



Elmer C. Holzrichter

December 18, 1924 - June 9, 2016

Elmer Holzrichter, 91, of Kearney, Nebraska died Thursday, June 9, 2016 at his home.

Elmer was born on his family's farm on the West bank of the Little Arkansas River in Harvey County, Kansas, on December 18, 1924. Growing up in the depression with few possessions, Elmer developed a life-long commitment to stewardship of the environment and a respect for plants and animals. He was greatly influenced by his nurturing mother's warmth, appreciation, and respect for nature.

Elmer was an artist and an educator. He was motivated to pursue art by his elementary school teacher. Elmer graduated from Burrton High School and after a year of additional training, he took his first job teaching in a country school in Kansas. He went on to earn a B.F.A. from Wichita State University in 1949 and taught art at the junior and senior high schools in Dodge City, Kansas. Elmer met Margaret (Rowlands), the junior high music teacher, in Dodge City. Together, with their students, they staged a number of school operas. They married July 23, 1950. They had four children: son Eric Holzrichter of Charlotte, NC; daughters Myfanwy (Marc) Carranza of Plymouth, MN, Cathryn (Charles) Welch of Peterborough, NH and Bronwyn (Gary) Fees of Manhattan, KS. They have 11 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren;

Elmer spent four summers taking courses at the University of Colorado meeting many prominent artists who greatly influenced his life and philosophy of art. He completed his masters of art at Fort Hays State University before accepting an offer from Kearney State College. He taught there for 26 years, retiring in 1989 as an Emeriti Professor of Art. He was known as a thoughtful and inspirational teacher. Elmer's artwork encompassed a broad range of mediums including painting, drawing, collage, fiber banners, papier-mâché masks, assemblages and constructions, often including original poetry and recycled objects. Taking ordinary objects and materials and making them extraordinary became his artistic expression. He was known as the "thingmaker." Elmer had several one-man shows, and award winning invitation and juried group shows. Over his lifetime, he created several hundred pieces of art. His most recent retrospective was at age 90 at the Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA).

Elmer had a passion for animals and plants, tending large gardens and caring for all God's creatures. He was a founding member and served as the first president of the Southwest Kansas Art Association and was heavily involved in vision and planning of MONA. He participated regularly at Art in the Park. Elmer and Margaret could be seen frequently at Community Concert events.

Elmer was preceded in death by his parents John and Sara (Friesen), brothers Frank, Harvey and Irl Holzrichter; sisters Esther Hook, Minnie Regher and Alvina Enns. Sister Doris Edwards of Perry, OK survives.

A Memorial service will be held 11:00 am Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at the First Presbyterian Church in Kearney with the Rev. Stephen Price-Gibson officiating. Burial will be held at a later date.

Memorials are suggested to the First Presbyterian Church or the Museum of

Nebraska Art. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. O'Brien
Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services are in charge of
services

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **14**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
4511 6th Ave.
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall



“ *Elmer C. Holzrichter*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Love and miss you grandpa Elmer.I miss you grandma Margaret .I hope you feel better.*

*love,
Maren L carranza*

maren - May 14, 2020 at 10:23 AM



“ *Margaret and Family,*

Ted and I are so sorry about Elmer passing.

Found about just today.

Ted and Delora



Ted & Delora Hall - June 17, 2016 at 10:31 PM

CR

“ *Fy cydymdeimlad dwysaf gyda chi a'ch teulu, Margaret. What a wonderful life he lived, and a very full and long one at that. But that doesn't make this easy. Know that he had an imprint on so many in a life full of service, and that he will be remembered for a very long time. Prayers, blessings, and my love to you.*

*Gyda chydymdeimlad dwysaf,
Collin*

Collin Rees - June 15, 2016 at 03:25 PM

TF

“ *Tammey Frick lit a candle in memory of Elmer C. Holzrichter*



Tammey Frick - June 15, 2016 at 11:55 AM

TF

Margaret and family, Gene and I were saddened to hear of Elmer's passing. We have lost another true artist in our community. May beautiful memories of a life well lived help you through this time. Gene and Tammey Frick

Tammey Frick - June 15, 2016 at 11:57 AM



“ *I love you forever, Elmer H. You were one of my best professors, and you taught me so much over the years about art and gentleness. Your personal work left me astounded. You left me kinder, more hopeful, and a better person. Thank you for being here for so many in such a heroic way. God bless your friends and family during their loss; until we all meet again. <3 Your student for life, Kellie Jo Risk*

Kellie Risk - June 15, 2016 at 07:12 AM

MR

“ *To Margaret and Family,*

Elmer will always have a special place in our memories with the many visits we had over the years at the Holzrichter's home or The Charles and Orba Brink home when we came to visit with my parents Don and Donna Reid. Having artists in the family there was a strong connection and bond. We recently enjoyed the MONA exhibit last year.

May fond memories put a smile on your face.

Mark Reid

Mark reid - June 14, 2016 at 09:48 PM

DB

“ Elmer was such a charming and gracious man. I was honored to be able to tour through his wonderful studio on his 90th Birthday and spend a few precious moments with him. His art was sometimes linear and exact and at other times circular and eclectic. All of his pieces were unique and memorable. I asked him once if he had everything catalogued with titles of his work, he looked at his son in law, and they both smiled. Not exactly certain what that meant but I can imagine. His most recent exhibit at MONA was wonderful and enjoyed by many. When I asked him if his work is for sale, he smiled and told me to talk with him another time. I never got that second chance. RIP Elmer

Dr. Steve Bennett - June 14, 2016 at 09:44 PM

WE

“ As family friends I am sorry about the loss. I remember parties at their house they even took me in when I was planning our wedding since I already lived in Omaha. I remember church activities 4-H club and all the camps Myfanwy and I went to. His art work and teaching touched many lives. Wendy Wells Ennis and Bob

Wendy Wells Ennis - June 14, 2016 at 06:38 PM

NF

“ Although we knew Elmer and Margaret casually before, we really became friends at the GSH fitness center back in 2007. We enjoyed visiting Elmer in his studio, and when we had an art exhibit in our back yard, Elmer and Margaret drove to Minden to attend. We cherished Elmer.....his environmentalism, his art, his dry wit, and his kindness.

We did not know of his passing until we returned from a 3 hour eye appointment in Hastings today. June 14th Had we known, we would have been at the memorial service. To Margaret and the family, we cannot express the immense loss that we feel. He was a great man...

Nadine Fahrlander - June 14, 2016 at 04:55 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elmer C. Holzrichter.

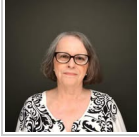


June 13, 2016 at 10:27 PM

GC

“ As a high school friend of Myfanwy's, I fondly remember fun times at the Holzrichter home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Holzrichter were gracious and it was always so interesting to see the incredible artwork. When I took art in college, I had a chance to "dabble" in his mask-making medium. I happened to see his last MONA exhibit, and well remember some of the pieces hanging on the walls of their home. He certainly had a gift for turning the ordinary into the extraordinary. My sympathies to you, and may God bless your family. --Gay (Welty) Correll

Gay D. Correll - June 13, 2016 at 03:02 PM



“ *Eric and family,*

I was saddened to hear of your father's death. When I worked at Liberty and Varsity in the early 2000's, I used to enjoy visiting with him when he'd come into the business. He was a great guy and a wonderful artist.

Nancy McCammon-Hansen

Nancy Hansen - June 13, 2016 at 02:24 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Elmer C. Holzrichter.*



June 12, 2016 at 11:23 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elmer C. Holzrichter.*



June 12, 2016 at 04:10 PM

EF

“ *Edward and Lois Moore and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Elmer C. Holzrichter.*



Edward and Lois Moore and Family - June 10, 2016 at 04:16 PM