Harland Carl Adair

Harland Carl Adair, born Dec 14, 1917 in Shelby Township, Utica, Macomb County, Michigan, died Feb 9, 2009, in Canby, Clackamas County, Oregon. The son of Carl Frederick Adair and Abigail "Mimi" Flanders Sweitzer Adair, both born in Utica, Macomb, Michigan, brother of Lillian Marie Adair, who preceded him in death.

Mr. Adair was raised in Rochester, Michigan, where he attended Rochester Elementary School and Rochester High School - and yes, he really did "run" his paper route on foot, in the snow, during lunch so that he and friends could ski on the nearby slope after school. He had pine skis, because he couldn't afford those made of ash.

At age twelve, his father passed away. Through high school he played the drums in swing bands. "They would close Main Street down, on Saturday nights, in Rochester, for dancing, and we would play the music", he fondly recalled. At age 16, his widow mother sent him to Coalinga, California, to live with an aunt and uncle and finish high school.

Mr. Adair attended Fresno State and San Jose State Colleges, majoring in business (accounting). He met Charlotte Jean Flindt, a native of San Jose, California and a school teacher in Coalinga, whom he later married. They were married for 66 years, before Jean's passing in August, 2007.

In 1942, he joined the U.S. Army and rose to the rank of Captain. While in the Army, he and Jean had their first daughter, Carolee Ann, born in East Orange, NJ.

After World War II, he settled in San Jose, California, where he began a distinguished, 35-year career with Food Machinery and Chemical (FMC). He eventually served as staff assistant to the controller. Their second daughter, Jan Mari, was born in San Jose. Ian later married Preston Winters.

Mr. Adair served as the President of the San Jose (now called Silicon Valley) Chapter of the National Association of Accountants from 1967 to 1968.

His daughter, Jan, said that "He was most proud of the fact that he was a deacon and an elder in several churches. The most important thing he did in his life [in his words] was to serve the Lord in Children's Ministries, Senior Ministries, and by serving as a minister in rest homes where he and Mom visited the sick."

Mr. and Mrs. Adair lived in San Jose, raising their two daughters there; they retired in Soquel, California. They would take long, romantic walks on the beach, until ailing health prevented it.

In October, 2008, Mr. Adair moved into Guy and Carolee Newgren's (his daughter and son-in-law's) home in Canby, Oregon. He had endured battles with several ailments, recently. Yet, he outlived most of his friends and coworkers. "He was a good man; he seemed to be nearly sinless", said Mr. Newgren. "He did not smoke or drink. He loved his dear wife and they served one-another faithfully until Mom's death, only a year ago."

Daughter, Carolee added "He was always there for his children. He never let us down. He was a family man, endlessly devoted to our mother. They say the most important thing a man can do for his children is to love their mother. He set an example for generations to follow."

In addition to their two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Adair are survived by five grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. One grandson preceded him in death.