

Obituary

Leon Ensley Smidt, son of Frederick George Smidt and Maybelle Grace (Pelham) Smidt, was born March 14, 1933 in Crab Orchard, Nebraska. He passed away October 17, 2004 at his home in Shenandoah, Iowa at the age of 71.

Leon spent the earlier years of his life in rural Crab Orchard, Nebraska, and attended first through ninth grade there. He attended high school at Lewiston, Nebraska and graduated in 1950. On May 18, 1952, Leon was united in marriage to Katherine Kinghorn in Lewiston, Nebraska. After their marriage, the couple resided in Beatrice, Nebraska.

In 1952, Leon began what would become a long career with Earl May Seed & Nursery at their Beatrice store. Later, Leon was transferred to Fremont, Nebraska in 1955, Columbus, Nebraska in 1957, Hastings, Nebraska in 1959 and Omaha, Nebraska in 1962 as Manager of Earl May Seed and Garden Centers. Leon was transferred to the Shenandoah Corporate Offices in 1969. He spent 45 1/2 years with Earl May Seed & Nursery before retiring in March of 1998.

Leon was an active member of the First United Methodist Church, American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA), as well as Garden Centers of America where he served as president in 1990 when the International Garden Center Congress met in New York City. Leon was also a member of the Optimist and Sertoma Clubs in former locations and the Masonic Lodge. He enjoyed golfing when he was able to, traveling, fishing and playing bridge. Leon especially loved working in his yard and flowers, or on the farm. He was an avid Nebraska Cornhusker football fan and enjoyed following his team.

Leon was preceded in death by his parents; two infant sisters; sister-in-law, Barbara Smidt and a nephew, Jeffrey Smidt. He is survived by his wife Katherine; son, Bruce Smidt and wife Jennifer of Casper, Wyoming; daughter, Pamela and husband John Tinley of Casper, Wyoming; son, Mark Smidt and wife Barbara of Keokuk, Iowa; grandchildren, Melissa Potter of Victor, Idaho; Emily Cooper of Union, Kentucky; Jamie Smidt of Missoula, Montana; Frederick and Kylie Smidt of Casper, Wyoming and Laura and Nicholas Smidt of Keokuk, Iowa; brother, Robert Smidt of Crab Orchard, NE; sister, Wilma Weigel and her husband Dwight of Omaha, NE; other relatives and a host of friends.

There will be a time of fellowship and refreshments following the committal service at the First United Methodist Church in Fellowship Hall.

Services Entrusted to:

Hackett-Livingston Funeral Home
Shenandoah, Iowa

Funeral Services from
First United Methodist Church
Shenandoah, Iowa
Wednesday, October 20, 2004
10:30 a.m.

Words of Comfort
Rev. James Gubser

Caring for Flowers
Jodayle Irvin Edi Norris
Sue Burchett

Memory Register
Mary Lou Rexroth Betty Jane Sha

Ushers
Jim Sligar Fred Cline

Organist
Becky Hoenshel

Duet
Janet & Lance Hensen

Musical Selections
"How Great Thou Art"
"Hymn of Promise"

Casket Bearers
Frederick Smidt Matthew Cooper
Bryan Kinghorn Steve Aerts
Roger Smidt Bill Lineweber
Richard Weiner

Honorary Casket Bearers
William Nissen Jerry Kopas
Duane Rexroth William Shaw
Dave Ponton Richard Irvin
George Max

Interment
Rose Hill Cemetery
Shenandoah, Iowa