Richard L. Wendt


A service will be held in Klamath Falls, Ore.; details were pending at press time.

The son of Evelyn and Lester Wendt, he was born Feb. 18, 1931, in Dubuque. After graduating from Iowa State University and serving in the U.S. Air Force, he started working for Caradco, the Iowa window company where his father worked. Caradco sent Wendt to Klamath Falls, Ore., in 1957, to turn its fledgling millwork plant there into a profitable venture. When Caradco decided to sell the operation, Wendt in cooperation with a group of co-workers purchased the plant in late autumn 1960.

Within two years they added a plant in Charlotte, N.C., where they began assembling complete window and door units. As the company grew, a plant was added in Grinnell—operated by John and Jewel Kintzinger—and Jeld-Wen continues to manufacture both doors and windows here today. The company now has operations in more than 20 countries, and the Jeld-Wen Foundation Wendt began in 1969 has gifted more than $80 million to charitable causes.

Wendt is survived by his wife Nancy and two sons, Mark and Rod, all of Klamath Falls; his sister Jewel Wendt Kintzinger, of Grinnell; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Evelyn and Lester Wendt, and one son, Michael.