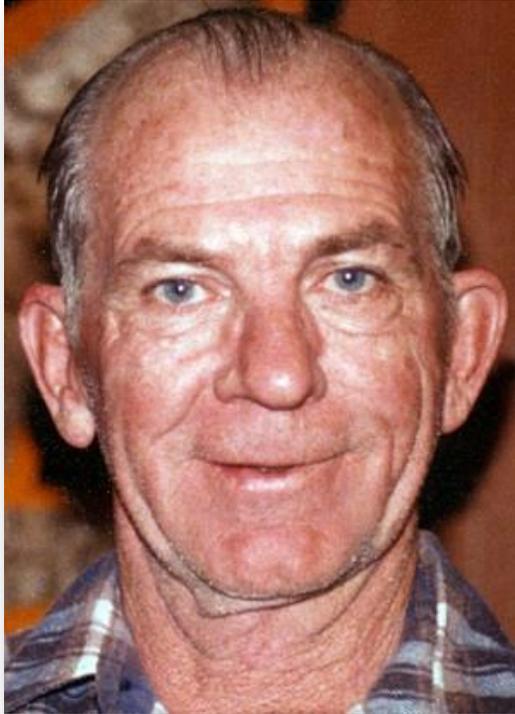


Eldon E. Eaton

Eldon E. Eaton, 82, of Eau Claire, WI passed away early Sunday morning, November 13, 2011 at the Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire.



Eldon was born on July 25, 1929 to Bennie Nelson Eaton and Ambrette Belle (Flaherty) Eaton on a farm south of Wood, SD.

Eldon graduated high school from Rushville, NE. After graduation he worked for his dad in the Feed and Seed Store, brother-in-law Pete McDaniel in a bakery and the Chicago Burlington Quincy Railroad as a bolt machine operator laying rail in NE, KS, IA and CO, returning back to NE as a carpenter's helper for his father-in-law Fred Fankhauser.

High School sweethearts, Eldon and Patricia (Fankhauser) joined hands in marriage on October 14, 1950. The union was blessed with three children, Jerry in 1952, Mickey in 1954, and William in 1958. Together the family lived in Hay Springs, NE where they operated a theater on weekends then moved to Huron, SD and eventually Eau Claire, WI.

Eldon always said he was deeply indebted to his brother-in-law, Gene Brice, who asked him in 1952 if Eldon needed a job. He responded an enthusiastic "Yes", then asked him what the job was. He went to work for the Northwest Rural Electric Power District in Hay Springs, NE as a lineman. The electric trade would become his lifelong career. On June 30, 1966 Eldon resigned his job as Power Use Advisor in NE to take a job in Huron, SD as a Job Training and Safety Coordinator for the SD Rural Electric Association. On December 1, 1968 Eldon made another job change, taking a position as Job Training and Safety Director for the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperatives in Wisconsin. He was responsible for the training of 30 Electric Cooperative's employees and teaching the Indentured Electric Lineman Course, a four-year training program at Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire, WI. In the 23.5 years that he taught this program it graduated over 500 Journeyman Linemen. Eldon was



honored with the HC Potthast award in 1980, retired in 1991 and was inducted into the WI Lifetime Apprenticeship Hall of Fame in 2001. During his free time and retirement he enjoyed being an active member of the Elks Lodge, hunting, fishing, bowling, woodworking, photography, genealogy and watching his beloved wife Pat pitch horseshoes. He was married to Patricia for 35.5 years and painfully lost her to cancer. He then met another very good lady, Elaine, who gave him companionship, love and respect for the past 22 years. Unfortunately during his lifetime he lost his parents, his loving wife and his middle son. We are sad to see him go but know he will be seeing these loved ones again.

Eldon is survived by his second love, Elaine Swartz; his eldest son, Jerry Eaton (Jean Jellison); his youngest son, William (Susan) Eaton; his daughter-in-law, Catherine Fitzgerald, all of Eau Claire; his three grandchildren, Eric Eldon (Katie Yetzer) Eaton of Cottage Grove, MN, Deren Alexander Robert Eaton of Chicago, IL, and Cassandra Patricia Eaton (Jason Beran) of Eau Claire; his brother, Rollie Eaton (Joyce) of CO; and sister, Dulcie Korzeniecky of MA.

Eldon was preceded in death by his parents, Bennie and Ambrette (Flaherty) Eaton; the love of his life, his wife, Patricia (Fankhauser) Eaton; his middle son, Mickey Eaton; his four sisters, Neva, Vera, Mildred, and Esther; and his two brothers, Abe and Melvin.

Visitation and service will be Saturday, November 19, 2011 starting at 1:30 p.m. An Elks presentation will be held at 3:00 p.m. followed by a Celebration of Life service at 3:20 p.m. at Stokes, Prock & Mundt Funeral Chapel, 535 S Hillcrest Pkwy (Hwy 12) in Altoona, WI. Processional to the Chapel of Resurrection Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery to follow service. Dinner will be served at the Elks Lodge, 3411 Stein Blvd, Eau Claire, WI at 5:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations will be made to the National Breast Cancer Foundation in Eldon's name. A direct link is available on the Remembrance website:
<http://eldoneugeneaton.webstarts.com>.

Online condolences may be left at www.cremationsociety-wi.com.

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