

Martin "Pete" Soe, 70

Feb. 26, 1937 - Oct. 23, 2007

MANILLA - Martin Peter, son of Dr. Albert Herluf and Beulah Marie (Berkemeir) Soe, was born Feb. 26, 1937, in Carroll. He graduated from Manilla High School in 1955 and joined the United States Air Force later the same year. He was stationed at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, TX, where he met Mary Ann Tatum.

Pete married Mary Ann in Abilene in 1957. After his honorable discharge from the Air Force Pete and Mary Ann returned to Manilla where he co-owned and operated Manilla Hardware from 1959 to 1965. They were the parents of two children. He was asked to work for Supercross Seeds in 1965 and as it changed hands several times over the years, the new owners always insisted that Pete come with the acquisition. He retired from the seed business in 2000 as District Sales Manager for Mycogen Seed, a subsidiary of Dow Chemical. Pete was a member of the United Church of Manilla, West Central Shrine Animal Unit, where he was parade chairman for the animal unit for several years, the Mason Lodge and Crawford County Garden Club. Pete suffered heart problems for a number of years and was undergoing corrective surgery when he developed severe problems. He was life flighted to Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, where he died Oct. 23, 2007, at age 70 years, seven months and 27 days.

Preceding Pete in death are his parents. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Mary Ann Soe of Manilla; two children, Mark Soe (Monica) of Des Moines and Shelley Soe of Zearing; two grandsons, Jakob Martin Soe and Logan Harrison Soe; sister, Sara (Dennis) Bornhoft of Irwin; sister-in-law, Letha (Jim) Merkle of Snowhomish, WA; nieces, nephews; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 26, 2007, at the United Church of Manilla with Pastor Lanette Plambeck officiating. Burial was in the Nishnabotna Cemetery with Military Honors by the American Legion Post #132. Honorary casket bearers were Robert Lohrmann, Melvin Schechinger, Lynn Olsen, Dan Schechinger, Sam Rauterkus, Dale Lafrentz, Kenny Ewoldt, and Roger Georgius, Doug Bornhoft, Terry Schechinger, Jim Hermeling, Melvin Holdsworth, Roger Conrad, Alan Jensen, and Jim Heller. Ohde Funeral Home in Manilla, in charge of arrangements.

