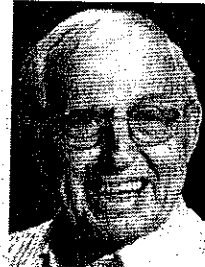


Seward Gates

Seward Otis Gates and his twin brother were born February 23, 1926 in Hennepin County, Minnesota, to Stephen and Helen (Day) Gates. He received his education in the Wayzata School District. Seward helped on the family farm



S. Gates

until he was drafted into the military where he served sixteen months in the Army Airborne Division. He was honorably discharged to help on the family farm and continued farming on his own until 1955. He then enrolled at Chicago Bible College. It was there he met his wife Darlene Roorda and they were married in June, 1958. They spent their first years of marriage in Leeds, North Dakota and Mound, Minnesota where their two children, Cynthia Joy and Jonathan Mark, were born. Later the family moved back to Chicago where Seward continued his studies and graduated from Chicago Bible College.

Seward and Darlene remained at the college as dorm parents and Seward as custodian until 1966. The following year they took up residency in Sully, Iowa. During this time Seward worked as custodian at the Lynville-Sully Schools and his own painting business until his retirement.

Seward was an avid reader of Christian books and periodicals, along with Civil War historical fiction. Seward found great satisfaction in working with his hand, restoring the old and crafting the new. The workshop was his special place.

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Many pieces of his handwork are enjoyed by his family and friends. Bicycle riding and tractor rides were among his favorite things to do. Road trips to many parts of the U.S. were highlights, especially driving the Alcan Highway to Alaska.

While he enjoyed his job and his hobbies, he valued and placed his relationship with Christ first. His life was changed at 29 years of age when he accepted Jesus as his Savior. He became interested and involved in Sunday School teaching and other lay ministries. He was a faithful supporter of several missionaries and ministries. It was always a blessing to him when these friends came to visit. During several winter trips he enjoyed the fellowship and ministry of helping at Melody Lane Christian Center in Mission, Texas. For the last several years, he attended Third Church in Pella.

Seward entered his heavenly home on November 28, 2010. He will be remembered by his wife Darlene, daughter Cynthia (Steve) Bowman of Hutchinson, Kansas, Jonathan (Debbie) Gates of Alexandria, Virginia, brother David (Margaret) Gates of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, sister Muriel (Don) Brandt of Plymouth, Minnesota, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Seward was welcomed to his new home by Jesus and those who preceded him: his twin brother Galen (July, 1941), his parents, and his parents-in-law, Gerard and Jeannette (Terlouw) Roorda.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, December 2, 2010 at the Third Reformed Church in Pella. Arrangements were handled by Van Dyk - Duven Funeral Home.