



Edward G. Butus

Life Story

Ed Butus was like family to everyone he knew. He loved knowing his neighbors, helping friends and being with family. Ed was always there for others and that's why it was such a pleasure for his friend Mike Mroczek to be there for him. Mike was happy to help Ed with the heavy farm work when Ed's health declined. Ed showed people how to treat him by the way he was there for others and in return he was taken care of as well.

Born July 6, 1922, Ed entered the world during the onset of the Roaring Twenties. It was the dance era, the jazz age, when young people were out at the dance hall, enjoying jazz and dancing the Charleston and the Shimmy. Ed was the second of four children born to George and Julia (Laskovy) Butus on their family farm on 40th Avenue near Three Mile Lake in Paw Paw, Michigan. Ed's parents were first generation Americans that had Austrian/Polish ancestry. Many of his neighbors were of various nationalities as well. As a young lad, Ed often listened to the different languages they all spoke while out visiting and sipping on his dad's homemade wine on Sunday afternoon. While Ed's parents spoke to family and friends in Polish, he astutely picked up on numerous phrases like "Gencoya" which means "thank you" words in often used.

He and his siblings, Laura, Helen and Peter lived a typical childhood, helping out with the family chores on the farm. The kids walked to Lee Elementary, a one room schoolhouse down the road. At school, Ed learned he was a great athlete. He was nicknamed "Slugger" by his teammates because of his many homeruns. He also excelled in football and basketball too. Unfortunately, his days of playing sports slowed a little when he graduated from Paw Paw High School in 1941.

In 1945 Ed was drafted into the Army as World War II was underway. He was stationed stateside and remained in the service until the war finally ended. When Ed returned home, he helped his dad on the farm. His father moved the family to a farm on White Oak Road in Lawton and also purchased and farmed additional properties. Ed continued to farm with his father and when his parents died he purchased the farm as his own. Ed loved farm life! Many days he would "cruise" around to all the local farms, checking out their crops and animals, and stopping in for a visit. His close friend, Cindy Miller would often join him as he made his daily farm visits. Perhaps, as well as the good time, she was enticed by the coffee and donuts that kicked off the ritual or the ice cream that usually followed.

Besides his farming, Ed was also a skilled mechanic. Many times, Ed traveled to Archibald, Ohio to attend the farm implement auctions where he would bring home a tractor or two. He spent time fixing them up and then used them himself or sold them. He was also well known for being one of the top delivers of grapes to Welch's. He hauled for many of the local farmers and he would also haul the pulp out.

Despite Ed's ethic of hard-work, he did find time to play. He loved following sports on television and he

also enjoyed watching the softball games at the Pioneer Campground. Ed sponsored the team Cindy played for and he always had fun at the games. He was a card player and would look forward to the trips he would take to Michigan City, Indiana to play at the Blue Chip Casino. His favorite games were stud poker and blackjack.

Although Ed never married and had a family of his own, he was sort of adopted into his buddy Mike Mroczek's family. Ed joined them on many of their family vacations, several trips to Florida and out boating. He also had other close friends that he would spend lots of time with.

He enjoyed nature and animals. Over the years he had many cats and became attached to Laura Mroczek's dog "TJ". Morning visits from wild pheasants were welcome sights to Ed and he would sit in his living room watching them. His back porch was a friendly spot to relax on a hot day.

Ed was quite a character. He was lots of fun with his teasing and jovial attitude. He was also a genuinely caring man. If he knew a friend or neighbor was in trouble, he would be there to bale them out. Ed Butus was a fun-loving, great guy who will be dearly missed by his many friends and family.

Ed's heart condition reached a point where he required the insertion of a pacemaker. Once the procedure was done an infection followed that eventually ended Ed's life. He died at Lakeview Continuing Care in Lawton, Michigan.

Edward G. Butus age 84 of Lawton died July 11, 1006 at Lakeview Continuing Care. Learn more about Ed view his Life Story film and visit with his family and friends Saturday from 11:00a.m. until the time of service at 12:00 Noon. A service to honor and celebrate his life will be held Saturday 12:00 Noon at the Life Story Funeral Home-Betzler & Thompson 60900 M-40 Paw Paw 657-3870. Interment St. Mary's Cemetery. Ed was preceded in death by his parents; and sisters: Helen Elenga and Laura Nesteby. Members of his family include his brother, Peter (Lyn) Butus of Niles; nephew, Keith Butus; niece, Julie Butus; a grand nephew and three grand nieces; dear friends: Michael (Vicki) Mroczek and Cindy Miller all of Decatur. Please visit Ed's personal web page at www.lifestorynet.com where you can read his Life Story, sign the guest book or archive a favorite memory.