



Clayton E. True

February 17, 1931 - December 27, 2017

Clayton E True, 86, of Kearney died Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at his home.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney. Interment will be at the Kearney Cemetery at a later date.

Memorials are suggested to the Kearney Public Library. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Clayton True was born February 17, 1931 in Osawatomie Kansas to Lewis C. and Mabel L. (Harold) True.

He and his brother Virgil spent their childhood in Kansas and Missouri; a 1948 graduate of Lane High School, Lane Kansas. Their father was an avid outdoorsman and as a family they spent much of their time camping, fishing and hiking and enjoying the outdoors.

Clayton earned his undergraduate degree from Ottawa University ('57) and a Master of Science degree from The Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia Kansas ('64). Prior to his career in higher education, Clayton taught biology and coached basketball and track in secondary schools in Kansas. During this time he married the love of his life, Ethelean Mersman "Penny" in

1953 and also started his family.

He joined the faculty of Kearney State College (now the University of Nebraska-Kearney) as an instructor in the Biology Department in the fall of 1965. Freshwater biology was his area of expertise teaching limnology and ichthyology and serving as the coordinator of the general biology studies program for several years. In 1979 while continuing to teach and raise a family he earned his PHD at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For about 25 of his 34 year career he co-lead field trips in the spring through New Mexico and Arizona so that students could learn firsthand about the geography, botany, zoology and ecology of the landscape and to collect specimens along the way. Which led to the nickname "Spike".

Throughout his career he developed long lasting friendships with his fellow faculty members and with these friends spent countless hours enjoying golf, fishing, hunting, music, card games and travel. When not teaching he enjoyed officiating high school football games and for many years helped family friends with harvesting wheat on their family farm. Whatever the sport, there were always jokes to be told, laughs to be had and memories to be cherished.

Clayton, married for 64 years to Penny was a father to five children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He loved spending time with his family, making them laugh with his quick and smart wit. His good nature and sense of humor at times could not, apparently, be contained and occasionally bubbled over mischievously. Penny was always his "Sweetie" and his children were always a source of pride.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife Ethelean True of Kearney; children Kathy (Scott) Leslie of San Jose, CA, Dixie True of San Jose, CA, John True of Blair, NE, Barb (Mark) Stromberg of Denver, CO; grandchildren Chris Leslie, Brittani Leslie, Kylie (Ryan) Hulme, Taylor True, Megan (Chan) Miller, Clayton Lewis True, Danielle Thoene and daughter-in-law Cheryl True and

three great grandchildren.

Clayton was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Virgil and his son Doug True of Ravenna.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations

4115 Ave N

Kearney, NE 68847

(308) 234-3500

info@osrfh.com

<https://www.osrfh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Clayton E. True

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ I took a geneology class three years ago & had the pleasure to sit next to Clayton. We exchanged stories...he had played golf with my husband & both remembered each other. We compared notes about our ancestors & stories of the past. Each week, I looked forward to seeing him & sitting with him. He was a gentleman and a joy to be with. I'm sorry I had lost touch with him since then. God bless him & his family. He was certainly a treasure.

Mary Halkyard - January 05, 2018 at 05:04 PM



“ True family,

The Johnson kids from your past are thinking of you. Sending prayers to the family. I personally remember how kind both your parents were to me.

Kay Johnson Richardson

Kay Richardson - January 02, 2018 at 11:06 PM

ML

“ Penny and family-

You are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Mary Ellen Lantis and Family
Cammy, Wendy, Leah and Travis*

Mary Ellen Lantis - January 02, 2018 at 01:56 PM

HC

“ Penny,

You have always been so dear to me and I just want you to know how sorry I am for your loss. I am holding you close in my thoughts and prayers.

Holly Cool

Holly Cool - January 02, 2018 at 11:21 AM

RC

“ *I am one of the many biology students who benefited from his years at Kearney State. Many great memories of spring break trips-- -1971--Arizona (Mexico), 1972--Texas (Mexico), 1973--New Orleans, Gulf of Mexico out of Gulfport, MS. So many students had opportunities to travel that they never dreamed of doing before the Spring Break trips at the Biology Dept. Thanks, Clayton and the rest of the faculty at the Biology Dept at UNK. This was above and beyond the classroom and created so much enrichment for so many!*



*Dr. Ron Cox
Mason City, NE*

Ron Cox - January 01, 2018 at 11:29 PM

JO

“ *Doctor True always made field trips fun...people learn a lot more when they're smiling....Thank Doc*

Joe Osterhaus - January 01, 2018 at 11:19 PM



“ *To the family of Clayton True,*

We extend our deepest condolences to you all. Clayton's work ethic and good humor live on through you all, and we see it every day in John True. Our blessings for healing and comfort.

The CoWorkers of John C. True at Corbion in Blair, NE

NO EL - January 01, 2018 at 01:40 PM