



In Loving Memory of

Henry Matthew Pray

February 27, 1941 - January 7, 2023

81 Years

So God Made A Farmer

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 fields, 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 axle handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of ear tire, who can make a harness out of hay wire, feed sacks, and shoe scraps, who at planting and harvest season will finish his 40 hour work week by Tuesday noon, and then paint' 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 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 rake and disc 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 five-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.

-Paul Harvey

Henry was a prairie boy born in the hamlet of Bruno and raised by his parents Hilda and Steve Pray alongside his two sisters Sylvia and Lucille. He spent many years in the workforce helping farmers, operating cat, grader, and scrapers for road work, building the Gardiner Dam, and eventually becoming a journeyman mechanic.

He married Elvina Barten and was blessed with a family of 4 children in Saskatoon while working at Patrick Dodge as a mechanic. In 1975 they built the farmhouse close to his homestead south of Carmel. Henry was passionate about the land and the farm and enjoyed landscaping the grass and trees, building several outbuildings, grain bins, and the shop. He loved to hunt, fish, skidoo, quad, and create special projects with his hands, often through wood working. He enjoyed music, parties, dancing, playing cards, fixing everything, playing with the grandkids, teasing, telling jokes, and pulling pranks.

Henry will be lovingly remembered by his former wife and life-long companion Elvina Pray, his three children and grandchildren Dayna (Allan) Keller and grandson Dawson, Andrea (Brent) Pittman and grandchildren Anthony, Andrew, and Bronwyn, and Darin Pray and fiancée April Pauli and children Brianna, Aaden, Zachary, and Xavier.

He is survived by his sister Lucille (Ed) Gamola, sister Sylvia (Walter) Hoppe and many nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

He was predeceased by his parents Steve Pray (1981) and Hilda (nee Monz) Pray (1991), older brother Wilfred, daughter Shauna and fiancée Dave Fredericks (1987), and grandson Jacob Baker/Pray (2020).

Funeral Service

Saturday, January 14, 2023 1:30 p.m.
Westminster United Church Humboldt, SK



Officiant Rev. Brenda Curtis

Accompanist Allison Sarauer

Readers Anthony Pittman & Brent Pittman

Urn Bearer Allan Keller

Honorary Pallbearers
“All Those Who Shared in Henry’s Life”

Memorial Donations
Parkinson Canada or
Heart & Stroke Foundation

Luncheon (immediately following the service)
Westminster United Church Hall

Interment (following luncheon)
Humboldt Public Cemetery

