



## Bruce Alan Albers

January 28, 1944 - October 8, 2020

Bruce Alan Albers, 76, of Bourbonnais, passed away October 8, 2020, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, after successful heart valve replacement surgery.

A memorial visitation will be from 2 – 5 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing guidelines at the visitation.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his name to Southwest Harbor Historical Society (SWHHS), Southwest Harbor, Maine, which Bruce and Brenda have greatly supported over the years. They helped with the purchase of the closed Manset Union Church, built 1830, which is being transformed into a museum for SWHHS.

Bruce was born January 28, 1944, in Kankakee, the second child of Clyde and Geraldine “Gerry” (Wegner) Albers. He married Brenda Coombs on April 30, 1965, at Wesley United Methodist Church in Bradley.

Bruce’s fascination with how things work started early in life, as when he was 9 years old, he took his mother’s mantel clock apart while she was gone. When she came home, she told him to put it back together and make sure it worked – it did! By the time he was 12, his work ethic was established when he and his brother mowed 12 yards every week and also worked at the

family's concession stands in Bird Park.

When Bruce was 13 his dad started his first gas station at the corner of Maple and Orchard Streets in Kankakee. As soon as he got out of school, Bruce would ride his bike to the gas station to help his dad – this was the start of his life-long fascination of cars and engines. When his dad moved to a new Baron-Huot Oil Company gas station at 1063 E. River Street in Kankakee, Bruce became a mechanic for his dad.

For about 10 years Bruce had his own drag racing car – first a '55 Chevy, followed by a '69 Nova – both named “Skedaddle.” The line between Bruce's profession and his hobby blurred, as he truly enjoyed cars, engines and racing.

Bruce decided to build a new automotive repair/machine shop when his dad decided to retire in 1983. Thus, Albers Automotive at 601 W. Jeffery Street, Kankakee, was established in 1984. The original building had three additions as Bruce's machine shop continued to expand as his reputation for building high-performance engines for stock cars, drag racing and street rods grew. Bruce always loved the challenge of getting more horsepower from an engine that still met the specs for the class of racing.

Bruce served a three-year term on the Board of Directors of AERA Engine Rebuilders Association in the late 1990s. The nomination to this national board was an honor he was proud of.

In 2013 Bruce closed Albers Automotive and continued to work solo on select racing/street rod engines. In July 2018 he sold the shop to Damian Begler and since has been helping at the shop half days until the Friday prior to his surgery.

As much as Bruce enjoyed his professional life, he thoroughly liked his personal life of meeting at 6:00 a.m. every Saturday with his “breakfast club” and the weekly Blitz card games with his friends. Of course, if you were a friend of Bruce, you knew to “watch your back” since he was a master of practical jokes with firecrackers and rubber snakes, followed by his hearty laugh. Many of his close friends knew that Bruce’s home hobby was tending the gardens of hundreds of hostas and keeping his lawn manicured.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Brenda; older brother Daryle (Marlene) Albers of Kankakee; younger sister Linda (Mike) Longtin of Dixon, IL; youngest sister Wendy (Jerry) Schrempf of Kankakee; many nieces and nephews, and numerous good friends. His nightly lap kitty, Sofia, truly misses him.

Inurnment will be at a later date in Mt. Height Cemetery in Southwest Harbor, Maine, where Bruce and Brenda have their cemetery lots and headstone in place.

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Height Cemetery

Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

OCT **17**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall

RC

“ Bruce you were so much fun to work with!  
My sympathy to Brenda and family.  
Randy Courtney

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**Randall Courtney** - October 19, 2020 at 10:38 PM

JT

“ Bruce was a great guy who I had the pleasure of knowing through my husband Scooter. He was a wonderful influence in many young peoples lives and will be blessed for it. My condolences to Brenda and all his family.

Jo Ann (Kinneman) Trombley

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**Jo Trombley** - October 18, 2020 at 09:56 AM

DG

“ My sincere condolences to Bruce's wife and family. I knew Bruce from the car world for many years and in recent years I purchased his little pick up truck which I now use to pull my fishing boat. Such a nice guy, he'll be missed. Sincerely, Dan Guenette

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**Dan Guenette** - October 17, 2020 at 03:53 PM

KK

“ So sorry Aunt Brenda for the passing of Uncle Bruce. I have so many fond memories of him. He had a larger than life personality, always smiling and joking. I remember one visit when he wanted to show us kids something. He reached up to a shelf and brought down a jar...floating inside was part of his finger. He grinned as all of us kids squealed. That was defined an Uncle Bruce moment...we will miss him dearly.

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**Kara Knutte** - October 17, 2020 at 10:05 AM

DO

“ *Brenda and Family,  
Bruce was a great guy and an awesome engine builder. He built our motor for our '32 Bantam Altered. My dad the late Gordon Belanger enjoyed talking with Bruce.  
Our condolences,  
Denise, Harold, and Alberta*

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**Denise Oldham** - October 16, 2020 at 07:33 PM

MH

“ *Brenda and Family,  
We are so sorry to hear of Bruce's passing. He was truly a great friend and wonderful engine builder. We will definitely miss him. We are thinking of you with our deepest sympathy.*

*Kevin and Michele Hastings  
Reliable Radiator and Automotive*

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**MICHELE HASTINGS** - October 16, 2020 at 05:42 PM

TS

“ *Sending our deepest condolences to Wendy, Linda & Daryle. So sorry to hear of Bruce's passing....it's been a long time since we seen anyone but we do have some fond memories. Prayer's for comfort and know he is at peace. Hugs yo all!!*

*Chuck & Debbie Skinner*

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**The Skinner's** - October 15, 2020 at 06:59 PM

MT

“ Prayers for God’s peace and comfort  
John n Mary Thomson



Mary Thomson - October 14, 2020 at 11:37 AM

JP

“ Remembering all the hours spent at the shop with Bruce when he was working on my race car engine. He was always very helpful. RIP friend.

John Papineau - October 13, 2020 at 10:38 PM



“ Bruce was one of my best friends . I knew his dad well and always did a lot business with his garage.always treated. more the fairly. I 'Ill miss our weekly games of BILTZ.Miss u man. RIP My Friend..

Darwin Jaenicke - October 13, 2020 at 06:19 PM



“ 91 files added to the album Life Tributes



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - October 13, 2020 at 04:55 PM



“ Bruce was always there to help people when they had issues. No one ever asked for a price from Bruce because you automatically knew he would treat you beyond fairly and honestly. I consider Bruce an exceptional person who put friendship above all else. That friendship was shared throughout our entire community. We are all at a loss, but know he is waiting to greet us again.

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**Greg Ford** - October 13, 2020 at 11:07 AM

DP

“ Thoughts and prayers to Brenda and family. Bruce was a special friend and he will be missed. Donnie Prater

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**Donnie Prater** - October 12, 2020 at 08:07 PM

TH

“ Bruce's auto skills were amazing and his honesty impeccable. We will miss his smiling face and caring personality. We are so sorry for your loss. The community has lost a great guy. Brenda and family, please accept our heartfelt sympathy. Terri Hult and Earle Overby

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**Terri Hult** - October 12, 2020 at 06:34 PM

BB

I could never imagine better friends and neighbors than Bruce and Brenda. Bruce always had a wave and a smile for me! Bruce helped me a lot with lawn and yard work and his work was terrifically meticulous. I will miss seeing him go by my kitchen window when he cut my grass. He was gentle and kind and will not be forgotten.

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**Bernadette Barmann** - October 13, 2020 at 05:40 PM

GS

*Many memories hangin out with Bruce and friends. Saturdays he closed the shop at noon and then we off to the Homestead Restaurant for lunch. Then Saturday routine was back to the shop to play cards and watch your back as Bruce would throw an unannounced firecracker under the lift / hoist we played cards on He was a loyal friend who will be missed and talked about at the race tracks for a long long time.  
Until we meet again*

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**Greg Stell** - October 14, 2020 at 05:42 PM

DC

*RIP Bruce glad we had our Zehr cousins reunion a few years ago at Homestead. Had a great time hugs and prayers coming ya'lls way especially to Brenda, Darrell, Linda, and Wendy.*

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**Dennis Clark** - October 14, 2020 at 09:28 PM