

### **Libkuman, Rexford W.**

Rexford Weldon "REX" Libkuman, 100, of Elkton, passed away peacefully on Dec. 3, 2008.

Rex was born Nov. 20, 1908, to the late Barbara (Burleigh) & Bert Libkuman of Elkton on a farm 4 1/2 miles south of Elkton in Grant Township. He attended Flowing Well School in Oliver Township through the 8th grade. At 13, he moved to Marlette, and after graduating high school in 1925, he worked for his father, a road builder, on various projects during summer months and spent winters working in Detroit in various positions, most notably Hudson Body Plant from 1926-1929 where he earned .12 1/2 cents per hour.

Rex enjoyed traveling. In 1931, he hitchhiked and hopped the rails to California. He returned again to California in 1933 via automobile in the company of adventurous companions. Many interesting experiences were encountered including camping and unknowingly sleeping amongst Gila monsters, scorpions and rattlers.

On Feb. 13, 1935, in Goshen, Ind., he was united in marriage to Helen Marie Cody of Caro (great niece of Buffalo Bill Cody).

Soon after, they relocated to Elkton and Rex entered into partnership with his father and brother opening a meat market on the corner (H&R Libkuman). In 1947, they rented the corner store to Bert McNeilly and moved the business to what had been the Napa store where they processed meat and sold groceries. In 1956, Rex and Marie moved back to the corner store (Rex's Party Store) and operated that until their retirement in 1972 when it was sold to Ron and Shirley Cunningham.

In the 60s, Rex and Marie built their dream home on M-142 and Grassmere Road where they resided until the 80s when they moved back into Elkton.

Rex was a long time member of the Elkton Methodist Church and over the years participated in many sporting activities such as bowling and hunting. He loved playing cards, namely with the Yuker club. He was an avid and enthusiastic golfer and lifetime member of Century Oaks golf course in Elkton. Rex remained an active league golfer partnering with Floyd Farver until 1997. He and Marie often traveled with friends on golfing trips throughout the state and country. For a number of years, Rex and Marie enjoyed mentoring and inspiring young people namely Roslyn, Mike, Rick, Mark, Susan & Lana Dean, all formerly of Elkton.

More recently, Rex was inducted into the Lions Club and was proud to be a member.

Surviving are two sons, Richard (Carol) Libkuman of Anchorage, Alaska, and Terry (Carol) Libkuman of Mt. Pleasant; and daughter, Weldonna Libkuman of Elkton; two grandchildren, Valerie Longeski of Wasilla, Alaska, Mark Libkuman of Brooklyn, N.Y.; and special friends, Susan & Morgan Gottschalk of Elkton and Mike Dean of Puyallup, Wash. Mike was regarded as a son and Morgan as a granddaughter.

Preceding him in death were his wife, Marie, and his brothers, Mike & Burleigh Libkuman.

Rex was a steady, loyal father and friend. He was an outstanding member of the community and known for his outgoing personality and ready laugh. He served as an inspiration to many. He was very beloved and will be very much missed.

Per Rex's wishes, there will be no viewing or funeral service. There will be a memorial service for family and friends at the Elkton United Methodist Church on at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Cremation has already taken place and his cremains will be buried by his wife in Riverside

Cemetery in Elkton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Elkton Lions Club or the Elkton Methodist Church.

You may sign the guest book and share words of condolence at [www.cfcElkton.com](http://www.cfcElkton.com).