



Orval Hilderbrand

January 31, 1937 - July 10, 2015

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Orval Hilderbrand died Friday, July 10th at his home in Corvallis, Oregon with his devoted family at his side. Orval was born January 31, 1937 in Albany to parents Kenneth and Margaret (Eleeta) Coates Hilderbrand. He was the second of five sons. He graduated from Corvallis High in 1955 and attended Oregon State University the following year. He married Annadele Spencer in Corvallis in 1956. Orval served in the National Guard for eight years. He owned and operated M & H Well Drilling for over 40 years. Orval estimated that he drilled over 1200 wells throughout Oregon. Orval taught the business to his son-in-law, David Gibbs, who now runs M & H Pump Services.

In his leisure time Orval enjoyed hunting, fishing, and collecting tractors (both full size and models) as well as antique tools. He also loved going to garage sales and flea markets with his wife Ann. He was an avid reader of Oregon history and Earth sciences. He was a loving husband, wonderful father, and a great friend who will be remembered as a hardworking man of great integrity, honesty and loyalty. He impacted family, friends, and others by modeling strong character, generosity and good citizenship. He was a Good Samaritan who would help anyone anywhere in time of need.

Orval is preceded in death by his brother Dale and parents Kenneth and Eleeta. He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 60 years, Ann; and daughters Kathryn Madison (married to Michael), Karla McGrath (married to

Joseph), and Kelly Gibbs (married to David), his grandchildren Jeremy, Jason, Nicole, and Ashley as well as his brothers Leslie, Kenneth and Douglas. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. The family wishes memorial donations in Orval's name be directed to: National MS Society, Oregon Chapter 5331 SW Macadam Ave, Suite 290 Portland, OR 97239 ~ 503-445-8360. His youngest daughter (Kelly) has MS. Private services will be held.

Tribute Wall

KH

“ Good-by brother. I love you. I told you that the day before you died but you were asleep. I wish I had woke you up. Now I can't. Have a safe journey.

Thanks for talking me into enlisting the the National Guard when I was still in high school. It was my first exposure to life outside the farm and has served me well in many ways over the years.

Thanks for disposing of that dead nutria I shot on my way to a wedding.

I told you not to let that raccoon out of the trap and try to shoot him on the run. But you thought you were a quicker shot than I was but the coon was faster by far.

Thanks for running over that purse-on-a-string with your drill rig after I warned you on the CB radio not to fall for the trick. I bet those kids were shocked to see 20 tons of steel mash their purse into the mud.

Your 54 Ford coupe was "cooler" than my 54 Ford four door sedan. But my car had a back seat that was easier to get into. Just saying.

Please forgive me for towing and hiding your get-away car in the trees after you parked it on the creek bridge so you could block chasers when you drove up in the borrowed car after your wedding. But your little brother was pretty smart wasn't he. You thought you could get away clean.

Thanks for the trip down the Willamette in you bass boat. I'd never done that before and haven't since.

Linda and I will keep an eye on Annie for you. Good-by brother! Say hi to Dale for me. Hope to see you both in the next world.

Ken Jr.

Ken S Hilderbrand - July 18 at 10:20 AM

Write a comment...

Ken S Hilderbrand - July 20, 2015 at 12:30 PM

MG

“ *Annie and the girls*

It broke our hearts to hear of Orvals passing. We were both very fond of him and thought he was one of the kindest people we had the pleasure to know. I look at his picture here and still giggle because Kelly looks just like him and that has always brought a smile to my face. We are both so sorry for your lose and if there is ANYTHING we can do to help please let us know. Know that he is whole and healthy again and still watching over his family, just like my dad is still doing with us. Love to you all..

Mona (May) and Dale Goetzinger

Mona Goetzinger - July 18, 2015 at 12:41 PM

MS

“ Hello Annadele,
My brother Mike Mullett forwarded Orval's obituary to me. I remember all the four older Hilderbrand boys well. Don and Helen rented the Ryals Lane house from Kenneth and Eleeta while they fixed up the farm house on 99W. The boys used to come over for visits. They were good workers! The whole family really helped us out.
I don't think I ever saw Orval again after you married. But I do remember you from Leading Floral! You were a great support to me then.
Over the years we would visit Kenneth and Eleeta. Mother Helen especially enjoyed spending time with Eleeta. Eleeta would share her paperbacks with us! We had a chance to read the history Eleeta wrote. Leslie was there one time we visited. I still had a copy of the family history and after Eleeta died I was able to contact Leslie and send the copy on to him.
I've met Kelly. She's a horse friend of Mike's wife Peggy!
I know you have many good memories! Reading about Orval and the life you shared was wonderful. Blessings to you and your family.
An old neighbor and friend from the past. -M. Karin Mullett
Schneider (Newberg)

MKM Schneider - July 17, 2015 at 11:59 PM

DE

“ Ann:

Thank you so much for sending us your note regarding Orval's passing. We are saddened. You and Orval were wonderful landlords and friends to us and we have many fond memories of the two of you working around your property or chatting with you on your front deck area. You were always interested in what Aubri was doing and it was always interesting listening to your stories about your grandchildren and their busy lives.

I (Deanna) will never forget the time when Ron was away on business and I woke up from a brief afternoon nap on the couch to see the dishwasher panel smoking and sparking! I shut off the fuse and heard noises outside the back door. Orval just happened to be across the driveway doing some work. I told him what was happening. He must have thought I was a bit crazy, but he hurried over and dealt with it. One never expects a dishwasher to have an electrical meltdown!! I feel blessed that the Lord put Orval right there in the time of my still sleepy bewilderment and slight panic. Orval will be greatly missed!!! Our hearts and prayers are with you, Ann.

Ron, Deanna, and Aubri Emmert

Deanna Emmert - July 16, 2015 at 10:41 AM

KA

“ *Kamela lit a candle in memory of Orval Hilderbrand*



Kamela - July 15, 2015 at 06:12 PM

KA

“ The first thing my daughter and I thought when we met Orval in 2001 was that he had an incredible and memorable, wonderful voice. It fit him. It sounded powerful, direct and honest, but gentle. My daughter, Eliza, always wished he would be outside when she would walk to/from the bus so she could hear his voice when he said, Hi!

Because he drilled wells and lived only a couple doors down, we asked him if, perhaps, he knew where our well was. He wasn't certain, but the next day, the man that originally built our home was on our doorstep to personally show us where it was. Orval had phoned him.

He allowed everyone on the lane to use his gravel pile to fill the holes in the road in front of their homes. He never even drove that direction to make the holes that most of his gravel went to fill.

In 2014 we volunteered to pick-up golf carts from Trysting Tree Golf Course to use in the CVHS Homecoming Program. We thought the golf course would have ramps to get the carts into our trailer – we were wrong. We called Orval and, of course, he had some, and of course, we could use them, just come pick them up he said!

My husband was mowing our property that is across from Oval and Ann's last summer. He thought he was going to go around the phone book that had fallen into the grass from where the phonebook delivery people had placed it. Short story; the John Deere won, efficiently. As my husband was trying to pick up some of the 50,000 pieces of phone book that sprayed over 100 square feet, Orval and Ann came out with bags and helped him, in the summer heat, to pick them up.

He used to tell us about what our Lane was like years ago. He was wonderful to listen to and kind and gentle in his demeanor. His laugh just spread joy.

We are thankful to have known him and at the same time, we really wish we had known him better.

Scott, Kamela and Eliza Berglund

Kamela - July 15, 2015 at 06:11 PM

BD

“ *We want all of you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Orv contributed so many happy memories to our family as the kids were growing up. We are blessed to have known him.*
Bill and June Daley

Bill and June Daley - July 15, 2015 at 03:18 PM

WG

“ *Orval was the best well driller in the county and a really good person. I used M&H Well Drilling for several drilling projects and admired his expertise and good nature. My condolences to his family.*

Wayne Gisel

Wayne Gisel - July 15, 2015 at 12:04 PM

ED

“ *With Deepest Condolences
Wishing you peace and comfort at this most difficult time.*
Cousin, Elinor Hewitt Denton

Elinor Hewitt Denton - July 14, 2015 at 03:17 PM

AH

thank you

Ann Hilderbrand - July 14, 2015 at 07:37 PM

KH

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