



Milford Leon

December 5, 1924 - October 20, 2009

Milford Leon Tea was born December 5, 1924, the second son of George Washington Tea and Clara Mae-Ann Buttell Tea, near Sherman, Major County, Oklahoma. He received his education at Del Plain Elementary and Waynoka (OK) High School, dropping out after his sophomore year, later getting his GED and attending Eastern New Mexico University. His brother, Charles Richard Tea, was stillborn, so Milford as the eldest son had many farm responsibilities. His parents employed Lewis George, a member of the Cherokee Tribe and Mel learned much from this man. On February 22, 1928, his brother Virden Francis Tea was born and they were joined by another boy, Marvin Leroy Tea on Sept. 10, 1936.

Milford, as a boy, worked for his maternal grandparents, Frederick William Buttell and Rosa Lavina Shook Buttell. When World War II started he was doing all of his father's farming and was deferred entering the U.S. Army, where he then served with the 123rd Quartermaster Bakery Company as a Staff Sergeant, spending most of his two year tour in the South Pacific on Guam. He used the GI Bill to learn the carpentry trade where he worked for Gerald McCray Consturction. They built homes including cabinets and finish work.

He and Mona Lou Callaway were married at Alva, OK on June 5, 1948. Their children are Mildford Randall, Robin LaVerne and Melinda Lou. Milford was employed by the AT & SF Railway and part time for Webb Electric, his interest being sparked in household appliance sales, delivery and repair. When the

railway laid off in March 1953, he was employed by the Kitchen Mart in Guymon, OK. Mona and the children joined him by the end of April. They lived in Guymon until August 1965 when they moved to Santa Fe, NM. In Santa Fe he was employed by the Maytag Shop and he continued working in household appliance delivery and servicing.

Mel became a teacher at Northern New Mexico Vocational and Technical School. In August 1973 he joined the staff at Eastern New University - Roswell retiring in December 1985.

He was predeceased by his parents, George and Clara Tea; his brothers, Charles Frederick and Marvin Leroy; his parents-in-law, John and Estella Lockhart Callaway.

To treasure his life and memories are his his sons, Randall and wife, Lorraine of American Fork, Utah; Robin and wife, Donna of Bountiful, Utah and his daughter, Melinda King of Murfreesboro TN (Roy Dan King of Cloudcroft, NM).

He is survived by nine grandsons and four granddaughters: Kevin Don (Sidney), Jody Randall (Phoebe), Cameron Austin (Susan), Geren Bryce (Megan), Jonathan William (Megan), Richard LaVerne (Janeen) and Michael Leon (Julie) Tea, Jon Rodrick and Jordan Roy King, Kristen Monique Tea Updahl (Tom), Destiny Summer Tea Williams (Chad), Brittany Marche Tea Zeph (Peter) and Kelly Elizabeth King Manwill (Chris). There are 34 great grandchildren: Aaron, Victoria, Dorothy, Tyler, Kailee, Asia, Shaye, Kalei, Adam, Ellie, August, Quincy and Mayah Tea; Kolton, Tanner, Cambrie, Jacey and Samuel Updahl; Logan, Autumn, Sicily, Sage and Easton Williams; Berkley, William, Issac, Emalyn Zeph; Stacey, Brooke, Kaylah and C.J. Manwill.

He is also survived by his brother, Virden F. Tea and his wife Ann Callaway Tea of Clovis, NM; their son, Johnnie Tea, Salt Lake City, UT and their daughter, Feryl Tea Smith and spouse Wayne of San Angelo, TX. Nieces Kima Lea Tea and Kay Callaway Kincaid; nephews Paul Tea and Dr. Vemon Powders as well as many other relatives and friends.

Mel belonged to the BPOE Elks for over 50 years and belonged to the

Christian Church. He bowled for several years as well as squared danced. He enjoyed teaching and made many student friends. He and Mona spent several years doing genealogy research rv'ing to visit relatives and friends. After retirement they participated in arts and crafts shows where he displayed and sold wood crafts. In the 1990's they became interested in antiques - he particularly in tools and items used by ancestors. Mona said if it was iron and heavy, Mel collected it.

Mel was a beloved companion over 61 years, a loved grandpa for 38 years and held in high regard by his great grandchildren.

Cremation has taken place. Family memorial services will be held at a later date. Please share your thoughts and memories with the family in the online register book at andersonbethany.com Services are under the direction of Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home & Crematory.

Tribute Wall



“ *Milford Leon*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *Milford was a very special uncle and will always be remembered.*

KAY CALLAWAY KINCAID - November 02, 2009 at 10:13 AM



“ *Bye Grandpa, We love you. And though we'll miss you, we will look forward to seeing you in the next life when we boys can all once again joke, play and tease each other. But you better promise you'll take us bowling now and again.*

Geren Tea - October 30, 2009 at 07:15 PM



“ *To the Family of Mel, May the comfort of friends and family be your strength now and in the days ahead. My thoughts are with you in this time of sorrow.*

Isabel Olsen - October 27, 2009 at 10:25 PM



“ *Mona,Randy,Robin and Melinda,I was sad to hear of your loss. It's been many years since you lived down the street.Love & prayers,
Patsy Reed*

Patsy Reed - October 27, 2009 at 07:06 PM

KM

“ In Feb. 1974 I met Mr. Tea when I became a student at the AC/R school where he was teaching in Roswell. I always enjoyed and appreciated him as a teacher and he always had time for the students and often had a story to illustrate the lesson. He was an excellent teacher and my condolences go to those who shared other aspects of his life.

Ken Morrison - October 26, 2009 at 12:19 PM

MT

“ Mona, You have my thought and prayers with you. This world just became a little darker..But Heaven just got little brighter.Mel is now walking with Jesus and He's love ones was waiting for him at the gate to Welcome Home..
Marilyn Tea and Family

Marilyn Tea - October 26, 2009 at 10:58 AM

CE

“ Milford Leon

Charles and Betty Ellis - October 25, 2009 at 03:48 PM

TH

“ Mona, Just found out about your loss. Milford was a wonderful man. I remember when you all would come up to Waynoka and see us. I miss those times. I am so sorry to hear of this. May God be with you and your family in your time of need. And may he bless you always. Please contact me when you can. I would love to hear from you.
Love and miss you, Tobi Buttell Hayes

Tobi Buttell Hayes - October 24, 2009 at 11:35 PM

PL

“ *mona...a good man and friend will be dearly missed...mel always had a smile on his face and light in his eyes...he will be truly be missed by my mom phyllis and me....
the lacoeks*

phillip lacock - October 24, 2009 at 05:58 PM

GL

“ *Our sincerest condolences. Mel was a great person. I remember when I first started bowling and Mel was very encouraging to me. He always had a good word to say and a smile on his face. It wasn't long after MY open heart surgery that he had his and I was very happy to see him start bowling so soon after his. It was nine weeks for me to bowl again and I think it was sooner for him. He was a strong person and we will all miss him. God bless his family as we know God blessed him.*

George & Sharon Lee - October 24, 2009 at 05:19 PM