

OBITUARIES

Lee Phelps

Oct. 11, 1923 - March 16, 2010

Lee Phelps was born Oct. 11, 1923 at home in Beatrice, Neb. to Orla L. Phelps and Marian Rouse Phelps. He died March 16 at the age of 86.

He was named Orla Lee Phelps, Jr., a name he disliked even as a child. He graduated from Beatrice High School in May 1941. Following the Pearl Harbor attack, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was called to active duty in Feb. 1942 and began his training at Great Lakes Naval Training Station to become a Pharmacist Mate Third Class.

He served in the South Pacific and Asiatic theaters of war. He was present for the first day invasion of Iwo Jima and saw the historic raising of the American flag on that island. He was also present for the first day invasion of Okinawa.

Following these invasions the ship he served took the wounded to Guam for further treatment. Lee observed the devastation at Nagasaki 19 days after the atomic bomb was dropped.

Following the signing of the surrender, Lee returned to the United States and to Beatrice, Neb. on Jan. 12, 1946. On Jan. 26, 1946 he enrolled in Pharmacy College at Nebraska University. Here he met Ruth Wiebe, a student there.

They were married Nov. 27, 1946. Ruth then took a job for the State Department of Roads and Irrigation as a bookkeeper, to help finance Lee's education. While at Nebraska University, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, however social life was enjoyed with the many married students attending classes in those post war years. Lee graduated in Jan. 1950 and became a registered pharmacist after successfully completing the required testing.

The couple then returned to Beatrice, Neb. where Lee worked for the Lowell Beer Apothecary shop. During those years in Beatrice, son Craig in 1950 and daughter Jan in 1952 were born. This job had many limitations and Lee accepted a job at Lantz Drug in Kearney.

The next step in Lee's career was working as a pharmacist at Chard Drug which moved the family to Superior, Neb. where Mary was born.

After a few years, Lee had a strong desire to have his own business and the search began. A classmate from Nebraska University gave him the information that the father of a friend, Roy Snyder, wanted to retire from his prescription shop in Stockton. A two week summer vacation was the opportunity to investigate several possible locations, including Stockton. That visit led to the Phelps family move in Oct. 1958.

The Lee Phelps Prescription Shop opened Nov. 1, 1958 in the small building where Sandy Folsom presently has her beauty shop. It was 1959 when Kay joined the family. Four years later, Lee purchased the Peebles Drug which became Lee Phelps Cash Drug.

The Stockton United Methodist Church has been the church home for the Phelps family through

all the years and Lee's strong faith continued to grow steadily through his life.

In 1970 Lee and Ruth bought the store owned by Dean King. All of the drug items were moved to one store and the gift items to the other and that was the beginning of the Phelps Card and Gift Shop, a Hallmark shop. It was managed and operated by Ruth and continued even after Lee sold the pharmacy in 1982. At that time his legs gave him much pain and he had total knee replacements in both knees soon after leaving the store.

All through those working years, Lee was very active in church, Cub Scout programs, the different boys baseball leagues, Chamber of Commerce and Rotary, as well as local fund drives. A strong friendship developed with the Vietnamese refugee family, sponsored by the Stockton United Methodist Church as the Phelps were part of the English language program with Ty and Chi Nguyen.

Lee was an officer and board member of the Stockton Industrial Development Corp. until his death. He was a city commissioner and served as mayor in 1998.

After the sale of the store the Phelps enjoyed travel, both U.S. and abroad. They made several trips to England enjoying friendships there. Kay's opportunity as a Rotary scholarship recipient studying in England opened many doors.

Lee was a model train collector for many years and was instrumental in organizing the Stockton Area Train Club when the opportunity presented itself. He was then able to open the boxes and set up his many period trains and thoroughly enjoyed sharing the joy he felt in seeing them in operation, especially with children visitors.

Lee continued to work as a pharmacist where needed as his health would allow. His last professional work was at age 86, in February 2010. He was a substitute pharmacist at Pamida Pharmacy in Norton.

Survivors include: his wife, Ruth; son Craig and wife Susan, daughter Jan Perkins and husband John, all of Elk City, Okla.; daughter Mary Sturdy and husband Rick, Hays; and Kay Long and husband Mark, Broken Arrow, Okla.; 12 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; foster son Dan Maguire and wife Vicki Pierz, Montana, and their three children and families.

Memorial services wasat 10 a.m. this morning at the First United Methodist Church. Burial will be in the Stockton City Cemetery.

Visitation was held yesterday from 3-8:00 p.m. at the Kemp Family Funeral Chapel, 805 North Cedar, Stockton, Kan., 67669.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Gideon Memorial Bible Program, World Vision, or Southern District of M.B. Churches (Watershed) and may be sent in care of the funeral chapel.

Kittens, calves and cream

Child of the '40s Liza Deines



downright chilly so we hustled right along. Back in the barn, though, it is cozy, warm from the animals. Weak dawn sunshine sneaks through cracks, sparkling on golden hay specks in dusty air. Ropes, leather straps and chains hang along the walls, saddles, boxes and bales of hay fill the corners.

It is in one of these corners that mama cat has nestled into my uncle's sheepskin earflap chore cap to deliver her babies. Grandma, the big brown plow horse, crunches oats in a far stall. Beside her a new colt, Brown Sugar, stands on wobbly long legs and nuzzles for her breakfast. Visiting the farm in March is fun when all the animals have babies, even the big ugly pigs. I don't know how such cute little pink

Aunt Florence is humming, her cheek laid comfortably against Brownie's warm flank as she finishes the milking. Brownie seems very contented and comfortable, too, as she chews and gently moos.

I am only five, but I help with the morning chores by keeping the new kittens out from under Brownie's feet. Occasionally, Florence squirts a little warm milk toward the kittens. Most of it goes up tiny pink noses, causing them to sneeze and bristle their whiskers, but they get a taste or two.

Brownie is always last because her milk is saved for the family. She is a Brown Swiss, and Florence says she gives the richest, creamiest milk.

Some of it will be churned for homemade butter. My favorite chore is to turn the handle of the glass Dazey churn. Milk from the other cows has been taken straight to the milk house where it was poured into big cans to be separated later. The milk house is dark and cool, even in summer. This spring morning it is

entertaining experience for young and old. Tall Tales will include characters such as Johnny Appleseed, Paul Bunyan, Mike Fink, Davy Crockett, Annie Christmas and Wee Willie. For more information, call 785-689-4846.

FYI

Any parents interested in having their sons, ages 10-15, participating in traveling baseball will meet at the East Campus gym at 8 p.m. on March 21. It is important to be there so we can have numbers interested and make decisions on the season. If you have any questions, call the Norton Recreation Center at 877-3087.

Duplicate bridge was held March 17 at Norton Manor with three tables participating. Mary Lue Archibald and Jerry Moritz won first place. Claudia Bridges and Norman Walter and Bob Jones and Carla Latimer tied for second place.

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum is sponsoring a Bureau of Lectures program on April 12 at 10 a.m. in the Logan Grade School Auditorium, Logan. This year's event will feature the talents of three-person children's theatre presentation entitled "American Tall Tales."

Three actors will utilize singing, acting, audience participation, humor, props and boundless energy to make this a great learning and

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piglets come from those big ugly pigs, but they do. Everything is new and clean in spring. "Jimbo," Aunt Florence calls as we start to the house with milk buckets, "Breakfast in ten minutes. Oh . . . and I found your cap." She looks down at me and we giggle. He's down at the cowshed with a batch of new calves, trying to get all the mother cows to claim their babies and feed them. Some do, some won't, so a lot of hungry bawling splits the air.

Uncle Jim, tall and lanky in overalls and a denim coat, strides across the corral, shaking his head. "Looks like we're going to have to bottle feed one," he tells Florence. "That new heifer needs mothering lessons." After breakfast I carry the wire egg basket while Maggie gathers eggs in the chicken house.

Old hens don't lay well in winter so Aunt Florence coddles them with warm mash and hot water to keep them producing. New baby chicks will soon arrive from the hatchery; perhaps the senior biddies know their days are num-

bered. All too soon fuzzy chicks turn into pullets that lay tiny little eggs and by the end of summer they are full fledged layers. The stewpot awaits old hens that stop laying.

Come Saturday the milk and cream cans are loaded into the truck along with a few crates of eggs and we set off to Hill City to do the "trading." It really is trading. Farm produce is sold at Uncle Jack's creamery but no money changes hands, just a yellow ticket that buys flour, sugar, salt and coffee at Grandpa's grocery store. Sometimes there's a little extra for a stick of candy but today, thanks to the kittens, the extra goes for a new chore cap.

Uncle Jim says, "Guess that'll teach me to take care of my cap from now on or I'll have to wear kitten ear muffs to keep warm." Maggie and I grin at the idea of kittens tied over his ears by their tails. And then we really smile as he pulls the truck in at the Heap'm'Up and treats us all to ice cream cones, paid for with real money!

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