



Posted on Thu, Aug. 09, 2007

Tribute: Clifford 'Pete' Mose could fix anything

By JONATHAN KEALING
The Kansas City Star

Who: Clifford "Pete" Mose of Liberty.

When and how he died: July 31 of leukemia and kidney failure.

Age: 72.

The power of the alphabet: Though they had known each other since grade school, it wasn't until junior high and high school that Pete Mose and his future wife, Nancy, really got a chance to talk.

In those days, Nancy Mose explained, students were seated in alphabetical order. Nancy Morrow, her maiden name, and Pete Mose wound up one after the other whenever they had classes together in junior high school.

They started dating in high school and got married March 4, 1954, within a year of Pete's high school graduation. Nancy graduated a year before he did.

Working in the community: With his father, Pete Mose opened a business in 1954. For 40 years, C.M. Mose & Son Electric was run out of Pete Mose's home, with a satellite office in the trunk of his car. Eventually they acquired a white truck, the first of many that now dot the parking lot of the business.

"Many of the cards we got talked not only of the loss to the family, but also of the loss to the community, because he's been in business so long," Nancy Mose said.

Father and son could be counted on to fix anything that broke, no matter what day of the year it was.

"He missed Christmas Eve services one year because he was at the bottom of a well trying to fix someone's plumbing," said Sheila Baker, the Moses' daughter.

His son, Roger Mose, who took over the business from his father, recalls the evening, too. It was bitter cold, he said, with 7 inches of snow on the ground.

"While the family was at church, we were in the field getting this pump hooked up so we could get that Christmas party some water," he said.

Staying together: The Mose family stuck together through the years. Children, grandchildren and other relatives all stuck around the Kansas City area.

Gatherings were common. Nancy Mose said her husband's last trip out of the house was over to his son's place, where he watched everyone play in the pool.

"I feel spoiled," Baker said. "Spoiled when I hear about other families that are having issues and tragedies and don't have anyone around."

Pete Mose regularly picked up his youngest granddaughter from school at least once a week, Nancy Mose said.

"She came up to me the other day and asked, 'Who's going to take me for ice cream this week?'" Nancy Mose said.

Survivors include: His wife, three children, four grandchildren and five siblings.

The last word: "Everyone knew him. He was a piece of the community," Baker said.

To suggest community members to profile, send e-mail to tributes@kcstar.com.

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