



Lee R Haley

December 9, 1926 - February 21, 2017

Leroy (Lee) Haley, son of Mary and J.W. Haley was born on December 9, 1926 at Dacoma, Oklahoma, and passed away in Alva, Oklahoma on February 21, 2017 at the age of 90 yrs, 2 months and 12 days.

Lee attended Carmen Public Schools and N.W.O.S.U., where he received his Bachelors Degree in 1953 and his Masters Degree in 1959. While at NWOSU, Lee was Vice-President of the Student Council in 1950-51. Lee attended O.S.U. for Advanced Graduate Work.

Lee taught at Washington Elementary School, Alva, Oklahoma, for five years before going to Longfellow Elementary for thirty years as principal.

Besides teaching, he enjoyed farming, and was a football and basketball official for twenty-five years.

Lee was in W.W.II, going into Nagasaki, Japan soon after the 2nd atomic bomb was dropped there in 1945. He was a S/Sgt. in the 22nd Special Service Co.

Lee and Mary Shoemake were married in Kingfisher, Oklahoma on March 29, 1951. There were no children to this union.

In the early 1950's, Lee and Mary put in the first stock car race track in Alva, Ok. The track was located at what is now the Woods County Fairground.

Lee and Mary also had an antique business in Alva. Lee especially liked the antique cars and early National Cash Registers.

Lee served on the Woods Co Health Board for several years. He also served on the Advisory Board of the N.W. Vo-Tech in Alva. In 2012, he was awarded

the Outstanding Education Award from NWOSU. Lee was honored as an Inaugural Distinguished Gold Bug in 2015.

He attended the College Hill Church of Christ. Lee was baptized when he was seventeen in the First Christian Church of Carmen, Oklahoma.

Lee was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Nelson Haley, and many other relatives.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Haley, nephews, and nieces.

Memorials in his name may be made to:

The Alva Educational Foundation,

c/o Wharton Funeral Chapel, 1302 Oklahoma Blvd, Alva, OK 73717

Cemetery Details

Alva Municipal Cemetery

1698 Flynn Street
Alva Municipal Cemetery, OK 73717

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 24. 1:30 PM (CT)

College Hill Church of Christ
1108 College Blvd.
Alva, OK 737 17-

Tribute Wall



“ *Wharton Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Lee R Haley*



Wharton Funeral Chapel - February 23, 2017 at 10:36 AM

BB

“ I have been so happy my children attended Longfellow Elementary School, grades k - 6. My first encounter with Lee and Mary was at Joyce's Café. I knew him somewhat and what a joker he could be. First day of Kindergarten Mr. Haley said You know Mrs. Beeler we really could use a fine PTA President. You would really do a fine job. We could use you leadership. Boy, first year of having a child in school and you want me to be the PTA President! I said, OK. Mr. Haley always was there to greet me and to help. That year myself, Jo Anne Melton, Helen Wamsley, and Yvonne Nieman were the leaders and of course Mr. Haley was a great supporter of the school, our children, every teacher, every event and he would always ask me, "You ready to have another PTA" He never forgot that year. I hope it was because it was good. Always loved Mary. Very elegant lady.

Thank you Mary for all the years you shared your husband with the public.

Always enjoyed going and seeing their new antiques and he was so proud of the soda fountain they had on display.

Love to Mary and Family.

Bill and Linda Beeler
Kevin and Rick Beeler



Bill and Linda Beeler - April 01, 2017 at 11:49 AM

ND

“ I met Mr. Haley when I was 6 years old, and we drove from PA to OK to spend a few days. That was a wonderful visit, we drove a dune buggy, fed the cattle, and he let me ride the tractor. Mr. Haley was my Dad's friend for 72 years. They met in Japan after WWII, and kept up their friendship mostly through phone calls ever since. When I was in 5th grade, I chose Oklahoma for my state report, and Mr. Haley had a whole 5th grade class write to me and send me pictures. In the last few years, as they both grew older, I helped Dad call Mr. Haley to keep in touch and always recognized his familiar voice. We will miss his friendship, but the memories live on. Thanks for being a life long friend to Dad, rest in peace. Nanette Dudley

Nanette Dudley - February 27, 2017 at 02:25 PM

DW

Lee Haley served his superintendent of schools, Mr. Earl Geis as an advisor when Mr. Geis was appointed to the Oklahoma State Textbook Committee by the then Governor of Oklahoma. Mr. Geis directed me to go to Washington Elementary School and introduce myself to Mr. Haley, one of his most trusted principals. What an experience! It was an extremely hot Oklahoma summer day in June, 1968 when I arrived at the school and two men (I thought they were janitors) were unloading a stake bed truck which was filled with student desks. I asked where I could find Mr. Haley and one of the men on the truck bed said "Help me unload this truck and I'll take you to Mr. Haley." I pulled off my suit coat, rolled up my sleeves and began lifting down desk, one by one. The summer sun bore down on me and my white starched shirt became soaking wet with perspiration. I then loosened my neck tie and began to worry about how I was beginning to appear. Would I be presentable when I finally got to meet Mr. Haley? Would I look professional? I began to worry more! We completed unloading the truck and I was worn out, wet with sweat, and looked tattered from head to foot. I then asked "Will you now take me to meet Mr. Haley?" The man on the standing on the bed of the truck looked down on me with a HUGE grin, extended his hand to shake mine and said, "I'm Lee Haley, what can I do for you?" (The other man unloading the truck with Lee was Mr. Harvey Reege, the principal of Washington Elementary School. That was my first meeting with Lee Haley and the beginning of both a professional as well as personal friendship that has continued until this day! I later was invited to Lee's home where he introduced me to his lovely wife Mary. Over the years I have been an overnight guest in their home and have attended Antique/Collector Automobile Auctions in Tulsa and Oklahoma City together. We have laughed and dined at the V.I.P. Club, had lunch in the Haley's Motor Coach and of course, sat in the building out back and admired his and Mary's many antiques. Lee and Mary have enriched my life along with countless untold others who are, like me, PROUD to have been apart of their walk on life experience. My sincere condolences to Mary and other family nieces and nephews. We will all miss Lee and wait to see him again!

*In the Body of Christ,
Dickk Woolbright
Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Publishers
Edmond, Oklahoma*

Dickk Woolbright - February 27, 2017 at 11:00 PM

RM

“ *Mr Haley was my 6th grade teacher at Washington School,he was the best,my best friend. Barbara Thornberry, Duncan was blind,and he let me help her in class,when she moved to Little Rock Arkansas and graduated from the University of Little Rock, receiving her masters degree, Mr and Mrs Haley attended her graduation,it meant a lot , thats how much cared about his students,he wanted the best for us,he will be greatly missed, my thoughts and prayers go out to his beloved wife Mary, RIP Mr Haley, Rita Arndt, Miller*

Rita Miller - February 25, 2017 at 09:03 PM

FV

“ *Mr. Haley, my first teacher after moving from Searsport, Maine to Alva. Very out of place in a strange town with people that made fun of my Downeast accent. Had it been anybody but Mr. Haley as my first role-model, I'm sure my life would not have turned out quite so well. Mr. Haley, along with Bill Short, and Fred Neuman were the best dads a young boy could ever dream of having. Mr. Haley always had a kind word of encouragement when I managed to get in trouble, made me feel special not different, and always had a pat for my back when something went right. Thank You Mr. Haley for making such a big difference, I shall always be grateful, Frank Verrill*

Frank Verrill - February 25, 2017 at 07:05 PM

BH

“ *I bought my first car from Lee Haley. It was a 49 flathead ford and Lee said it was his mother's. He added that If I ever wanted to sell it he would buy it back. He was a wonderful person and will be missed. Bill Hester*

Bill Hester - February 25, 2017 at 02:01 PM

GP

“ *Mister Haley there was not a single person I've ever known that was better at life as it most assuredly should be than you. Thanks so very much.*

Gene Prigmore - February 24, 2017 at 06:30 PM

KF

“ *Our condolences to Mary and family. Lee was surely an Alva icon. His memories will live on in the many lives he touched with his. Kevin and Rhonda Fields*

Kevin & Rhonda Fields - February 24, 2017 at 12:52 PM

SS

“ *Sad to hear of Mr. Haley's passing. I know he will be missed by many! Sympathy's to the Haley family.*

Shelly (Waldschmidt) Stoffel - February 24, 2017 at 11:17 AM

BD

“ A tribute to Lee Haley

He was a teacher who cared for his students and their success. A case in point--when I was in 6th grade, at the Washington Elementary School in Alva, Mr Haley was my 6th grade teacher. He began noticing that I was losing my vision and could not read the blackboard. He allowed me to move closer to the board. After a while I was unable to read. Mr Haley became concerned. He permitted my friend Rita Arndt to sit with me and read the board for me. After a while, my vision grew more and more dim. Mr Haley contacted the Superintendent Harold Shirley seeing that something had to be done. He was given permission to search for the Oklahoma School for the Blind. After much time, Mr Haley did locate the school in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He made contact with them and requested that someone contact my mother and I. They did. I attended the school from eighth grade through high school. I returned to Alva and attended Northwestern Oklahoma State University. After graduation, I moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. I worked for the Arkansas Enterprises for the blind for eight years. After that, I became employed at the Arkansas Governor's Office for thirty-seven years. Because of Mr Haley's interest and concern, I have had a successful career.

My husband Adren and I have stayed in contact with Lee and Mary. Each time we went to Alva, we visited with them. They were always friendly and pleased to visit with both of us. I deeply appreciate everything he did for me. I want to send my love and respect to his wife Mary and the family.

Barbara Thornberry Duncan

Barbara Duncan - February 24, 2017 at 10:18 AM

LW

“ *Lavon Wiersig lit a candle in memory of Lee R Haley*



Lavon Wiersig - February 24, 2017 at 09:10 AM

PC

“ *Mr. Haley touched the lives of many young people in Alva. He taught us life skills, hand washing, clean fingernails, good citizenship, setting up straight, things that were not in our text books. May he rest in peace. Our prayers are with your family.*
Pat Rodgers Canaday

Pat Canaday - February 24, 2017 at 08:15 AM

GH

“ *I grew up with Mr Haley. Not from a school where he served, but in the Church which we both attended. Always a kind and elegant man, so soft spoken. RIP, Lee, RIP.*
GlennaMae Hendricks, Alva OK.

GlennaMae Hendricks - February 24, 2017 at 02:19 AM

SB

“ I remember Lee very well. He worked briefly for my father, Kenneth K. Baird, at Baird Motor Company in Alva before he became a teacher at Washington Elementary School. He was my sixth grade teacher in 1955-56. Lee also coached our basketball team. I think all of us remember his love for old cars and his black Model T that was in perfect shape. I believe he sold it to Gilbert Travers who drove it through High School. It was not in perfect shape when Gilbert was through with it.

Although we moved from Alva to Burbank, CA in 1956 and lost contact, I always remembered Mr. Haley fondly and with great respect as a man and a teacher. I am glad he lived a long life. May he rest in peace.

Stephen Baird
Solana Beach, CA

Stephen Baird - February 23, 2017 at 11:20 AM

JH

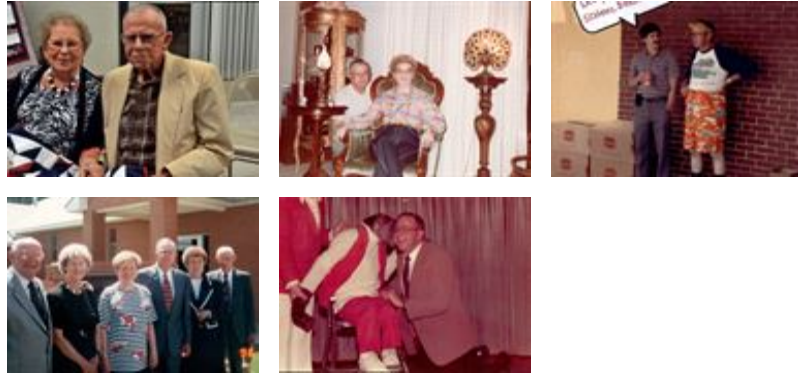
“ JUDY HANNAFORD lit a candle in memory of
Lee R Haley



JUDY HANNAFORD - February 23, 2017 at 11:05 AM



“ 23 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wharton Funeral Chapel - February 23, 2017 at 10:29 AM

DM

“ Mr. Haley was my favorite school principal. I have many fond memories of being a Longfellow Wildcat and many of those are due to him. As an adult, I still loved to stop and visit with Lee when I would see him out running errands. He always had a big, welcoming smile on his face. He will be greatly missed.



Diane (Lancaster) McAlpin - February 23, 2017 at 08:25 AM

DS

“ Our sincere condolences to Mary & family of such an outstanding man! Many special memories fill hearts of those who knew Lee. His legacy will live forever in this community.



Dale and Vaughna Schmidt - February 23, 2017 at 04:41 AM

KR

“ *My heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Lee. May GOD hold you close and comfort you during this difficult time.*
Kathy (Walters) Racette. Cunningham Ks.



Kathryn Walters Racette - February 23, 2017 at 12:01 AM

JS

“ *There is no obituary for Lee because they don't have enough room to tell everything about my friend and his accomplishments. My condolences to his family and God bless you all.*



Jim Scribner - February 22, 2017 at 05:46 PM