



CLAUDE H. LEINONEN

January 19, 2005

CLAUDE H. LEINONEN, 70, of Covington, MI. passed away suddenly Sunday morning, January 16, 2005 at Baraga County Memorial Hospital. He was born in Covington, MI. on April 9, 1934 son of the late William and Alma (Tarvainen) Leinonen. Claude attended Covington and Watton schools and graduated from L'Anse High School in 1952. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956. Claude attended Suomi College and graduated from Northern Michigan University in 1961 with a B.S. degree. On November 4, 1961 he married the former Verna Korpi at Trinity Lutheran Church, Covington. Claude taught social studies for 32 years in the Ewen Trout Creek School District, retiring in 1993. Following his retirement, he along with his son Nathan, managed the Messenger properties in the Covington area. He was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Covington, and served on the church council. Claude was also a member of the Stanley R. Rajala Am-Vets Post 1190. From 1980 to 1996 Claude served as the Covington Township Supervisor. He also served on many community boards, including Baraga County Memorial Hospital and the Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility. Claude enjoyed trapping, fishing, logging and building projects. He and Verna also enjoyed traveling. Mr. Leinonen is survived by his loving wife; Verna, sons; Nathan Leinonen of Covington, Jonathan (Maura) Leinonen of Atlantic Mine, and Tim (Traci) Leinonen of Menominee, grandchildren; Andrew, Abbey, Benjamin, and Danelle, brother; Denver Leinonen of Almont, MI., 2 nephews, several cousins and many friends. Funeral services for Mr. Leinonen were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, January 19, 2005 from Trinity Lutheran Church, Covington with Pastor Mark Reinsch officiating. Interment will take place in the spring in the Covington Cemetery. The family received friends on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 from 6 until 8 p.m. at the Reid Funeral Service and Chapel, L'Anse and for one hour prior to the services at the church on Wednesday. The Reid Funeral Service and Chapel, L'Anse has been entrusted with funeral arrangements.

Tribute Wall

MP

“ I would like to send my Condolences to the Leinonen family.He is in God's hands now and resting peacefully. Sincerley Yours, Michael Pitkanen

Michael Pitkanen - January 26, 2005 at 12:25 PM

TR

“ I was very saddened to hear about Mr Leinonen and my condolences go out to all the family. Mr Leinonen was my teacher and friend to the Read Family in high school and beyond. He always brings fine memories and good thoughts and was instramental in providing me with a good education to help me get to where I am today. I will always remember him well.

Terry, Jeff, Mellissa, Terry Sr, Sue Read - January 24, 2005 at 03:36 PM

J'

“ Dear Verna Leinonen and family, I was sad to hear of the passing of Claude Leinonen this past week. Mr. Leinonen will be missed by many of us who had the opportunity to be taught by him.

I remember bumping into you, Verna, a couple times recently. You were shopping with Claude, in Iron Mountain and Marquette: Mr. Leinonen was that very same smiling, friendly and talkative gentleman who I remember from Econ and History class. My prayers go out to you and your family.

John Korsman (Class of '86) - January 22, 2005 at 04:05 PM

TF

“ My deepest sympathy to the Leinonen family on the passing of Claude. I was saddened to read of his passing in the Ontonagon Herald. I have fond memories of "Mr. Leinonen" as I knew him, from High School as I was a student of his. I remember him as an easy going person who truly cared about whether or not you were learning in his class. I guess the best way I can put it is he was simply a very likable and kind man and commanded a certain respect of you. From reading the entries posted on the website, he has obviously touched a lot of lives and will be missed. That does not surprise me. I pray you will find peace in the knowledge that Claude is now in the midst of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and someday, all believers will be there with him again. God's peace to your family. Todd Fencil-E-TC Class of 1985.

Todd Fencil - January 21, 2005 at 08:51 PM

JA

“ We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Verna, Nathan, Tim & Traci, Jon & Maura and all the family..... our thoughts and prayers are with you. Jon & Robin Aho

Jon & Robin Aho - January 20, 2005 at 02:05 PM

PD

“ verna and family sorry to hear about the loss of mr.leinonen he was one of my teachers at e-tc high school.my husband jerry used to do some welding for claude.our prayers go out to you.
mr.leinonen will always be remembered.he may be gone, but will never be forgotten.

sincerely,
jerry,patty&cory dickman
bruce crossing,mi.

patty(maki) dickman - January 19, 2005 at 11:03 PM

TF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time. It was a pleasure to work with Claude.

The Pete Berg Family - January 19, 2005 at 05:28 PM

AR

“ Dear Leinonen family - We were so very sad to hear of Mr. Leinonen's passing. We all have such fond memories of him as our teacher at E-TC. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all.

Sincerely,
Aimie Korsman-Reistad

Aimie Reistad - January 18, 2005 at 11:45 PM

WC

“ We were both shocked to hear of Claude's passing. As former Ewen-Trout Creek students of his, he will be remembered as someone truly dedicated to his profession. The Ewen-Trout Creek High School community has lost a mentor and a friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Willie(E-TC Class of 72)
Jim(E-TC Class of 83)

Willie & Jim Perttu, Bruce Crossing - January 18, 2005 at 11:31 PM

TD

“ *Verna and family,
We are so sorry to hear about the loss of Claude.
It is hard to understand why the Lord takes our loved ones away from us but we must remember that the Lord has special plans when he does call us home so rest assured that the Lord knows it is hard for you to accept this but he needed Claude to carry out his mission.
May you find comfort in the Lord and in family and friends as you go through this rough time.
May God Bless you and your family!!
Love, Tom, Bonnie (Salo), Alexander Dowling*

Tom, Bonnie and Alex Dowling - January 18, 2005 at 08:46 PM



“ *CLAUDE H. LEINONEN*

January 18, 2005 at 08:21 PM

“ Mrs. Leinonen--

Although I never had the pleasure of meeting you, I have known Claude almost as long as I have been in Baraga County (1989).

From the first time I met him, I could tell he was a special person. He made you feel so comfortable to be around. His demeanor, attitude and ambition made him a pleasure to know.

Over the years I have come to know Claude, not as well as I would have liked, but enough to know that he played a special part in many lives--especially in his beloved community of Covington.

His gusto for sharing his knowledge and love of the local community and Baraga County in general is something that I will always remember about him. That and his smile. It was infectious and you couldn't help but be in a better mood after meeting or talking with him than you were before you started a conversation.

He was indeed a special person and one that will not just be missed by his family, but also the MANY friends he made along his trek in life.

Please take comfort in knowing that there are many people, including some like myself you may not even know, who share in your loss. I hope knowing that that helps bring you and the family some comfort during this difficult time.

I am sure there are many others in our little corner of life, who will remember the good that Claude brought to the world. Take those thoughts and remember them whenever you feel saddened.

As I said at the beginning of this letter, I never had the chance to personally meet you. But I do know Denver and his wife and son. I used to live in Almont and my mother was on the same bowling team with Denver's wife and I went to school with his son at Northern Michigan University. So I did get to know some of your family over the years.

I have learned that the Leinonen clan is a special bunch and from those that I know, Claude stood at the top of the heap. He was a special person and will not be forgotten for a long time.

It is all those good things that Claude accomplished over the years that I will remember most about him.

I wish you and the rest of the Leinonen peace at this difficult time and as I said, if you take the time to remember all the good that Claude did during his time with us, it will make those difficult times a little easier to face.

MH

“ So sorry to hear about Claude-he was a special person and cousin. May the Lord enswathe you Verna and the family with his love and strength now and in the coming days. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. Love Marilyn Hatara, Harry, and PJ.

Marilyn Hatara - January 17, 2005 at 05:05 PM

BK

“ Verna and Family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with as you travel through time. Remember God and Our Saviour are there to help and guide you. We will always remember the times of working on Centinnial and other projects with Claude. Claude loved his community and was proud of it. Trust in the Lord !!!!
Your friends,
Marge, Eva, and Bill Kantola

Bill, Marge and Eva Kantola - January 17, 2005 at 11:41 AM