sioux Center News* and am compelled to commend you for starting on a promising career and to congratulate Sioux Center upon the acquisition of an English paper . . .

"Your publication of eight pages of home print gives evidence of courage and I trust that the community will justify your faith and realize the importance of this departure from accepted form.

"Yet again, congratulations to you and Sioux Center; may cooperation bring you proper success and mutual pride and prominence beyond your immediate pale."

Edward Roelofs and his wife, Marie Roelofs, edited *The News* for many years and were successful in greatly increasing its circulation.

Byron Hess purchased the newspaper in 1951. Hess came with prior journalist experience, having earlier published a weekly at Estelline, South Dakota. More circulation growth was recorded under his editorship.

On October 1, 1956, Roy and Louise Gardner became the publishers. Roy Gardner also had extensive experience as a journalist before coming to Sioux Center; he was on the editorial staff of the *Mobridge Tribune* in Mobridge, South Dakota, for 16 years.

Wayne and Linda Dominowski became the next publishers when they purchased *The News* in January 1976. A major accomplishment of the Dominowskis was joining *The News* with 15 other newspapers which publish the *Peach*, a popular Northwest Iowa adverti-

sing supplement with a total circulation of more than 22,000 subscribers. Wayne Domnowski earlier was a radio and television news broadcaster; his newspaper background consisted of serving as editor of *Northwest Iowa Review* of Sibley and Sheldon, and on the news staff of the *Sheldon Mail-Sun*.

Present publishers are Warren and Barbara Joan Overlie, who purchased *The News* on January 1, 1986. On the staff are Gordon Wolf, News Editor, who joined *The News* in March 1978; Kay Disch, office manager, who began in July 1986; and Jeff Bylsma, sports writer, who started in August 1988. Other reporters are Karlene Tacke, Arlene Vander Pol, Kristin Schaap, Eleanor Te Krony, Linda Toering and Edna Mulder.

After a phenomenal tenure of service, long-time reporter, Henrietta Schuiteman, resigned in February 1989. She joined the staff when Ed Roelofs was publisher. The thought at the time that she would just work temporarily. But she liked the meeting of people and the writing of local news so much that she continued the assignment for 46 years, rarely missing a week!

Circulation is approximately 2,800. The number of pages per week is generally around 20, each edition consisting of two sections.

by Warren and B.J. Overlie

THE SIOUX CENTER POST OFFICE

B56

The exact date of the establishment of the Sioux Center Post Office is not recorded locally, but it was sometime in the years preceding the incorporation of the town. One of the community's first postmasters was John Los, who served before 1900.

It is known that Gerrit Boeyink, father of Harold Boeyink, was appointed Postmaster in January of 1904 and served until November 11, 1907. Other Postmasters who served over the years were D.W. Duncan, Jerry Winters, Dave Heusinkveld, Allan Muilenburg and Isaac Hoeven.

Irv Mouw, now a local insurance agent, became acting Postmaster on February 1, 1952, and served until May 11, 1953. Don De Gooyer was named acting Postmaster on May 12, 1953, and was officially appointed to the position of Postmaster on August 2, 1954.

Rural delivery was established about 1895. Some of the earliest rural carriers were Ben Kamerman and Andrew (Doc) Ellabroek. Jake W. Van Steenwyk and Julie (Herman) Juffer were appointed rural carriers on March 1, 1921.

The first Sioux Center Post Office was located on a lot where Louie's Leather Store now stands. After several other sites it is now located at the corner of Third Street and First Avenue, N.E.

City delivery was established in September of 1949 and Maurice J. Vande Berg and Harold B. Vermeer were appointed as carriers.

The present Postmaster, Basil Vander Helm, has seen considerable growth in the community. He stated that we are now servicing 2,000 patrons and have three full time city routes and two rural routes.

THE SIOUX CENTER STATE BANK

B57

On February 28, 1913, a group of local citizens (Ben Vande Berg, Herman Peelen, A.J. Grotenhuis, William Grotenhuis, C. Punt, Sr., G.E. Den Herder, and J.P. Schutt) organized the Farmers and Merchants Bank. It was a private bank not subject to State examinations. Mr. Schutt, who came from Le Mars, was the cashier, G.D. Siemen was the assistant cashier, and G.G. Vermeer was the bookkeeper. The bank was located in the old building of the First National Bank on the west side of Main Street, lot 19, block 7.

In 1918 the bank's charter was changed. It became a State bank subject to State supervision and examination. It was renamed the Sioux Center State Bank.

The following year the owners purchased the adjacent corner lot from John Van Steenberg, who had a drug store there, and built a new bank on the two lots. Today, the Compaan Cleaners is located on that site, in the same building.

In 1934, after the Bank Holiday, the Sioux Center State Bank operated for only a brief period. Because both of Rock Valley's banks failed to reopen, the management of the Sioux Center State Bank applied to have their charter moved to Rock Valley. Since that time, this bank has operated in Rock Valley as the Valley State Bank.

SIOUX COMMERCIAL SWEEPING, INC.

B58

Founded by Wayne and Arlene Van Voorst on May 1, 1975. Located in Sioux Center, Iowa.

It started with one used Ford pickup, a small trailer and a small used Tennent #240 sweeper. We had to supplement our family income by painting farm buildings. The next year we added a parking lot line painter. We added customers in the years following and upgraded our sweepers and now have three units.

In 1985 we added a crack filling unit to our operation and do a lot of County roads, City streets and parking lots.

We are now able to offer to our customers a complete parking lot maintenance service.

During certain seasons of the year we employ five to eight people all from the Sioux Center area, many of them high school and college students.

by Wayne and Arlene Van Voorst

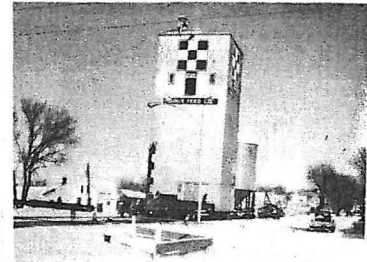
SIOUX FEED COMPANY

B59

Sioux Hatchery and Feed Store, as it was first called, was founded February 1, 1946. Wilmer (Bill) Juffer began this enterprise after working at the Sioux Center Produce for some years. He saw a potential in the poultry and feed business. It was first located where Casey's Bakery on Main Street is now.



Sioux Feed Company — original plant



Sioux Feed Company moving its large elevator and storage bin to new location in

the Spring were big days as thousand chicks would arrive to be distributed out the rural area. Initially, feeds were in print fabric. Wives and children went in to choose the bags that would last into dresses and shirts for the family.

After four years, the business moved to Third Street to the buildings The True Vine. Two years later a warehouse was needed. It was built on the railroad tracks to make it convenient for unloading carloads of feed and supplies.

The poultry division faded and was replaced by spraying services and custom work. Later required the addition of a new warehouse. This business was incorporated in 1965. Bill Juffer decided to retire, and in 1967 Paul Den Herder managed the company. Phil Den Herder was in from 1967 to 1973. Phil Den Herder and Draayer co-owned and managed from 1973 to 1981.

One extremely cold night in January 1981, Sioux Feed Company, with the L. Ghorst & Son of Hull, moved its elevator and storage bin from the business district to its present site 2 miles from Sioux Center on Highway 75. This was accomplished during the night with the lowest power usage as power line highway had to be disconnected. It took 24 feet and 75 feet tall and weighed 24 tons, but it was done very successfully. Citizens of Sioux Center slept peacefully that night.

Gradually Sioux Feed grew to its present size. In 1975 Sioux Feed built two high moisture corn storage silos and a new mixing facility for dairy feed. It was added with a 420 ton, 16 capacity with air gates.

Arlan Draayer purchased the Sioux Feed stock in 1981. 1984 that Sioux Feed bought Siouxland Feed, Inc. in Des Moines, Iowa. 1988

You searched for **Garritt E. Roelofs** in **Michigan**

Michigan Deaths, 1971-1996

Name: **Garritt E Roelofs**Birth Date: **6 Jun 1900**Death Date: **21 Nov 1976**Gender: **Male**Residence: **Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan**Place of Death: **Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan****Source Information:**Michigan Department of Vital and Health Records, *Michigan Deaths, 1971-1996* [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1998.Original data: Michigan Department of Vital and Health Records, *Michigan Death Index*. Lansing, MI, USA.**Description:**This database is an index to approximately 2.75 million death records of individuals in the State of Michigan, USA, and covers the years from 1971 to 1996. Each entry includes the following information: the full name of the decedent, gender, birth and death dates, the state, county and town of residence at time of death, and a link to order a copy of the original record. [Learn more...](#)[Contact Us: 1-800-ANCESTRY](#) [Ancestry.com Blog](#) [Affiliates](#) [Advertising](#)© 1997-2010 Ancestry.com [Corporate Information](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#) [Terms and Conditions](#)

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