

Orville “Ike” Hagen was born the third son of Oscar W. and Carrie (Scollard) Hagen on the family homestead southwest of Watford City on September 26, 1915. Orville attended both grade school and high school in Watford City and later attended Dickinson State College. He married Astrid Berg on November 24, 1939. In early years he worked on his father’s weekly political newspaper, the McKenzie Counter Leader, and later the Watford Guide before going to work for a weekly newspaper in Seward, Alaska in 1941. As a result of a fire that destroyed half of the businesses in town, the couple returned to the states, arriving in Seattle, Washington five days prior to Pearl Harbor. They returned to Williston, North Dakota where Orville worked for the Williston Herald until 1946 when they purchased a farm north of Arnegard where he farmed for the next twenty years. During all those years he was active in the Non-Partisan League.

In 1952 he was elected to the North Dakota State Senate. In 1960 he was elected Lieutenant Governor where he served one term. In 1966 he was elected Labor Commissioner and served five terms. He moved his family to Bismarck where he resided for thirty years until he retired in Watford City. During his years in politics, Orville had the honor of serving under six Governors, five Attorney Generals, and meeting six Presidents.

He was preceded in death by his wife Astrid, and brothers, Jerome, William, Kenneth, and Dwight.

Orville is survived by his sister, Auverne Albert of Missoula, MT; sons Orvis (Claudia) of Scottsdale, AZ; Mylo (Kathie) of Huntington Beach, CA; daughters Ellyn Stevens of Vero Beach, FL; and Lana (Tony) Querica of Lake Havasu, AZ; seven grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.

IN MEMORY OF ORVILLE “IKE” HAGEN



September 26, 1915 ~ June 24, 2007