



**CARLSON,  
Kenneth Wilfred  
Richard  
May 7, 1930 -  
Sept. 11, 2021**

Kenneth Carlson, aged 91 years, passed away at Watrous District Health Complex on Saturday, September 11, 2021.

Ken was born on the family farm near Venn on May 7th, 1930. He was the first born into the loving family of Raymond and

Ada Carlson and became the oldest of 11 siblings. Ken spent his whole life farming and didn't retire from it until the late 1990s and as he'd always say: "once a farmer, always a farmer." He met the love of his life, Joan, in 1952 and after a brief courtship were married on July 9th, 1954. They were married for 67 years. They settled on a farm, near Venn, and raised their four children here, Melvin, Garnet, Beverly, and Joanne. The years were good to Ken and he enjoyed the various aspects that came with being a dairy farmer, a grain farmer, raising chickens, and of course all the Saturday afternoon trips into town to sell eggs, milk and cream. It surprised us to learn that Ken was not just a farmer, but also a councillor for the RM of Usborne for 24 years. Not only this, but was active as a board member of the Watrous United Church, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, and the Watrous Co-op. Some of his favourite hobbies included rug hooking, woodworking, and he had a passion for crossword puzzles. In fact, he was so good at woodworking that he made all of the granddaughters toy kitchen cupboards, and his grandson a toy box. Danceland was also a favourite hideout for Ken, where he and Joan would dance the night away so we played polka music in his honour today.

If all that didn't keep him busy, he also loved to travel! Ken loved travelling so much with Joan that they took a picture at every town's sign they visited. These precious memories overflowed two photo albums. He also enjoyed educating himself with local knowledge by touring the small town museums along the way even though Joan did not enjoy them as much. Although Ken enjoyed travelling, he never was away for too long; two or three days was all he ever took. In later years, Ken enjoyed several afternoon drives with Doug Gegner touring the small towns and country roads usually stopping for coffee and toast somewhere.

We have fond memories of the games Ken liked to play: cribbage, scrabble, casino, whist, and crokinole. You couldn't cheat with him, and he loved to win! He always enjoyed teaching the family how to play these games. Ken always had a gadget or magic trick to show the grandchildren and great-grandchildren when they came to visit, no matter how old they got.

If you've ever visited Ken at home he proudly showed off his prized cuckoo clock. He loved making it go for the kids and watching their faces light up when it made the cuckoo sound. As some of the grandchildren grew older and left Watrous we found that we weren't able to visit him as much as we wanted. But family was important to Ken, so he kept up with the modern world and learned how to video chat over the internet mostly with Lesley

and her family, who live in Ontario.

Farming was his life. Ken farmed until they moved to Watrous in October 1999. He was interested in farming from a young age up until his last days. Even three days before his passing he still asked about harvest. Sadly, this was the first year that he wasn't able to ride a combine. He was always very interested in what Garnet and Darren were working on in the shop. He would take a drive out to the farm almost daily in his little red truck. Ken always said, "you start your career picking rocks and cutting grass, then you have your life career, then you end your career picking rocks and cutting grass."

Ken liked to putter and keep busy. As he got older he switched to handheld tools in order to stay busy in his yard. He wasn't one to sit around. He was excited to get a job at Watrous Salvage and drive for Centennial Ford in his '80s.

Ken was a meat and potatoes person, but his favourite food was hamburger and beans. But he loved his sweets. Guess what is for lunch today . . . yup sweets!

Google came out in 1996. But for Ken - his Google was the 1967 World Book Encyclopedias. You would mention a topic or place to Ken and if he did not know about it, he would just pull out one of the encyclopedias or atlas to learn more. He was quite impressed with how vehicle technology changed over the years from his first owned vehicle to Teresa and Jeff's all electric Tesla which he got to see a week ago.

Ken lived a full life with family and friends. He was a kind man who treated everyone with equal respect.

He is survived by his loving wife Joan (Miller); children: Melvin, Garnet (Laurie), Beverly (Michael), and Joanne (Randy); grandchildren: Darren (Kristin), Lorna (Alex), Lesley (Michael), Teresa (Jeff), Michelle (fiancé Derek), and Kensey; great-grandchildren: Tanner, Jace, Ava, Tess, Isaiah, Elena, Zachary, Cameron, Nixon, Mayson, and Hailey; siblings: Hugh, Allen, Deanna and Pearl and in-laws Betty, Marilyn, Cheryl, Nelda, Anne and Howard.

Ken was predeceased by his parents Raymond and Ada Carlson; mother and father-in-law Helen and Ernie Miller; siblings: Richard, Robbie, Glen, Ross, Tricia, and Sandra; brothers-in-law: Lou and Vic; grandson Collin; great-grandson Kayden and in-laws Bob and Elaine Mark and Ted and Jean Bascom.

Memorial service was held at Watrous United Church on September 15 conducted by Rev. Jo-Ann Hills.

Honorary pallbearers were Darren Carlson, Lesley Swift-Holt, Lorna Melgar, Teresa Dyer, Michelle Swift, Kensey Gross and all his friends. Melvin Carlson was urnbearer. Register attendants Doug Gegner, Ken Bartel and Merv and Maggie Chamney. Fraser Mark and Greg Carlson were ushers. Soloist was Karen Schroeder Mark and Shelley Engele was organist.

Interment followed at Venn Cemetery.

Memorial donations directed to Venn Cemetery or Watrous United Church would be appreciated.

To leave online condolences, tributes or to make a donation, please visit [www.fotheringham-mcdougall.com](http://www.fotheringham-mcdougall.com)

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