

CAA Hall of Fame Member J Lee Sears Passes Away

J Lee Sears of Greeley passed away on Sunday December 14, 2008, following a heart attack. He was born in Brighton on June 3, 1929 to Oliver and Pearl Sears. He went to school in Brighton and Ft Lupton; he graduated from Keenesburg High School in 1947. In 1946, he was stricken with Polio losing the use of both arms. Despite his physical challenges he furthered his education at Reisch Auction School in Mason City, Iowa and later obtained a Certificate in Real Estate from the University of Colorado. He was a resident of Brighton until 1941, when his family moved to the farm East of Ft Lupton. After marrying LaVeda Smith of Fort Lupton in 1954, they moved into Ft Lupton, where they raised three children, Mark, Kay and Jay. In 1960, J Lee was provided with great mobility when he acquired a car equipped with special controls that allowed him to drive with his feet. This was just one of many adaptations he used to overcome his paralysis and succeed in life.

In 1949 J Lee joined Ehrlich Sales Service of Brighton as an Auctioneer, and continued as a Partner until retirement in 1991. In 1951 he joined Whiteside Realty in Ft Lupton, acquiring the firm in 1961 and then doing business as JL Sears & Associates until retirement in 1992. He was a member of the Colorado and National Associations of Auctioneers and the Colorado and National Association of Realtors. After retirement he and LaVeda moved to Greeley, after enjoying a few years in Estes Park.

J Lee was an avid Fort Lupton Blue Devils sports fan. He was recognized as a community leader and was proud to be a member of the Ft Lupton Lions Club and the First Baptist Church of Ft Lupton. He served in many volunteer roles over his lifetime. Since moving to Greeley he served on the Easter Seals/CSU Extension Agri-bility Board of directors and the RSVP Project Connect.

J Lee and LaVeda traveled extensively throughout their life, seeing all 50 states and many countries. They enjoyed taking their children and their families on many cruises, camping and car trips.

J Lee is survived by his wife LaVeda; his son Mark (Jayne) of Fort Collins; daughter Kay Collins (Mike) of Brighton; and Jay (Debbie) of Houston; six grand children - Jeff Collins, Alison Wright-Sears, Bethany Hinton-Collins, Jonathan Sears, Oliver Sears, and Meredith McLeod Sears and one great grand child - Cameron Collins.

Visitation will be at Tabor-Rice Funeral Home in Brighton from 5-8 pm on Thursday. Graveside service is to be held 10 am Friday at the Elmwood Cemetery in Brighton. Memorial service is to be held at 2 pm Friday at the Greeley First Church of the Nazarene. Memorial contributions can be made to Greeley First Church of the Nazarene, designated for the Peru mission. View the online obituary at www.taborfuneralhome.com