

Prieskorn, Gerald A.

Gerald A. Prieskorn, 74, of Cass City, died Wednesday, December 7, 2005, in Covenant Medical Center in Saginaw. He was born August 10, 1931 in Bad Axe to Ottomar Heinrich and Mary (Allan) Prieskorn. He married Geraldine M. Folkert on October 17, 1953 in Angola, Indiana. Gerald ran the Ben Franklin Store with his wife, Geraldine, for over 50 years. He inherited Ben Franklin from his parents, which later became Prieskorn Variety Stores. During that time, he was active in civic affairs, joining the Rotary Club in 1959 where he was a Paul Harris Fellow as well as a past president. His father, Otto, was also a Rotarian as well as his sons, Jeff and Matt. He was a past president of both the Cass City Chamber of Commerce and Hills and Dales Hospital Board and a founding member of the White Creek Club. Gerald was an optimist. Since he had never finished his college degree, he started taking courses again at SVSU when he was 70. He estimated he would graduate by the time he was 80. Last month he renewed his gym membership for one year. Just two weeks ago, he ordered new prescription sun glasses and paid an extra \$125 to have the lenses polarized for fishing. He did all this while carrying an oxygen tank around with him. Gerald was fond of magazines. He was never without one rolled up in his jacket or back pocket. At the time of his death, he subscribed to 28 publications, many of them weekly. He was also fond of the idea of fly fishing. He didn't actually fish, but he liked to shop for fishing gear, get magazines about fishing and look at travel brochures for float trips. He was always interested in business and the stock market. CNBC was on in the house all day long. The only reason he bought a computer was because someone showed him how to track stocks and how the internet could give him information even quicker than the TV. His other passion in life was coffee, but only from the fresh pot. He could never buy coffee from the drive thru window, as you couldn't be sure it was the freshest pot. As glib as this is about the passions of Gerald Prieskorn, he loved his family and friends. He would only show it in his way, but you always knew he cared. He would support you in whatever you wanted to do. Just when you thought he wasn't listening to anything you had to say, some article would arrive in the mail, proving not only had he been listening, but he cared. Every member of his family has had strangers come up to them and relay how much Gerald had helped them. Gerald is survived by his wife, Geraldine; children, Cara Prieskorn, of Athens, New York, Susan (Wendell) Bond, of Denver, Colorado, Jeffrey (Martha) Prieskorn, of Texarkana, Texas, Matthew (Dawn) Prieskorn, of Cass City, Rebecca (John) Keables, of Tucson, Arizona; grandchildren, Cabe Prieskorn, Simmons Prieskorn, Caroline Prieskorn, Matt Prieskorn, Jessica Prieskorn, Dalton Prieskorn, Benjamin Keables and Charlie Keables. A memorial service will be conducted at 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 10, 2005, in Kranz Funeral Home in Cass City with Jeff Prieskorn serving as celebrant. Visitation is from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Cass City Rotary Club. Family and friends may share memories, prayers, and stories with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com.