

In Memory of
Lester Burkum

September 16, 1912 – July 10, 2001



Lester Burkum

Lester Burkum was born in Manfred, North Dakota on September 16, 1912. His mother, Guri (known as Gina) Rogne, was born at the Røgnemark Farm in Rogne, Øystre Slidre, Norway on January 7, 1876, the fourth child of Gudbrand Kristenson Rogne and Marit Olsdotter Rogne. Gina, together with her brothers Kristin, Gudbrand, and Ole, decided to immigrate to America, and thereafter settled at Manfred where they had relatives living. It was through her uncle, Torstein K. Rogne, that she met and married Lars Burkum (Bjørkum).

Lester's father, Lars, was born in Norway in 1856, and immigrated to America where he became friends with Torstein K. Rogne. In 1894, the two joined together as partners for the first general store at Manfred, naming it 'Rogne and Burkum'. Torstein later sold out his interest, and moved to Canada. In 1905, Lars built a new store building, naming it the 'L.O. Burkum Store'.

Lars and Gina's first child died at birth on March 20, 1910, but then in 1912 their hearts were gladdened when their son, Lester, was born. Gina was a very loving mother for Lester. She kept her home spotless, and was a marvelous hostess. In addition to sewing, she was very talented with handwork such as crocheting and hardanger and her work was precise and beautiful. Not only was she lovely to look at, but she was also known as a wonderful person. After selling the Burkum Store in 1916, Lars and Gina bought a farmstead three miles west of Manfred where they farmed the rest of their lives. Gina died July 11, 1941, and Lars died two years later on July 7, 1943.



Lester's mother, Gina Rogne Burkum



Lester as a child



Lester's father, Lars Burkum

In memory of Lester Burkum...



*L. O. Burkum Store, Est. 1905
Photo taken between 1911 and 1916*



*Lars and Gina Burkum when they were living in
Manfred in the early 1900s.*



Interior of the Burkum Store



*Burkum Farmstead. Photo taken in 1929, with the new barn. The first
barn had been destroyed by fire from a lightening strike in about 1924.*

When Lester was 12 years old, a frightful event took place on his Confirmation Day. After the family had arrived back home from the service and while Lester and his father were yet putting the horse and buggy into the barn, a terrific lightening strike hit the barn. Lars was knocked down and after picking himself up, went to check on how his son had fared. He found Lester gripping a barn rail unable to move. It was also discovered that the lightening had put holes into his confirmation shoes. His recovery took several days. The barn burned and some of the animals died that day.

Lester was a very intelligent person, finishing high school in three years. He had many interests and could converse on a variety of topics. He was especially fascinated with trains, and did quite a bit of traveling, taking many photos and home movies wherever he went. He had a beautiful voice and sang in the church choir for some time. After his father died, Lester continued to farm the land for several years. However, Lester's health began to suffer. In time, not only did he lose his eyesight, but also his hearing. After this, he rarely ventured away from his home. Through the many years, his neighbor Gene and Betty Melby helped him with shopping and other needs. His neighbor, Pete Anderson also helped in the later years. In January 2001, Betty and Gene helped Lester move to the Haaland Home in Rugby, North Dakota. Then in May 2001, it was determined that he needed fulltime nursing care, at which time he entered St Aloisius Medical Center in Harvey, North Dakota. Lester died peacefully on Tuesday, July 10, 2001, and was buried on Friday, July 13th at Vang Lutheran Cemetery near Manfred.

Compiled by Wanda Melchert

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

LESTER BURKUM

BORN

Sept. 16, 1912 Manfred, ND

PASSED AWAY

July 10, 2001 Harvey, ND

SERVICES HELD

Nelson Funeral Home
Fessenden, North Dakota
Friday, July 13, 2001 11:00 A.M.

OFFICIATING CLERGY

Rev. Fred Schmidt

MUSIC

Wanda Melchert – Organist
CONREGATIONAL HYMNS
“How Great Thou Art” & “Amazing Grace”

HONORARY BEARERS

All family and friends in attendance

INTERMENT

Vang Lutheran Cemetery – Manfred, ND