



Orval W. Hahn

January 15, 1925 - January 21, 2020

Orval W. Hahn, 95, of Evansville, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 surrounded by family.

Orval was born January 15, 1925 in Evansville to the late Elmer and Flora Marie (Kleinschmidt) Hahn. He considered himself first and foremost a farmer, and second a fisherman. At one time, he held fishing licenses in four states and Canada. He once went fishing 24 out of 27 days and had many fishing friends willing to occupy a seat in his John boat. Family got to take their turn so he always had a fishing friend or two along. He especially enjoyed taking the young children or his friends or children in the family. He was very proud that he had taught his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to enjoy fishing.

Orval started farming when he was not quite a teenager. He was raised in a German speaking, Union Township farm family. His father, Elmer and Uncle Joe farmed together and started Orval farming when he was very young. One of his first memories of those days was plowing a quarter of an acre of old pasture with a team of mules and a single 12-inch plow. By the end of his farming career, he was plowing with a four-wheel drive Steiger 918 plow for Frank and Dave Cummings on Diamond Island. He always enjoyed farming and embraced the improvements in farming throughout his career. After his retirement, Orval volunteered to help other farmers because he loved it and

because he enjoyed the larger and better tractors. Gas money was the only payment he would accept.

When better farming practices and equipment came along, he was one of the first to own a row-crop diesel tractor, a 1947 and 1949. Orval was one of the first in the area to own a John Deere plateless max emerge planter and one of the first to shell corn with a combine and dry the corn with a New Holland Batch drier. He also started using fertilizer and chemicals as soon as they became available. One of the first chemicals used was Radox. Fighting Johnson Grass was one of the early battles of farming.

Orval was a kind and generous man, sharing with others his talents and the fruits of his hobbies. He grew sweet corn for the entire family and for church dinners and funeral dinners. He made a barrel of wine every year, 52 gallons, and gave it all away. He was a great mechanic and would always share his knowledge with others. Orval was a proud member and the president of the Liars Club.

He planted many pin oak trees in the yards of family and friends. Orval loved frying fish. He held large family fish fries, as well as frying fish for many Hadi Shrine functions. He was a good cook and made soup for church Lenten dinners.

When snow came in the winter, Orval could be found out with his tractor, plowing snow all day. There would be a list for him when he came home in the evening for the next day. Among the calls would be the Hadi Shrine, Scottish Rite, Leroy's Tavern and Sacred Heart Church, even St. Paul's on Michigan Street for Easter Sunday services. Anyone in the neighborhood that saw his tractor would call knowing the only payment he would accept was hot chocolate or coffee.

Orval was a Reed Lodge Mason, member of the Scottish Rite and played the bass drum in the Hadi Shrine Drum and Bugle Corp. He paraded at various Imperial or Great Lakes events such as in the Superdome in New Orleans, in Milwaukee and in Ohio.

Orval served as an Elder at St. Paul's UCC and later as a Deacon at Salem Heusler UCC. He rarely missed church, not even to go fishing. He gave sermons to the children at Salem UCC, many to a standing ovation. Orval coached the St. Paul's UCC baseball team in the Church League and won the league championship. He served on the Union Township Levee and Drainage System, as well as on the board of the Evansville Vanderburgh Levee Authority. He was also a member of the R-Men's Club at FJ Reitz High School and an avid sports fan. His favorite teams were the Cubs, Purdue, Yankees, U of E, USI and of course, Reitz.

He loved children and they loved him. He will be missed.

Surviving Orval are his wife of 72 years, Betty (Todd) Hahn; a daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Rodney Leibring, DVM; daughter-in-law, Donna Hahn and sisters, Verna Hudson and Mildred (Jim) Montgomery, all of Evansville. Also surviving Orval are three grandchildren, Ryan (Jill Goedde, DVM) Leibring, Nicole (Dan) Hoffman and Nicholas Hahn, two great grandchildren, Noah and Allison Hoffman and two nieces and their husbands, Janie and Bob Cummings and Judy and Robin Fluty.

In addition to his parents, Orval was preceded in death by his son, Randall Keith "Randy" Hahn in 2017.

Funeral services for Orval will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at Salem United Church of Christ Heusler, Pastor Al Schmitz officiating.

Private burial will take place in Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Friends may visit with the family from 3:00 until 7:00 PM on Friday at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street and from 9:30 AM until service time on Saturday at Salem UCC Heusler, 11325 Lower Mt. Vernon Road, Evansville, IN 47712.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Randall Hahn Wrestling Scholarship at FJ Reitz High School, the Hadi Shrine Crippled Children's Hospital or to Salem Heusler United Church of Christ.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Memorial Park

1800 St. George Road
Evansville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **24**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN

funeral

JAN **25**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Salem UCC - Heusler
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

Tribute Wall



“ *Orval W. Hahn*

January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ *Betty and family*

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of sorrow. We did not have the pleasure of meeting Orval, but heard from others what a kind and generous man he was. May he Rest In Peace.

Chuck and Margaret Valier

Margaret Valier - January 24, 2020 at 07:45 PM



“ *We will miss seeing Orval at the Hinkle-Todd family reunions held in July each year at the Jerry and Donna Hinkle and family farm. He was always kind, courteous and had stories to share. We loved his ice cream making contraption. He would love to make it and share it with us, especially the kids. We will pray that God will keep him close and that God will comfort Betty and family with sweet and fond memories. Kevin and Susan Hinkle and family.*

Kevin Hinkle - January 24, 2020 at 05:45 PM

DS

“ *Betty and Family*
You have my deepest sympathy on the passing of ORVAL . May God give you comfort at this time in your life .Mom and Dad always enjoyed Orval stopping by and talking with them. God bless ORVAL RIP
Daryl Shuck



Daryl Shuck - January 24, 2020 at 10:39 AM

PE

“ *We have such fond memories of Orval and Betty! Orval was our son's mentor through confirmation class, and took that role so seriously! We send our deepest sympathy to Betty and the family and friends. Our loss is heaven's gain!*

Pastor Kathi Elliott - January 23, 2020 at 07:23 PM

SW

“ *Betty and family,*
My thoughts and prayers at this time of Orval's passing. I have wonderful memories of both of you over the years. And blessed to have been in your lives for a short time.
Thankful to have known both of you..
Sara

Sara Whitfield - January 23, 2020 at 11:25 AM

LH

“ To Betty and Janet and family —

We remember our river camp days at Aunt Edna and Uncle Boots on summer Sundays and holidays. Orval and Betty's yard across the road provided great place for Frisbee throwing and ball games with the Hahns and the Watermans !

Also remember partaking in good food in the Hahn house. We also remember the fishing in the Jon boats after descending the metal steps down to the river bank among the trees and washed up logs.

Orval was a loving and generous man who was an example to us in our childhood and high school days.

May he now rest in eternal peace in the arms of our Lord as His good and faithful steward of God's earth. Orval had a long and productive life.

*Linda Waterman Huebschman
Bob Waterman
Tim Waterman*

Linda K Huebschman - January 22, 2020 at 08:07 PM

DS

“ I remember going to fish fries at the camp when I was around 6 years old. when I was older around twelve I walked beans with Orval for several years. I am part of the Steinkamp clan. My mother was Agnes.

Orval was very kind and gentle man to work for and I liked him. I am so sorry to hear he has passed. I have thought about him many times in my life and wondered how we was doing. By reading his history he was doing well and was a blessing to all around him. I am sure he will be missed.

Don Sisco

Donald Sisco - January 22, 2020 at 11:54 AM