



Mr. John Hansueli Loeffel

February 16, 1929 - September 13, 2021

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of John Loeffel, beloved husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother-in-law, uncle and friend, who peacefully left us on Sept. 13th, 2021 with his loving wife of 59 years Frances at his side.

He will be eternally loved and cherished by his wife Frances, daughters Darlene (Daryl) of Calgary, and Christina (Rob) of Creemore, ON, grandchildren Jacob of Vancouver and Erika of Toronto. Fondly remembered by in-laws John & Coramay Lewisch, Karl & Glenda Lewisch, Swiss nephews Peter, Claudio, Michael Waldburger and families, and Canadian nephews Ernest, Shawn and Greg Lewisch and their families, and extended family and friends. John was predeceased by his sister Kathy Waldburger and brother-in-law Mario of Switzerland.

John was born in Ferenberg, Switzerland on February 16, 1929 to Anna and Fritz Loeffel. During his early life in Switzerland, he trained in the art of Swiss cheesemaking, and served in the Swiss Army as a Corporal where he became an elite sharp-shooter. He had an ear for languages, picking up the words of the regions he resided in Switzerland (German, French, Italian), even being mistaken for a Dane when he moved to Denmark to work in a cheese factory.

From Denmark, his adventurous spirit jetted him to Canada. After moving around Western Canada, he landed for several years in Uranium City, Saskatchewan where he worked initially as a muck machine operator in the uranium mines, then later fire chief for the local fire department.

In 1959, he moved to Edmonton, Alberta where he and a friend started a long distance trucking business, resulting in a multitude of hilarious stories. Two years later, he bought a farm in Opal, AB and a year later married Frances. The dream was to farm full-time, so he sold his share of the business, reducing his time on the highways and spending more time with his family and their farm. Darlene and Christina were born and raised on the property, Darlene growing up with tools in her hand helping her Dad, Christina with her mom getting her knuckles deep in the garden.

John loved the farming life: the peace & quiet, the land, always with a dog at his side. Life was busy having a grain and cattle farm, with many late nights and early mornings working to nature's timelines, but he would never stress about it. Whatever challenges came or obstacles that presented themselves, he would just smile and say 'so it goes'. He retained his happy wanderer character, taking his family on many driving vacations around Canada and the US, as well as tours of his homeland of Switzerland, Frances' homeland of Austria, and other European destinations.

The next move was to Southern Alberta, where at 70 years of age he and Frances took on building out an acreage near Cayley. They spent over 2 decades enjoying the views of the Rocky Mountains, and the beautiful foothills. During those years John and Frances took their RV camping throughout North America, touring various locations in Europe, cruising to sunny destinations, and crossing off some of his bucket list locations including Berlin, a return trip to Denmark, and Russia.

John's quiet wit, easy going nature and calming presence was the backbone of the Loeffel family. Family came first, and both he and Frances built traditions for Darlene and Christina that they will forever cherish. Every Sunday there was always music playing loudly throughout the house. Dad loved to sing (always louder when 'Don't Fence Me In' was playing) and dance (he earned the nickname Twinkle Toes in his friend group, as he and Frances could really cut up the rug!).

He had many interests, and he always had something to accomplish. This led to a very full life, only slowing down in his last year when his health deteriorated. But he continued to be sharp of mind (and wit), and recalled precise details right up to his last days.

John had many proverbs and inspirational poems he would recite that will continue to live on with his family. And he always had a story, whether a funny antidote from his adventures, or a special lesson to bestow. The girls will remember him saying goodnight during their childhood with stories of paradise "Schlaraffenland", where fun and food were bountiful. He always ended the story with saying "Traeum suess von Sauerkraut und Schweinefuess" – with the girls always giggling and yelling "No, Schnitzel".

Schlaf gut, husband, father, friend.

A Private Family Graveside service will be held at the Cayley Cemetery.

In memory of John, those who wish may direct to Ronald McDonald House.

Comments



“ Unser tiefes Beileid.

Auch wenn die Distanz zu unserem Cousin John gross war, durften wir sehr viele schöne und unvergessene Stunden mit John und Frances verbringen. Nach seiner Jugendzeit auf dem Ferenberg zog es John in die weite Welt hinaus. Die vielen interessanten Stationen in Johns beruflichen Leben prägten auch seinen Charakter. Wir bewunderten seine Gelassenheit, seinen Humor und seine Ruhe wie er unseren täglichen Problemen entgegen sah.

Wir durften mit John und Frances interessante Reisen verbringen. John war ein sehr guter Reiseführer und Fahrer. Er sagte immer: "Ein guter Fahrer wird nie müde".!

Adieu John.....Danke für alles.

Erika und Fritz Bergmann
Ferenberg

Erika u. Fritz Bergmann - September 24 at 03:19 PM



“ 4 files added to the album John alte Heimat und Ferientrips



Erika u. Fritz Bergmann - September 24 at 02:36 PM



“ My sincere condolences to my Aunt Frances and my cousins Darlene and Christine. Of my Uncle John I cherish a wonderful memory. I enclose a few photos, but have many more, of John when he lived in Switzerland. Peter Waldburger & family



Peter Waldburger - September 23 at 04:50 PM



“ I did not know Mr. Loeffel but I am lucky to call his daughter, Christina, my friend. After reading Mr. Loeffel’s obituary and seeing all the great pictures spanning the entirety of his life, one can understand what an interesting and amazing life he led. It is clear that family meant the world to him. I am so glad he moved to Canada for I would never have met the incredible, kind and down to earth daughter he help create. Truly a life well lived. My condolences.

Alanna Raposo - September 21 at 09:47 AM



“ My sincerest condolences to the Loeffel family. We were so lucky to have John as a friend and neighbor. Thank you for sharing the great photos - I enjoyed every one of them. Many I was able to relate to stories John told me about farming at Opal, serving in the Swiss Army, working in the uranium mines and most of all his wonderful family he loved so much. He had an amazing life. I will always remember and cherish the visits we had.

Denton & Joy Eaglesham - September 19 at 11:17 AM



“ We are sorry to hear of John's passing. Blessings and prayers for your family. Mary Grams, Brian and Colleen Grams

Colleen - September 19 at 09:57 AM



“ Dear Frances, Darlene & Christina and families,
To a life well lived, the memories created with John will stay with you all forever. The photos are gift to us all. John's friendly smile, I noted, from when he was a tot never changed! It always made my heart lighter to see John's smile and hear him laugh. I am grateful for our mutual times spent together in Cayley and at Church. John's life touched so many! His legacy is found in all of you! May God's healing power and grace bring you peace. Joan & Les Marles



Joan & Les Marles - September 18 at 03:33 PM



“ 9 files added to the album Wonderful Grandpa L



Darlene Loeffel - September 18 at 01:17 AM



“ 32 files added to the album Family Life



Darlene Loeffel - September 18 at 01:14 AM



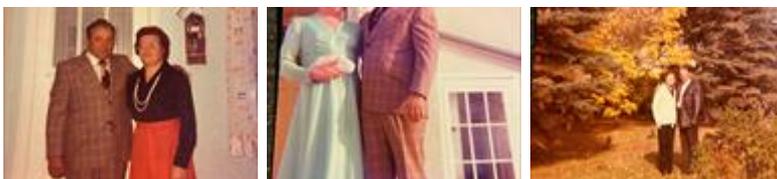
“ 2 files added to the album The Happy Couple



Darlene Loeffel - September 18 at 12:36 AM



“ 14 files added to the album Together through the Years



Darlene Loeffel - September 18 at 12:35 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Family Life



Darlene Loeffel - September 17 at 11:40 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Wonderful Grandpa L



Darlene Loeffel - September 17 at 11:39 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Family Life



Darlene - September 17 at 06:42 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Early Life in Canada



Darlene - September 17 at 06:40 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Swiss Life



Darlene - September 17 at 06:34 PM



“ Darlene is following this tribute.

Darlene - September 17 at 06:08 PM



“ 6 files added to the album The Happy Couple



Darlene - September 17 at 06:05 PM



“ 20 files added to the album Family Life



Darlene - September 17 at 05:40 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Early Life in Canada



Darlene - September 17 at 05:26 PM



“ Dad,

You were always there for me, supportive, giving me advice on things, encouraging me to always work hard and do every task with integrity, honesty, and diligence. Always teasing me when I came home with a test mark under 100% and asking what happened with the other percentages! Always testing me by saying something and saying “You did not know that?”– but eventually I caught on to that one and once in a while did fact checked (wink)!

I loved our chats in front of the fireplace – I could sit for hours with you telling hilarious stories about all your experiences and laugh so hard that my ribs hurt! And I still love all the music you played in the basement from the oldie goldies to Swiss yodelling music. Thank you for making it possible for me to work in Switzerland for a summer and gain the love for the culture and mountains as you did. Think this is why you loved Cayley so much with the amazing mountain view.

From a child, I was always outside with you either trying to find tools for you or helping as best as I could fix some piece of equipment. I always liked any project with you because you were always so calm and would take you time to show me what there was to do. I will miss our repair projects and banter on how to do it.

Though you took us on many trips when I was a kid, it was a great experience for me to travel with you and mom when I was older. You were always the planner, driver and navigator so it was nice for me to do that so you could relax and just enjoy (except if I took a wrong turn – you jumped in the driver’s seat pretty quick!).

I will so miss that I cannot pick up the phone anymore to ask you something, hear what is new with you and just to hear your laugh. Thank you for all the fun memories, the travels you took us on, and the great stories.

Ich werde nicht am FuÙe des Berges stehen und auf ein Wunder warten, ich werde es tun, wie Sie es immer getan haben - klettern nach oben.

Love you Dad.
Darlene



Darlene - September 17 at 05:18 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Wonderful Grandpa L



christina - September 17 at 04:55 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Together through the Years



christina - September 17 at 04:25 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Family Life



christina - September 17 at 04:18 PM



“ 1 file added to the album The Happy Couple



christina - September 17 at 04:15 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Early Life in Canada



christina - September 17 at 04:07 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Swiss Life



christina - September 17 at 03:55 PM



“ A thousand pictures, a thousand memories - how lucky am I!. This one caught my eye today. My Dad always insisted we had an opportunity to learn, never once thinking we didn't need to because we were girls. Whether prompting us to go to university, or learning to change the oil on my first car. My first (and last) oil change experience, with his supervision. Love you forever. Christina



christina - September 17 at 03:48 PM



“ yes .. remember changing oil also ! Ha.

Darlene Loeffel - September 17 at 11:45 PM



“ You probably did a whole brake repair!

Christina - September 18 at 08:36 AM