



Emil Schlecht

September 25, 1935 - May 24, 2008

Emil C. Schlecht was born on September 25, 1935 to parents Rudolph and Helen (Wolf) Schlecht in Beulah, ND. He passed away at his home in Wadena on Saturday, May 24, 2008 at the age of 72. Emil graduated from Beulah High School in 1956 and after graduation he worked as a bookkeeper for Cenex in Hazen, ND. Emil was united in marriage with Bonita D. Huber on July 19, 1959 in Hazen. They moved in 1959 to Stanley to partner with his father-in-law at Stanley Motors. In 1967 they moved to Wadena, Mn to partner with his father-in-law and brother-in-law at Huber Motors. Emil retired from the car business in the early 1990s. He worked several part-time jobs with ASCS, Wadena Floral and the Elks Club. He spent the greater part of his retirement partnering with his wife for 18 successful years at craft sales. He became very well known for his unique and beautiful pine wood creations. He enjoyed woodworking, fishing, playing cards, watching sports, and most of all he cherished his time with his grandchildren. In 2003 he suffered a stroke. His deteriorating health led to a diagnosis of PSP, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. Throughout his illness the dedication and love of his wife, family, neighbors and caregivers allowed him to remain in the comfort of his home. Emil was preceded in death by his parents, Rudolph and Helen; and brothers, Otto and Edwin. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie; daughters, Jayme (Claude) Holmes of Aurora, Ontario, and Shannon (Terry) O'Keefe of Woodbury; grandchildren, Heather and Kyra Holmes, and Claire and Cael O'Keefe; brothers, John (Joyce) of Billings, MT, and Wesley (Jean) of Goose

Creek, SC; sister, Esther (Alvin) Rasch of Mandan, ND; special niece and caregiver, Mim Maas of Wadena, and many loved relatives and dear friends. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, May 30, 2008 at St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena with Reverend William Stockman officiating.

Tribute Wall

AS

“ Hello my dearest family,
I have missed you all terribly. When Randy and Dad passed on the news it hit me so hard at how little i know about all of you. Uncle Emil and Aunt Bonnie were the greatest. They always had those Silver Dollars and Buffet tickets when they would stay at CIRCUS CIRCUS. I had meant to call all of you shortly after the wedding to check in and i dont write letters as often as i used to. My email is above...please stay in contact.

Aunt Bonnie...we love and miss you. Thank you for all the encouragement you and Emil would give. I shall not forget it..you are in our prayers. God Bless you all.

Anthony Otto

Anthony Otto Schlecht - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

YK

“ *To Bonnie, Jayme, Shannon and all of your family*

This is a beautiful tribute to Emil, and his life that was filled with joy and laughter with love of his family and fun in life. I always had alot of admiration and respect for Emil, who was my favorite dad of my girlfriends. I have alot of fond memories of times at your house and at the lake and he always could make us laugh.

I hope that you may find comfort in this difficult time to know that others care and are thinking of you.

While you grieve your loss, may you find comfort in celebrating his beautiful life and know that his legacy and memory lives on, in his children and grandchildren, and in the hearts and minds of so many lives that he has touched and left a memorable mark. He was admired by many and will be missed but not forgotten.

*With loving memories,
Yvonne Kroening*

Yvonne Kroening - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *Dear Schlect Family*

Thinking of you all today as there comes closure to Emil's suffering. You are in my prayers and thoughts.

Linda

Linda Busing - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Shannon and family,
My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I know that it has been hard watching your father/husband live with such a terrible disease. He is in a better place now without pain and suffering. Remember all the wonderful times that you shared together and rely on your faith to get you through this time of your life.

Thinking of you,
Lynette

Lynette Dykhoff - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Jayme, Bonnie and Shannon,

I am so sorry for your loss. I am fortunate enough to have many great memories of your dad. Growing up in Wadena and spending time with you and your family at home, the cabin and other weekends away I always remember your dad's great sense of humor! He always had a smile on his face and loved to joke with us kids!

I am very sad that I am unable to be there today with you and your family, please know that you all are in my thoughts and prayers and will remain there though your time of grief.

God Bless,

Karen

Karen Hunnicutt-Meyer - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ ESTHER & BONNIE & FAMILIES!! WE ARE SO SORRY TO HEAR OF EMILS PASSING AND PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES! MAY THE GOOD MEMORIES THAT YOU HAVE OF EMIL SUSTAIN YOU IN THE FUTURE!! MAY GOD BLESS HIS MEMORY!!
LOVE AND PRAYERS BRUCE & LAVELDA

BRUCE & LAVELDA RODENHIZER - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ Bonnie, Jayme and Shannon,

We are so saddened to hear of Emil's passing. Mom and Amy will be attending the funeral tomorrow and we wish we could be there too. I have so many great memories of our families when we were young, especially the time we spent at your lake cabin. So many years, so many memories!

One of my favorite memories of Emil is when he and Bonnie were at Mom and Dad's cabin and he taught our oldest daughter, Sara, how to dance. He let her stand on top of his feet and they would dance around the cabin. He never said no, no matter how many times she wanted to do it. That was 20 years ago, but Sara still remembers it.

Please know that we hold you all close in our thoughts and prayers.

Kim

Kim Anderson - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ Thank you for sharing the video tribute of your father. He seemed like a wonderful and loving father and grandpa. I especially enjoyed the pictures of him with his grandchildren and the pictures of his successful fishing trips.

Our hearts go out to you and your family during this time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Kristin Koch and family

Kristin Koch - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Jennifer Myers - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ *Shannon and Family,
We are so sorry to hear about the loss of your father. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Megan Leland - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ *Shannon & Family,
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

Becky Lunda - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ Shannon and family,

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of your father. May many happy memories carry you all through the coming days ahead. God bless you all during this time of sorrow.

The Maplewood Team

Pam Jerhoff - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GK

“ To all of the Schelcht family, I am very sorry for your loss. Emil was a great man and I have many fond memories of him while growing up in Wadena. If he knew of some of the things we thought we got away with, he never let on. He was always available for a visit and would take the time to sit and listen. I will always remember the smile on his face and his fatherly advice whenever I visited the house. I hope you can get through your grief and also remember the good times you had with your dad/husband.

Greg Krier - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Bonnie, I am so sorry to hear of Emil's death. I wish you strength for the coming days.

Mary Rinkel - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ Bonnie, Shannon & Jamie,

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of uncle Emil. Some of the fondest memories I have as a little girl are of coming to visit you guys. I will never forget that uncle Emil was the person who taught me how to fish, and I actually caught my first fish with him on the boat at Ottertail Lake. I remember he laughed and laughed because he fished with leaches and I was very freaked out at the sight of them! It's kind of neat because Skylar caught her first fish with Wayne, who is her Great-Uncle. Take care of yourselves and our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Love, Hope, Shannon, Skylar & Riley

Hope Schreiner - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ *Just letting you know you are all in our prayers at this hard time. No matter how ill one is it is still so hard to be without them in our lives. God be with all of you.*
Pam Schwartz

Pam (Wegscheid) Schwartz - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *So sorry to hear that Emil passed away. We have many good memories of times spent in Wadena with the Schlechts and the Maas's. Our sincere sympathy to you Bonnie and your family. We are so glad we did get to have a short visit with Emil and you in your home last June... Our prayers are thoughts are with you at this time.*

LeRoy and Shirley Bendewald - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

“ Dear Bonnie, Jayme, Shannon, Claude, Terry, Heather, Kyra, Claire, Cael and all Family members:

The news of Emil's passing came with great sadness and tears.

Our thoughts are with all of you today, and all through the forthcoming days.

Bonnie, you were all a husband could ask for. From what we hear, you were steadfast, and caring throughout, and gave everything you could give and more. You were true to the saying, "in sickness and in health", and I am so glad you enjoyed so much time to talk the last few years. I know your Family was there for you too, Jayme, Shannon and all Family support.

It tears me apart to be so far away at this time. I want all of you to know, our thoughts and prayers are with you. It really hurts not to be there with you.

Emil was a special kind of person to us. Emil always had a smile for everyone, and made everyone else smile. I remember meeting Emil, and loving the sense of humor right away.

Emil, Bonnie, Jayme and Shannon greeted us with open arms into their home, as did other family members and friends in Wadena when all of us Canadians made the trek for Claude and Jayme's wedding.

We joked with Emil about Wadena, Minnesota, Canada, and lots of things. We talked about the politics, sports, fishing and Minnesota's short cows (When we drove to Wadena via Winnipeg, the snow was so deep, it almost covered the fences - so we coined the phrase "Minnesota has short cows".) We met Emil laughing about things like short cows, and the smiles and laughter followed whenever we crossed paths afterwards.

Every time I meet someone who was at Claude and Jayme's wedding in Wadena, we always talk about how much fun we had and we always make a very special mention of the fun times with Emil.

When Bonnie and Emil visited Canada, they were so good to my Mom, Marion. Emil always brought smiles, and helped my Mom out, even on his holidays.

Emil and our Aunt Marie shared a love of sports. Marie had free calls to the USA, and called Emil when their sports teams were playing - like when the Twins were playing - sometimes lots of calls in one game and of course especially when the Twins were playing the Toronto Blue Jays.

Marie recently passed away, and I know Marie is up there talking with Emil about the upcoming baseball season! (Jayme was instrumental in taking care of Marie in her recent sickness and death).

It was nice to know a couple could work together as one to create so many lovely crafts many of us cherish in our homes.

Bonnie and Emil raised a wonderful family in Jayme and Shannon, and with son-in-laws Claude and Terry, have helped to raise wonderful grandchildren Heather, Kyra, Claire and Cael. The grandchildren will have so many fond memories of their grandfather. We all know Emil loved his family and especially loved the grandchildren.

I know there are many more close relatives, and my heart goes out to all of you. You are so blessed to have had Emil in your lives.

To all of you gathered in Wadena, to celebrate Emil's life, our thoughts are with you.

Love,

George, Jacqueline (Holmes), John and Colin Glen from Alberta, and Marion Holmes from Ontario, and all Family from Canada.

Jacqueine Glen - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *Bonnie, Jamie and Shannon, I am so very sorry for your loss. I experienced that in March and it's an indescribable pain. I have such good memories of fishing with Emil in Canada, what good times those were and Leonard and I with our kids and Al & Esther spent a weekend at your cabin on the lake. My kids still remember the good time we all had.*

Julie Leingang - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *Thinking of you and praying for you. We plan to be at the funeral.*

Maxine

Maxine and Gary Beckwith - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *No one could ask for a greater uncle and godfather. Uncle Emil was a gift to all of us. I will always remember his happy eyes and his wonderful smile. He was always making us laugh and was always willing to talk. I remember Christmas spent at their home in Stanley and summers spent at the lake in Ottertail. I will forever cherish these memories and hold them close in my heart. I am most thankful that my daughter was able to meet Uncle Emil and as she said, "He is so funny and cool", high praise from a teenager, but it means so much that she too has memories of him. I am so thankful for having Uncle Emil in my life. My God hold you close at this time and always. Love to all of you, Kay*

Kay Fenstermacher - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *To Shannon & Family:*

My deepest sympathy for your loss. Our memories are never lost and true love lives on in our hearts for our loved ones and that can never be taken from us.

Sharron

Sharron Hoffman - May 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM