



Lost But Not Forgotten

MCRHS recently lost two of its active members, Kenneth Oppenlander of Manhattan, KS and Larry Springer of Waterville, KS. Both of these gentlemen were longtime supporters of MCRHS and designated MCRHS as a suggested memorial.

On a personal note, I have only been with the MCRHS for 5 years so I did not know Kenneth very well, mostly through email correspondence. I know he had been actively involved with the upkeep and maintenance of both the garden area and wooden caboose in Waterville. I am certain he had many other contributions that I am not aware of.

I spent a lot of time with Larry giving rides and doing track maintenance. Larry Springer, Larry Moon and I spend many a day working on the railroad and having lunch at either the Corner Store in Waterville or the restaurant in Barnes. On many of those occasions, Kenny Winkenwader was also a part of the work gang. Larry Springer always knew what was on the menu at Barnes and wanted to get their early so they didn't run out of food. I think their hot roast beef sandwich was his favorite. I was able to visit Larry Springer in the nursing home twice before Covid-19. My wife and I always wanted to be able to pick Larry up and let him be a part of something happening on the rails once again but Covid-19 wouldn't allow it. It saddens me that both of these men passed away in a time when a regular funeral is not possible.

Kenneth Lyle Oppenlander

Kenneth Lyle Oppenlander, age 85, of Manhattan, died October 7, 2020 in Manhattan after a long battle with cancer. He was born on September 22,

1935 in Manhattan to Norman and Violet Oppenlander. He was united in marriage to Aileen Berroth on June 7, 1980.

He was preceded in death by both parents. He is survived by his wife, Aileen, and 6 children: Steve Oppenlander, Carol Latschar, Nancy Petty, Debbie Kreiser, Christi Thomas, and Greg Berroth; 7 grandkids, and 6 great-grandkids. He is also survived by his brother Harold and his wife Connie, and several nieces and nephews.

His employment included ranching in Ashland, KS, Caterpillar in Illinois, National square dance caller, and many years at the USDA Research Lab in Manhattan, KS. His hobbies included traveling, fishing, sailing, old cars, trains, and most of all being with his kids and grandkids.

Due to Covid there will not be a celebration of life at this time.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Marshall County Railroad Historical Society, P.O. Box 242, Waterville, KS 66548.

Larry Springer

Larry J. Springer, age 82, of Waterville, passed away on Friday, November 20, 2020, at Cambridge Place in Marysville.

Larry was born on February 27, 1938, in Waterville, to Gerald W. and Ruth M. (Anderson) Springer. He graduated from Waterville High School in 1956. Shortly after high school he joined the US Army where he served from 1956 until 1958. After his military service, Larry moved to Colorado where he worked as an electrical foreman for the Public

Service Company of Colorado in Boulder, until his retirement. He returned home to Waterville in 2008.

Larry was a member of the Lions Club, Springer Post 332 of the American Legion, and Marshall County Railroad Historical Society, in Waterville, the Elks Club in Boulder, Colorado and the Model A Ford Club of America. He thoroughly enjoyed an early retirement – always building, fixing, and tinkering. He loved spending quality time with his family and friends, a good laugh and a good meal.

Survivors include his children, Judy (Jason) Narenkivicius of Palisade, Colorado, and Gary (Annie) Springer of Price, Utah; grandsons: Cooper, Jake, Toby and Conner; and siblings, Marianne Spano of Topeka, twin sister Lola Zabokrtsky of Barnes, Lee (Barbara) Springer of Wilmington, Illinois, and Keith Springer of Topeka.

Preceding Larry in death were his parents and four siblings: Gail Springer, Elaine Randle, Neil Springer, and Max Springer.

Cremation is planned with a private graveside inurnment at the Afton Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to Marshall County Railroad Historical Society and may be sent directly, or in care of Terry-Christie Funeral Home at PO Box 61, Waterville, Kansas 66548.

Covid-19 Update

Since the onset of Covid-19 the MCRHS did not conduct group rides other than those consisting of a family. As a non-profit that had its toll on our revenue for the year but we are still a solvent organization. We participated in the 2nd annual Blue Rapids Community Foundation fund raising event conducted through the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation and raised \$4,390.

Crossing Repairs

We have three or four crossings in need of replacement. In Blue Rapids, both the siding

crossing and main line crossing at Genesee Street need replaced. In Waterville, the Colorado and Nebraska street crossings need replaced. The present crossings have wood planks. The best option is to replace the planks with asphalt. The bid from a railroad contractor for two crossings is \$17,253. Other options are being investigated but it is likely to cost at least \$2,000 per crossing for labor and materials.

With volunteer help from the AmeriCorps NCCC the Kansas Street crossing in Waterville was replaced in May of 2019.

A crossing repair fund has been established and several members have agreed to donate \$100 to the fund. If you would like to donate to this fund you may do so by check made out to MCRHS or by using PayPal or Venmo. With PayPal or Venmo you will need to send the funds to the Treasurer, David Crawford and they will then be transferred to the MCRHS treasury.

PayPal: dcrawford2020@gmail.com

Venmo: @DLC1953

Check: Mail to MCRHS

PO Box 242

Waterville, KS 66548

Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!



Everyone stay healthy and
look forward to a better year
in 2021.

