



## Wayne Preisel

November 23, 1914 - August 19, 2008

Visitation for Wayne Preisel, 93, of Kankakee, will be from 9:30 a.m. Friday until the 11 a.m. funeral service at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee. Father James Fanale will officiate. Burial will be in Kankakee Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be made to Riverside Medical Center or to the donor's choice. He died Tuesday (Aug. 19, 2008) at Riverside Medical Center. Wayne had a good life. Even in the years after his retirement, he would look at a building and say, "I'd like to be building that one!" He never lost his positive attitude in life. He was raised in the Riverview area of Kankakee to very proud parents who came from Buckley. Wayne attended St. Paul Lutheran grade school and then went to Onarga Military Academy and Gallagher Business School. His father built several homes in Kankakee and for several years Wayne worked with him. His father preferred residences, but Wayne wanted to get into commercial construction. When his father became the assessor for Kankakee, Wayne purchased the business. He started meagerly and loved every second of preparing bids and the excitement of the lettings. If he didn't get the job, he wasn't depressed -- he was always looking to the next project. He never lost his positive attitude. In the 1950s he was introduced to Kathryn by Mary and Raoul Burgeois. Mary was a Linsky and her sister had married a cousin of Kathryn's after he graduated from St. Viator's College. Wayne and Kathryn were married in St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Joliet on July 11, 1959. They shared many happy years. Kathryn "Kay" assisted in office work of the business, took bids to lettings and shared

the pleasure of friends and many trips. They traveled to Florida, Arizona, California, Hawaii and cruises. They had good friends in Honolulu and an adopted son is named after Wayne. The friendship with this family continues. When the family visited Kankakee, they wanted to see the soybean fields and also asked "Don't you have any hills?" Wayne did construction for many plants in our area, including A.O. Smith, Roper Corporation, the Beckman and Panozzo families, Kankakee Container Company, Baker & Taylor and others. An executive for Baker & Taylor was here from New York, and he said not many would give a construction contract to an individual on a handshake! Wayne was a man of high integrity and his handshake was as good as a legal contract. He was strict, loving and truthful with high principles by which he stood. Projects were always done according to plans and specifications. He arose each morning with optimism and always ready to do the best for friends or his business. He believed wealth came from love of family, community and service. Throughout the years he gave helpful guidance to men starting in various fields of the construction business. He particularly enjoyed doing commercial and hospital work. The latter was a challenge, and Kankakee was thankful to have a second hospital to serve our community. Many individuals gave time and money to Riverside Medical Center. Joe Berz was a friend and gave Riverside great help. Wayne and Kay have been proud of the positive thinking of the board and were honored to be given the Samaritans of the Year Award in 1985. Wayne had been a member and held offices in the Kankakee Builders Club. He was a sports fan of the University of Illinois and for years had season football seats. He was an avid Bears fan and attended many games. He and Kay traveled east for the Army-Navy football games and also to Harvard-Yale games (the latter when Chuck Fienning and David Lang were attending the colleges). He also attended the Masters Golf Tournament three times. Wayne was thankful all his life for his family, friends and the good times he had in his business and the joyous life he and Kay have shared for many years. As Wayne would say, "It's been a wonderful life."



# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



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**Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes** - December 07, 2010 at 03:02 PM



“ AUGUST 22, 2008  
As Wayne Preisel's eldest daughter I have only fond memories of the great amount of time we spent together until I was twelve years of age. I'm very sorry to hear of his passing. I'll always love you Dad!  
##imported-begin##SHARON PREISEL HADSELL##imported-end##

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August 20, 2008 at 01:32 PM



“ It was back in the early 50's. Mr. Preisel had done some carpentry work for my parents at their house on S. Harrison in Kankakee. Shortly after that my father died suddenly from a heart attack leaving a widow with 3 little girls under 10 years old. I'll never forget that Christmas and my Mother's reaction as she opened a card from Mr. Preisel which included a statement for the balance due marked "paid in full".  
My sympathy to the family.  
##imported-begin##Gay (Casey) Harris##imported-end##

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August 20, 2008 at 01:32 PM



“ I was really saddened to hear of the loss of my Uncle Wayne. I had not had the opportunity to share time with him or Aunt Katy since I was young and I always hoped that maybe we could again. I will always remember the enjoyment I had of spending times with them. I send my deepest sympathy to Aunt Katy and want to thank her for all the years of devotion she gave to him.<br><br><br><br>Love Mindy###imported-begin###Melinda K. Preisel - Rutledge###imported-end##

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August 20, 2008 at 01:32 PM



“ Although our paths never got the opportunity to cross, I wish you the best in your jounries in the next life.###imported-begin###Paul Lambert###imported-end##

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August 20, 2008 at 01:32 PM



“ I was saddened to see the passing of such a wonderful person. It was always a pleasure to see Wayne and Kay come into the restaurant. I admired Wayne and was in awe of him as I became acquainted with him through our table-side conversations. He was a very optimistic, kind, and caring individual. Both he and Kay were a perfect match!###imported-begin###Jane Schriefer###imported-end##

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August 20, 2008 at 01:32 PM