



Howard G. Rohrer

January 5, 1918 - June 20, 2012

94, of Indianapolis, passed away June 20, 2012. He was born January 5, 1918 in North Canton, OH, to the late Emmet W. and Bertha A. Boettler Rohrer. Howard graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering from Ohio State University. He was married to the late Opal Rohrer for 69 years, and was employed with National Starch and Chemical Company as a production manager for 40 years. Howard was a longtime member of Meadlawn Christian Church. Visitation will be Sunday, June 24, 2012 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel, 9606 E. Washington St. Funeral services will be Monday at 12:00 noon with visitation one hour prior to service. Howard is survived by his sons; Harold G. (Wanda), Alvin G. (Marcia) and Larry G. (Cathy) Rohrer, grandchildren; Bryan, Brad, Max, and Zac Rohrer, Lee Ann Chance, Ann Smiley, Joe Smiley and Erin Kaiser; six great-grandchildren, and Sister; Thelma Montgomery. Memorial contributions may be made to Christian Church Foundation, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN, 46206, please specify Rohrer Fund on memo line of check. Alternately, contributions may be made to the American Heart Association and/or the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall

“ This is Harold Rohrer - Howard's oldest son. A few things about Dad. He grew up on a farm on Pittsburg Road north of North Canton, Ohio. All the Rohrer's in his family lineage were farmers coming to America in the 1700's first settling in Western PA (Lancaster) and Western MD (Hagerstown) area. His ancestors settled the Rohrersville, MD area before family moved to the Akron/Canton area in the 1800's. The farm of his father/mother Emmett and Bertha was about 100 acres and was primarily a dairy farm. Howard's older brother Dale took over the farm after Emmett retired from farming. Howard left the farm after HS graduation to attend Ohio State. He had found an interest in chemistry while in high school and desired to be a chemical engineer. The time period was 1936 and Howard's folks had little money to spend on college so Howard primarily funded his own college education. I recall him telling stories about shoveling chicken manure in the chicken barns at Ohio State to earn money. He graduated in 1940 and had one job offer to be a quality control engineer for National Starch in Indianapolis. He wanted to work as a production supervisor; however, the hiring managers thought he was "too small (5'6") to manage the rough type men who worked in production". (Interesting to note, Howard later became the manager over all production later in his 42 year career at National Starch.) When war broke out, Howard tried to enlist; however, he was turned down due to deafness in one ear. (From a farming accident when he was about 12.) Howard met his bride Opal in 1941 and they were married in 1942. I arrived in December 1944. Howard had a love of automobiles and purchased his first car (a ford) in 1941. He was one of few who worked at National who had a car and therefore provided rides to work for a few of his fellow workers. Howard had a habit of driving "fast" and cutting in/out of traffic earning a nickname of "Quickie". He was called "Quickie" by all National Starch workers throughout his 42 years. (As a youngster, I always thought he was called "Quickie" because he always walked fast especially when in the plant at work.) Howard liked sports and especially liked fishing and hunting. His love for sports was passed onto his sons - Harold, Alvin, and Larry. He coached his youngest boys in Little League

baseball and attend all baseball and football games. Howard was a hard worker and a great provider for his family. He was always doing things around the house to maintain things, repairing a car, or remodel to make more room. (He finished the basement area doubling the size of the 900 sq. ft. house at 3717 Spann Ave.) He had the reputation with his sons and grandchildren that he could fix anything. So, if a toy broke - "take it to Grandpa, he can fix it". Around 1980, Howard and Opal purchased a winter camper/home in Ft. Myers Florida and started spending winter months in Ft. Myers at Isle of Palm RV Resort. (They sold the winter home in 2007 - just too old to make the trip each year.) They loved getting away from the snow in the North. Around age 89, Howard started slowing down and had to give up doing all the work to maintain the home. Also, dementia became a problem. Howard and Opal started using at home caregivers to help them, but in the last years, things became difficult. At age 92, Howard had some health issues (fluids around the heart, walking, dementia), and had to go to a nursing home for care after a hospital admittance. One year later, he died of heart failure. (Opal died 3 months after Howard went to the nursing home. She refused to move to an assisted living home and vowed she would "die in this house". And, she did - had a health issue that caused hospital admittance and died 3 days later without gaining consciousness.) Howard lived a long and caring for family life. Some legacies he passed on to his sons - go to college, work hard, care for your family.

Harold Rohrer - June 24, 2022 at 02:59 PM