



Carl Peltoniemi,

August 23, 1923 - March 1, 2012

Carl Wallace Stinar Peltoniemi, Sr., an attorney in Wadena for 55 years, died March 1, 2012 at Tri-County Hospital after a short illness. He was a resident of Fair Oaks Lodge, Wadena, MN. Carl was born in New York Mills on August 23, 1923 to Walter and Thora (Stinar) Peltoniemi. He married Marilyn Lois Baglien of Pelican Rapids on June 19, 1948. They had three children, Eric, born in 1949; Carl, Jr. (Kip), 1951; and Joan, 1954. Carl graduated from New York Mills High School in 1941 and attended Moorhead State Teachers College before enlisting in the United States Navy in 1942. In officers' training at Minot State Teachers College and Northwestern University, Chicago, he studied such subjects as spherical trigonometry and became a navigator. He was commissioned an ensign in 1943. Carl's maiden voyage was in a convoy from Norfolk, VA, up to New York City, and then down to the Panama Canal. After passing through the Canal Zone, he guided his ship (an LST) on an 8,000-mile, solo voyage to Hawaii—arriving on time, despite overcast skies. Carl participated in the invasions of Okinawa and Iwo Jima, made multiple supply runs to the Philippines, and took part in the initial occupation of Japan in Nagasaki. He finished his Navy service as a lieutenant and took command of the ship briefly after the war. Following the war, Carl returned to Moorhead State and met Marilyn. They moved to Saint Paul where Carl attended night classes at Saint Paul College of Law (now known as William Mitchell College of Law) while working as an insurance adjuster and supporting a family. He graduated in 1951, second in his class. After working in a law firm in Duluth,

he moved to Wadena in 1953 and started a private practice. He served as Wadena County Attorney for one term, and specialized in property and probate law, accumulating a vast knowledge of the families and properties in Wadena, Otter Tail and Todd Counties. He also worked with, and had close friends, in area financial institutions, real estate companies, co-ops, farming operations and in small businesses. After “semi-retirement” in the Nineties, Carl continued to practice law out of his house, officially retiring at age 84. Carl was also a well-known tree farmer who operated “The Wobegone Forest” (a name he adopted before the famous radio show aired) between Sebeka and Nimrod. He served two terms as the first President of the Minnesota Forestry Association in the early Eighties, and was on the board of directors of Central Minnesota Small Woodlot Owners Association. During his six decades in forestry, he planted thousands of trees and was a proponent of multiple-use woods management. His later plantations promoted biodiversity and mixed-species growth. In addition to growing trees, Carl photographed nature, and would frequently travel to the North Shore, the American West and Alaska, stalking plants and animals with his camera. He published his photographs in the WCCO Weather Guide and wrote articles for the Minnesota Volunteer. Carl served several terms on the Wadena County Park Board, helping to develop recreational and historical sites on the Crow Wing River. He was instrumental in acquiring and initiating the “Old Wadena” site. He also served on Wadena County Zoning Board, as well as on the Upper Great Lakes Regional Development Committee. In the late Nineteen-Sixties, he reorganized the long-dormant Wadena County Historical Society, and helped site and mark the path of the old Red River Trail through the county. By no means was Carl “all business.” He enjoyed mixing with friends in Wadena, New York Mills, Bluffton and Nimrod, swapping stories, sharing conviviality and humor. He will be truly missed by family and friends of multiple generations. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister and brother-in-law, Marion (Peltoniemi) and Clarence Koehler; his father- and mother-in-law, Syverin and Sophie Baglien; sister-in-law, Mildred Baglien; and brother-

and sister-in-law, Loren and Wanda Baglien. He is survived by Marilyn (Baglien) Peltoniemi, his beloved wife of 63 years, of Wadena; his son Eric (Rosa Garcia) Peltoniemi, Saint Paul; son Carl or "Kip" (Mary Crimi) Peltoniemi, Minneapolis; daughter Joan (Bob) Tait, Overland Park, Kansas; grandchildren Maggie (Shane) Laughlin; Dana (Peltoniemi) Montoro; Robert Tait; Andrew Tait; Alejandro Peltoniemi; great-grandchildren Grace and Morgan Laughlin; nieces Carol Riley, Mary (Mike) Brauch; Laurie (Paul) Jorgenson; and nephew James (Kim) Baglien. A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on March 6, 2012 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Pastor Marilyn Breckenridge presiding. Military honors were provided by the Elmer Goche Post 3922, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wadena, MN. Honorary pallbearers were Russ Jacobson, Ed Burkley, Scott Pettit, Paul Montan, John Erickson, Harry Harrison, John Hockert, and Al Neitzke. Interment will be in Wadena Cemetery at a later date.

Tribute Wall

MH

“ Carl was a long time member of the legal profession in Wadena. We will all miss him. I always enjoyed chatting with Carl. He had a great store of knowledge of Wadena County and it's history.

Mark F. Hansen - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ We are in Texas - are thinking of you all - Will see you Marilyn when we return to Wadena in April - Our Sympathy to all of you

Gladys and Charlie Chase - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ My deepest sympathies to you all on your loss. Carl and Marilyn have always been so kind to my family. Carl always had a warm greeting and wonderful smile whenever I saw him.

Renee Reece-Murray - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ So sorry for the loss of Carl. He was a genuine asset to Wadena. I'm grateful for the time Carl spent reorganizing the Wadena County Historical Society. It is a real benefit to have a historical society in Wadena and especially being the county historical society. Being the Executive Director at the WCHS, I have read so many good things that Carl did to revive it. Carl & Bob Zosel were a good pair and I so appreciate what they have done for the WCHS & community. May we all step in their path and continue to do our share to keep things alive and well in Wadena. May the Lord watch over you all and enjoy all the fond memories that Carl has left with you. Sandi Pratt

Sandi Pratt - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WR

“ *Melanie and I wish to extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family. We know that he will be truly missed. What a wonderful and full life he had! You will all be in our thoughts and prayers.*

Sincerely,

*Wayne & Melanie Runnigen
Pelican Rapids, MN*

Wayne & Melanie Runnigen - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ *I DONT KNOW CARL THAT WELL.....BUT I KNEW MY DAD DID...IRVIN KERN.
MY DAD HELPED HIM RE-MODEL A CABIN OR SOMETHING SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE WOODS. I WAS JUST A LITTLE KID MYSELF AND WENT ONCE WITH MY DAD. LATER IN LIFE MY MOTHER DIED AND CARL HELPED OUT MY DAD WITH MY WIFES CREDIT CARDS MY DAD DIDNT KNOW ABOUT. HE SEEMED LIKE A WELL LOVED AND LIKED PERON. MAY GOD BLESS HIM AND A PRAYER SENT TO YOU ALL.*

SCOTT KERN - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM