



David Lee

November 11, 1934 - January 26, 2011

David Lee, 76, of Chattanooga, TN, formerly of St. Joseph, passed away Wednesday, January 26, 2011, in Chattanooga.

Funeral services celebrating his life will be held at 11:00 A.M., on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, at the Dey-Florin Funeral Home, 2506 Niles Ave., in St. Joseph, with Rev. Mary Shawl-Ranke officiating. Burial will follow at Hickory Bluff Cemetery in Stevensville. Visitation will be held from 10:00 until the time of the service, Tuesday, at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Shrine Children's Hospitals. Messages of condolence may be made to Robin Couldry (rcouldry22@gmail.com) and Scott Lee (lynn@lynnleephoto.com)

David enjoyed a long and rewarding career with Clark Equipment Co. of Benton Harbor, MI, retiring after 44 years from Volvo Construction Equipment which had acquired Clark Equipment during David's career.

David was born on November 11, 1934 in Austin, Minnesota to Lawrence Ordeen Lee and Clara Rask Lee. He greatly enjoyed his grandchildren and great-grandchildren and helping neighbors and friends with yard work and chores.

David is survived by his daughter, Robin Couldry of Ooltewah TN and Son, Scott Lee of Lafayette, IN., nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, David was preceded in death by his wife, Marlys.

Cemetery Details

Hickory Bluff Cemetery

4312 Cleveland Avenue
Stevensville, MI 49127

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service - Closed 2013
2506 Niles Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-1514
staff@florin.net

Service

FEB 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service - Closed 2013
2506 Niles Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-1514
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Tribute Wall



“ *Where is that book that has that chapter "The Mountain That Dave Built" about the demo center? That was incredible!!!*

Nancy Iddins - February 02, 2011 at 09:31 PM



“ *Dave was a wonderful man - loved his work, loved his co-workers, and loved his children and grandchildren! Especially his grandchildren. He made my life better because he and his "girlfriend" that lovely little Springler Spaniel would help me de-tox from the Volvo pressures with a cold beer from time to time. Thanks Dave. We have missed you from Hendersonville for a long time. Love, Nancy (Twitchen) Iddins*

Nancy Iddins - February 02, 2011 at 09:27 PM

DS

“ *Dave, my wife Jan and I were very good friends throughout the many years we spent together "with the family" at Clark Equipment. Jan worked with Dave briefly and I was a lucky one who learned a lot from Dave when we made a presentation in China for the Company in late 1979. It was an exciting trip for both of us. We brought back many pictures of the Chinese life at that time and I know he also made slide presentations on his return home. We also visited Australia for a "machine inspection tour" of units operating in coal and bauxite mines. He always was able to make customers feel very important and Dave always left them smiling! He always had a smile for everyone, everyday, just like the picture above.*

We will miss him....I'm glad I've got some pictures of us together for remembrance.

God be with the family in the days ahead...

Dick Shafer

Dick/Jan Shafer - February 02, 2011 at 06:17 PM

AO

“ Dear all!

I had the great pleasure of start working work Dave Lee in late spring of 1985 right after the merger and making of VME. Dave came to Sweden together with some of his staff to teach us at Volvo about the Michigan products and I had the honor of teaching about the Volvo products. At the first meeting we really hit on the same wavelength and Dave took me into his family. He wanted to know everything just like me.

We started to plan the first intro into North America. My first trip over to St Joseph I was introduced to the family and felt just like my own family. He thought me very early that we only work half days 7 to 7. Dave knew everyone in the business and did introduce me and helped me get around.

He was very stubborn and so was I and it took me a while to learn how to get around that and make us compromise with both of getting the feeling we won!!! We got even closer during the 3 years I was working in Asheville and we were doing a lot of very important activities. I have always admired Dave's knowledge in his field of expertise, but also he always were so proud and concerned over his fantastic family. I also felt how proud he was over what he had been able to develop me into and I will miss him a lot. In the later years when we lived in Chicago we spoke a lot on the phone and also we paid him a few visits and we could talk about good old days.

I will miss Dave a lot and I almost feel like part Lee!

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all and please Dave rest in peace! I am sure we will meet in the Construction Equipment Heaven one day!

Arve & Irma Opperud

Arve Opperud - February 01, 2011 at 12:36 PM

TH

“ Good bye my dear friend

It has been wonderful sharing life and learnings with you

You were our friend, our teacher and mentor

And we learnt a lot

We would not be as we are today if not for you

You will forever be in our memories

Good bye my dear friend.

Tony Helsham

Tony Helsham - February 01, 2011 at 12:32 PM

“*Dave was a consummate good friend, always with a smile, helping in any way he could. He traveled to China for us, many years before it became touristy, and stayed for weeks traveling the backroads of the country, looking at construction sites. When finally home, he put together a great slide presentation of what China was like in the 70's, the smog, the suppressed people, their meager way of life, to our way of thinking. And roads being constructed with nothing but human labor. Compaction being the people walking over the dirt and rocks.*

And how many children did he delight at Christmas, go to hospitals dressed up as Santa Claus, real beard and all, and I think when in the costume, really feeling as if he were Santa.

Always smiling, always striving to make things better, whether it was trying to get engineering to make a change to improve a machine's performance, or trying to get the funding for a demonstration area at a Volvo plant.

And as much as he was away from home, for Marlys and Dave to have raised two really great kids-i still think of them as kids, because it was so long ago. Robin and Scott turned out to be the loving, praiseworthy children we all strive for.

Although it has been years since we have been in contact, I am sitting here with tears in my eyes, thinking about a friend I am missing very much.

True Friends are forever,

Dick Pruess

Dick Pruess - February 01, 2011 at 10:28 AM