

**Jerry Anderson - 67**

July 1, 1940 - Dec. 8, 2007

**AVOCA** - Jerry Lou Anderson was born on July 1, 1940 in Mason City, IA, the eldest child of Harry and Lillian (O'Green) Anderson. In high school, he was a member of the local search and rescue team that involved diving in area lakes and searching the site of the airplane crash that killed Buddy Holly in Clear Lake, IA. An avid dancer, he often danced on a local TV station "Bandstand" program and once danced with Brenda Lee in a Clear Lake dance club. He won a local Twist Contest and was rewarded with a trip to New York City to meet Chubby Checker. After high school, Jerry ventured off to Des Moines, IA, and became a salesman for Tom McCann shoes. He later was transferred to Omaha, NE. It was in Omaha in 1964 that Jerry met Sharon Chamberlain at a downtown coffee house late one night. They married later that year and their first child, Kevin was thereafter born. Jerry soon was traveling the country as a salesman for General Cigar Company and eventually relocated to Grand Island, NE. However, Jerry soon discovered that air travel wasn't for him. After a series of rough trips and icy landings, Jerry decided to find employment that allowed him to stay grounded. He went to work for a wholesale restaurant supply company in Grand Island, The Thompson Company.



Jerry and Sharon built a new home in Grand Island and had four more children, Keith, Kelli, Kerri, and Kandl. Jerry always yearned to own his own business. He fulfilled his dream by buying a bar and restaurant and moving his family to Pierce, NE. He owned the bar for several years and then Jerry and Sharon decided to move the family to Iowa to be closer to relatives. Eventually ending up in Avoca, IA, Jerry worked for several years at Tri-Center schools. He retired in 2000 and decided to pursue his hobbies full time....reading, crossword puzzles, doing tax work, going to estate auctions, and playing jokes on others.

Jerry was a real prankster. He lived for the chance to surprise someone with the perfect joke. Jerry enjoyed going to auctions, yard sales, and second-hand stores. He reveled in getting a good deal and haggling over a purchase price. Some might call him cheap, but he could also be very generous, often giving to those less fortunate. Jerry was fond of his auction purchases. Sharon would often say he was "too" fond. He acquired quite a collection of goods over the years.....keeping everything. To Sharon's dismay, he filled up the house and garage with his auction purchases. Jerry was a big Elvis Presley fan. Elvis was known for doing things his own way and Jerry lived life with the same direction. Jerry always did things "his way." You may not have always agreed with him, but he always created a memorable impression on others.

Jerry died on Saturday, December 8, 2007, while recovering from knee replacement surgery, having attained the age of sixty seven years, five months and seven days. He is preceded in death by his parents and his half sister Phyllis. Survivors include his wife Sharon; son Kevin and his wife Margy of Kansas City, MO; son Keith and his wife Anita of Avoca, IA; daughter Kelli Jaacks and her husband Jeff of Merville, IA; daughter Kerri Funk and her husband Brent of Norwalk, IA, daughter Kandl of Des Moines, IA; sister Nancy Siger and her husband Darrell of Rockford, IA; sister Judy Harris and her husband Ray of Mason City, IA; brother Roger and his wife Deb of Mason City, IA; and brother Alan and his wife Sharon of Mason City, IA; half brother Harry Jr. of Cumberland, WI; 11 grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at St. Marv's Catholic Church in

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Avoca with Father John Frost as the clergy. Serving as casket bearers were Ron Fees, Frank Young, Dave Larson, Matthew Anderson, Martin Andersen, Mike Harris, Jed McDermott and Joe Gubbels. Interment was held in the Graceland Cemetery, Avoca,

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