



Roland Kleen

November 2, 1930 - January 30, 2004

Roland Carl "Bud" Kleen was born on November 2, 1930 at Ansel Township, Cass County, Minnesota to Bernhard and Martha Kleen. Bud attended Lincoln County School for 8 years and then graduated from Pine River High School in 1947. Bud entered the US Air Force in 1950 and was honorably discharged in 1953 after serving his country as a member of the occupation force in Germany. He was united in marriage with Jean Ann Coles in Minneapolis, MN on September 14, 1957. Bud worked in the aircraft maintenance field for 20 years, working for aircraft charter companies in Winona, MN, Madison, WI and on a project in Oakland, CA. He worked for North Central Airlines in Minneapolis from 1962 to 1972. Bud and his family moved to Bertha in 1971 to work for Cary Dray Line and he purchased the school buses in 1981. He retired in 1992 due to health problems. Bud was active in his community as a member of the William Larson American Legion Post 366 in Bertha, the Bertha-Hewitt School Board and ECSU-5 Board chairman. He spent his leisure time "tinkering with old cars, children and watermelon wine." Bud passed away on Friday, January 30, 2004 at the Tri-County Hospital in Wadena at the age of 73. Bud was preceded in death by his parents Bernhard and Martha, brother Donald Kleen and great niece Miranda Denise Adams. He is survived by his wife Jean; daughter Barb (Steve) Weishair of Eagle Bend; sons Gary (Kathy) of Bertha and James of Savannah, GA; grandchildren Robin Weishair, Anna Kleen, Katie Weishair, Melanie Weishair and Jacob Weishair; brother Ben (Irene) of Wadena; and sisters Virginia

Oberg of Hitchcock, TX, Elsie McLaughlin of Willmar, MN, Lucille "Toots" Paulson of Fergus Falls, MN, Marilyn Pollard of Vancouver BC, Marianne "Bev" Potratz of Park Rapids and Kathy Fischer of Sheboygan, WI. Honorary pallbearers are Bill Umland, John Bauer, Roland Gilbert, Jerome "Smoke" Hokanson, Mervin Klatt and Harlan Fischer. Active pallbearers are Ken Nelson, Dale Graphenteen, Galen Schultz, Russ Vandenheuvel, Stan Nelson, Richard Anderson, Greg Kleen and Neil Schlichting. Interment is in the MN State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls, Minnesota.

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Dale and I were remembering some of the times we spent with Uncle Bud. Occasionally when we were in Bertha, we would stop by the bus garage, and he always made time to visit with us. He was interested in the cars we would acquire, and one day, we made it to Bertha with the tailpipe dangling from the Cordoba. He had us take another of his cars to Wadena for parts, and he got under the car and rigged up something that held the exhaust system together for months, until we replaced it. Of course, he wouldn't take any money for his work!

More recently, we enjoyed our time visiting with him and Jean, looking at some old pictures together that I had brought to the Kleen reunion, at Aunt Toots's and Clarence's home.

We remember Uncle Bud for his straightforwardness, his dry sense of humor, his easy laugh, his love of his family, and his resilience while battling with health issues every day of his life for many years.

We offer our condolences to Jean, Gary, Barb, Jim, and family, and hope that your memories will comfort you. God bless you, and the memory of Uncle Bud.

Fondly, Dale and Beth

Dale and Beth Bonham - January 30, 2004 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ We will always have fond memories of our visits in recent years with Bud and Jean at their home. We'd stop in unannounced many times, and we'd always be warmly received. In spite of the fact that Bud many times was not feeling well, we sensed that he was always glad to see us and spend time visiting about family, world events, politics, and whatever! We were always amazed and will always remember that, though his physical condition deteriorated, his mind remained as sharp as ever. He had an easy laugh, and our visits were always interesting and enjoyable. He never complained about his many very evident health problems. Everyone will remember his really amazing skills and intelligence, and his willingness to always help other people. If no one else could fix a mechanical problem, Bud always could. And he loved and was so proud of every member of his family. When granddaughter Anna was hurt in the accident, his focus was on her problems rather than his own, and he remained extremely positive about her situation. He made every effort to attend family gatherings, in spite of the fact that it was extremely difficult for him. He knew how important it was to us for him to be with us at those times. We will always cherish the many good memories of our beloved brother and miss his place in our family. He fought the good fight, and now he is at rest. May God bless his memory and be with his wife, Jean, his children, Gary and Kathy, Barb and Steve, and Jim, and his grandchildren, as they and we grieve for this really great man who is gone from our lives and whom we all loved and miss with all our hearts.

With our love, Bev and Jim

Bev & Jim Potratz - January 30, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *The news hit hard on Saturday, and much time was spent on teary phone calls. My dad (Greg) still tells stories about his Uncle Buddy... such a well respected and likeable man. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you, and with Uncle Buddy.*

God Bless.

Jessi Kleen (Daughter of Greg and Cheryl) - January 30, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Bob and I are so thankful that we were able to visit Bud and Jean last year, now those memories are even more precious. I have wonderful memories of Bud, Jean and the kids coming to Hawaii to see us and their wonderful hospitality when we visited them in the cities. God Bless Bud, we will miss him. God Bless you Jean, our prayers are with you.*

*Love,
Connie & Bob*

Connie & Bob Sax - January 30, 2004 at 12:00 AM