



William Raymond “Willie” Hepper was born on November 28, 1932 in Sioux County, ND to Rose (Mattis) and Rudolph Hepper. He joined his brothers Calvin, Edward and Adolph, and his sister Emma. They were later joined by Rudy, Norma, Stanley, Alvin, Harold and Ronnie.

Willie graduated from McLaughlin High School in 1950 and worked on the family farm until volunteering for Army service in 1954, where he served in Japan. After his discharge in 1956, he worked in Kalispell, Montana as a lineman before moving back to Selfridge.

Willie married Cecilia “Sis” Imberi on September 29, 1956, and they settled in McLaughlin, where they co-owned the Corner Bar with his brother-in-law Tony Schneider and sister Norma. In 1963, Willie and family moved to Mobridge where they ran the Gay Time bar on South Main Street.

In 1972, Willie sold the Gay Time and was able to follow his life’s main passion of farming and ranching full time. For the next 36 years, he and Sis ran their operation from a place on the southeast side of Mobridge, operating from land on the east and west side of the river. In 2008, they moved to town, and Willie began the slow process of retirement.

Willie’s civic activities included work on the Mobridge Rodeo board and being a hard-working member of the Moose Club.

Willie is survived by his wife, Cecelia; “Sis” children Kenny, Kelly, Larry (Kendra), Kim (Leonard Linde) and Jim, grandchildren Karolina, Alexandra (Justin) Rapetti, Travis, Laurel Linde, Clayton (Sheila), Jacob, Hudson, Sabrina (Daniel) Dehart and Troy, and



In Loving Memory of:



Willie Hepper

November 28, 1932
December 18, 2021

Just a Farmer



“Just a Farmer,” you said,
And I laugh ‘ cause I knew
All the things that Farmers
Must be able to do.
They must study the land,
Then watch the sky
And figure just when
Is the right time and why—
To sow and to plant
To buy and to sell

To go to the market
With cattle and well —
You know the books
That Farmers must keep
To pay all those taxes
And be able to sleep.

And you know the fixing’
That Farmers must do

When machines like mad monsters

Blow a gasket or two.

I guess when god needed

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Willie Hepper

89 Years ~ 20 Days

BORN:

*November 28, 1932
Sioux County North Dakota*

PASSED AWAY:

*December 18, 2021
Mobridge South Dakota*

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICES:

*2 PM, Wednesday, December 22, 2021
Kesling Funeral Home
Mobridge, South Dakota*

SPECIAL MUSIC:

*“Amazing Grace”
“Go Rest High on that Mountain”
“What a Wonderful World”*

CASKETBEARERS:

*Kenny Hepper ~ Jim Hepper ~ Travis Hepper
Jacob Hepper ~ Craig Imberi ~ Leonard Linde*

HONORARY BEARERS:

*All of Willie’s grandchildren
and great-grandchildren.*

MILITARY HONORS:

Mobridge Parker Browder American Legion Post #4

BURIAL:

Greenwood Cemetery