

Elmer Paul “Hammer” Richter was born 7 December 1912 on a farm near Wausaukee (Wisconsin). He was the youngest child of a large family, having 3 brothers and 5 sisters living then. When Elmer was six, his family moved to Niagara so his father, Mathias, could work in the Kimberly-Clark mill. The four youngest children — Elmer, Wava, George, and Rose — still lived at home, where their mother Louisa [Rosenthal] took in washing to make ends meet.

As a young man, Hammer spent a lot of time rambling in the woods, hunting and fishing with his buddies, taking pictures, and working on his Model T Ford. At age 17, he went to work in the mill; by 20, he was supporting his parents; in the Army he married Eunice [Jerred]; then continued working for Kimberly-Clark until he was laid off at age 59.

Elmer was a good employee, and the company asked him to help bring online two newly-purchased mills — first in Mexico City and later in Anderson (California) where his children, Jim & Lois, went thru high school. At age 60, Elmer & Eunice moved to Sitka (Alaska) where he worked for Alaska Lumber and Pulp until retiring 5 years later.

Although they started married life in a log cabin on sister Dora’s farm, Elmer & Eunice (with the help of her parents) soon bought their first house in Kingsford (Michigan) in 1948. Over the years, Eunice designed and Elmer helped build 4 different homes in as many states. While Eunice was busy designing their next house, Elmer gardened, golfed, worked in his shop, and read books. Together they square danced, visited friends, played cards, and laughed. He was a “duplicate bridge director” and both were masters of that game.

After returning to California to be near their children and living in Davis and Dunnigan for 10 years, E&E decided to move back up to Oregon — for the clean air and the wonderful amenities of the Linus Oaks community in Roseburg. There they made many new friends and have enjoyed re-retiring. In 2007, Elmer died in his sleep at age 94.

He had a good life. He will be missed.

Eunice died Dec 2014, age 98. Son Jim died August 2017, age 70. Lois Richter can be reached at: Lois95618@gmail.com or 530-902-0209. **

Because he left so many friends spread across so much of the countryside, it would be impossible to get them all together in any one place. So we have decided not to have a memorial service. Instead you all are invited to take yourselves out to dinner, order your favorite food, tell stories, and laugh — just as you’d do if Elmer was with you!



Elmer Paul Richter, 1912-2007

** contact info current as of Feb 2021.