

And on the eighth day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker."

So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the field, milk cows again, eat supper, then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board."

So God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to wrestle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild...somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait for lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies – then tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon – and mean it."

So God made a farmer

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt... and watch it die, then dry his eyes and say 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make a harness out of hay wire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. Who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his 40-hour week by Tuesday noon and then, painin' from tractor back, put in another 72 hours."

So God made a farmer

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double-speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place.

So God made a farmer

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bales, yet gentle enough to yean lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadowlark."

It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed, and brake, and disk, and plow, and plant, and tie the fleece and strain the milk, and replenish the self feeder... and finish a hard week's work with a 5-mile drive to church.

Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft, strong bonds of sharing... who would laugh, and then sigh... and then reply with smiling eyes when his son says that he wants to spend his life doing what Dad does.

So God made a farmer

In Loving Memory of

William James "Bill" Petrak

July 13, 1928 ~ February 28, 2023

Scripture/Rosary Service

St. James Catholic Church

Chamberlain, SD

6:00 p.m., Monday, March 6, 2023

Funeral Service

St. James Catholic Church

Chamberlain, SD

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Officiating

Father Bill Hamak

Readers

Tucker Petrak

Tagg Petrak

Music

Linda Potter

St. James Choir

Casketbearers

Tucker Petrak

Tagg Petrak

Tate Petrak

Tarryn Petrak

Haden Chase Alone

Baillie Petrak Nowotny

Interment

Riverview Cemetery

Chamberlain, SD

Everyone is invited for lunch & fellowship in the community center immediately following the committal services.

Arrangements By: Hickey Funeral Home, Chamberlain, SD



William James Petrak was born July 13, 1928, the youngest of five children to Joseph Anton and Anna Mae (Pazour) Petrak. Bill attended country school and as a child served as an Altar Boy at the Red Lake Catholic Church and the St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Pukwana.

Bill did many things throughout his life. At 15 years old, he began working for a neighbor and then at 17 began trucking with his brother James, later doing custom farming, combining, hay moving, and corn shelling. Bill also did meat processing for neighbors.

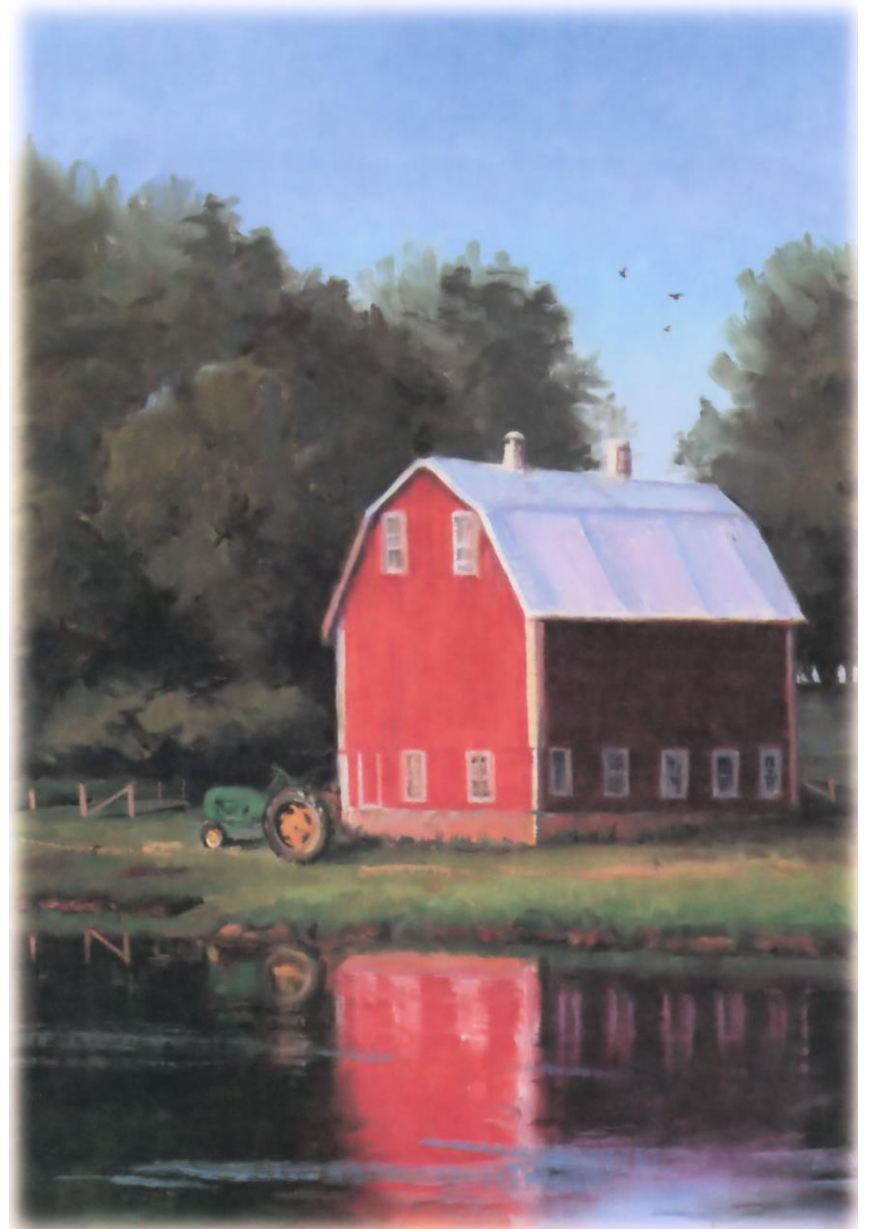
In 1946, Bill attained his pilot's license and he loved to fly. His plane was a J3 Piper Cub.

On July 5, 1954 Bill was united in marriage to Frances Woledge and to this union two sons were born, Theodore Wade and Tyler William.

Bill served on the Ola Township clerk for 18 years.

Bill passed away on February 28, 2023 at the Aurora Brule Nursing Home in White Lake, SD at the age of 94 years. Gratefully sharing his life are his wife Frances of Chamberlain; two sons Ted (Pamela) of Chamberlain and Tyler (Tiffany) of Martin; four grandsons Tucker, Tagg (Amy), Tate Petrak and Haden Chase Alone; two granddaughters Baillie (Winston) Nowotny and Tarryn (Jordan Cady); and three great grandsons Tyke and Kort Petrak and Rhett Nowotny; great granddaughter Oakley Cady; and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were parents Joe and Anna Petrak; sisters Rose Zimmerman and Marie Blow and brothers James and Joseph Petrak.



A Life Remembered...