

John Ponyicsanyi

MONTICELLO — John Ponyicsanyi, age 88, of Monticello, WI, passed away on Monday, April 2, 2001, at the New Glarus Home. New Glarus, WI. Born in Fort Atkinson, WI on November 27, 1912 to John and Wilma (Kovalcik) Ponyicsanyi, he graduated from Whitewater State Teachers College in 1935. Following his marriage to Josephine Wilcox on November 9, 1935, he first taught and coached at Tony, Brandon and Brooklyn, WI, before arriving at Monticello. A dedicated business education teacher for 43 years, he greeted each school day with enthusiasm. As an educator, his goal was to aid the students to reach the highest degree of their potential.

He is also remembered as a successful basketball coach, leading Brooklyn to three league championships, and at Monticello compiled a 272-59 win-loss record, and a 45-27 tournament record. His coaching career in Monticello included five Stateline League championships, 5 regional championships, 3 district championships, 1 sub-district championship and 2 sectional meets. In 1957, his team was defeated in the finals of the sectionals by La Crosse Logan to deny their state tournament bid. His 1958 team won 24 consecutive games and was rated tops in the "Little 16" until bowing to Janesville High School in sectional competition. The Monticello teams are named the "Ponies" in his honor, following a student vote during the 1950-51 school year.

John was honored at the University of WI-Whitewater with the Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 1978 and is a charter member of the State High School Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, being honored as an inductee in 1979.

He enjoyed fishing, golfing and gardening. He established himself as one of the top golfers in the Brodhead and New Glarus area, winning numerous golf trophies in various tournaments, including a father-son tournament, and also experienced the thrill of obtaining a hole-in-one two times.

John, a treasured husband, father, grandfather and friend, will be greatly missed. Survivors include his wife, Jo; his son, Jack (Helen) Ponyicsanyi of Orfordville; his daughter, Carol (Jim) Miller of Whitewater; his granddaughter, Janeen Ponyicsanyi of Seattle, WA; and his grandson, John Ponyicsanyi of Mountain View, CA. He is also survived by his brothers-in-law, Bill Oestreich and John Wilcox of Fort Atkinson, and sisters-in-law, Arlene Simdon of Fort Atkinson and Dorothy Pfafflin of Glendale, Arizona, and nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, three brothers, Carl, Arpad and William, and a sister, Olga Oestreich.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am. Saturday, April 7, 2001 at the Zwingli United Church of Christ, Monticello, WI with Rev. Lawrence Balleine and Rev. Charles Workman officiating. Burial will be in Highland Cemetery, Monticello. Visitation will be held Friday evening from 5 pm. to 8 pm. at the Voegeli-Newcomer Funeral Home in Monticello.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to a scholarship fund to be established in his name.