

# Henry Haugen dies at age 96

By Laura Seibel  
Herald Staff Writer

Longtime downtown Grand Forks businessman Henry Haugen, 96, died Thursday in Valley Memorial Home, Grand Forks.

Henry Haugen was born June 10, 1899, in Manvel, N.D., the son of Peder and Louise Haugen. He moved to Grand Forks at a very young age with his family and lived the rest of his life here.

He married Ann Lowe May 21, 1932, in Minneapolis. Ann Haugen died July 20, 1987.

Haugen, with four partners, started the Electric Construction Co. in 1919. Located at 16 N. Fourth St., it is one of the oldest retail businesses in Grand Forks and has been added to the National Register.

By the early 1940s, Haugen bought out his partners. His daughter, Phyllis Loder, said his work was his life.

"He was very much a workaholic," she said. "He lived and died work."

Loder said her father virtually worked seven days a week since he opened the business almost 76 years ago. Haugen retired only two and a half years ago, at the age of 93.

In addition to fixing appliances and other things for customers, Haugen did some electric contracting projects, including part of the wiring in the North Dakota State Capital in Bismarck.

The Electric Construction Co. also had the first radio station in North Dakota. That station is now KFJM AM.

Haugen also was active with the Shriners in helping people with disabilities and illnesses. He was an active member of the Kem Temple, Acacia Lodge, Corinthian Chapter, St. Aldemar Commandery, Masonic temple. He was potentate of the temple in 1945 and captain of hosts of the Grand

Chapter of the State of North Dakota in 1946. He also was the parade marshal for a Midwest Shrine convention a few years ago.

Haugen was a past Grand Forks School Board member, a Grand Forks County Fair Board member, a York Right Bodies member, and a Grand Forks Scottish Rite member. He also was a member of the Grand Forks Builders and Traders exchange, having been president of the organization in the 1940s. Haugen also had served as president of the Northwestern Trust Co.

Loder said she will continue to keep the Electric Construction Co. open for awhile, but isn't sure exactly what her plans are for the business.

"As of yet, it will be running for awhile," she said. "I'm kind of undecided what we will do with it, but I'm going to keep it open for awhile."

Haugen's full obituary and funeral service information will run in Sunday's Herald.