

LaVerne Lawrence Drake

LaVerne Lawrence Drake was born on February 19, 1896, in Rosemount, Dakota County, MN. At the time of his birth, LaVerne's father, Frank Adelbert Drake, was 21 years old and his mother, Martha Emily Gilland, was 18. His parents had nine children. In 1910, LaVerne was living with his parents and siblings in Inver Grove, where he was a self employed truck farmer.

Before and during WWI, LaVerne served in the Navy. He enlisted in the Navy in December of 1916 in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, MN, for a term of four years. He had the rank of Apprentice Seaman while assigned to training at Great Lakes, IL. He later earned the rank of Engineerman 2/c. LaVerne was serving on the ship USS Kingfisher, when he was discharged in 1920, mustering out in San Pedro, CA. The USS Kingfisher possibly was a ship used for minesweeping.

LaVerne married Susanna Maltby Wagner about 1922, and they had two sons and two daughters. He worked as a press feeder at Webb Publishing. In 1928 the family lived in Saint Paul, Ramsey County and in 1930 in South Saint Paul. By 1940 they had moved to Rosemount. LaVerne died at home in Saint Paul of Prostate Cancer on December 30, 1964. He was 68 years old. He was buried at Hillside Cemetery in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, MN.