

Closed Album - Gary Dahlke 1938-2020

By Paul Glass

Gary Lee Dahlke, age 81, passed away in the loving care of his family on March 23, 2020, at the Norlite Nursing Center, Marquette, MI.

Born May 21, 1938, in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, the family moved to Marquette in 1946. His schooling included Northern Michigan University with continued studies at Western Michigan University from where he earned his bachelor's degree in Marketing. Upon receiving his degree, Gary returned home to work in the family U-Haul dealership and oil company. With the retirement of his father, uncle, and cousin, Gary assumed ownership of the dealership and oil company in the late 1970's, a business he successfully operated until his own retirement in 2004.



Gary Dahlke & Rose Moratti at recent Christmas party.

Gary began collecting around age 10 or 11 and started collecting stamps and Indian Head coins. He later began an interest in genealogy. Those remained his prime interests - stamps, coins and genealogy.

He and Rose Moratti became a couple some years after their respective spouses passed away. They both grew up and lived in Marquette, Michigan. Later, Rose's husband came to Reno to work and Rose had a home in Sparks. For the last 10 years or so, Gary and Rose would spend the summers in Michigan, fall & spring at Rose's home in Wingfield Springs in Sparks and winters in Mesa, Arizona.

Gary and Rose joined the NSSS about 10 years ago and faithfully attended the club's annual Christmas party. Gary enjoyed collecting recent USPS issues and selling his excess stamps at our stamp club meetings. His major collecting interests were U.S., Canada, and Germany.

As you know, when he was in town, he participated actively in our club meetings. Both he and Rose were members of our club. He often offered current U.S. stamps to our members at face value. Gary was well-known at the Post Office in Marquette as he and Rose would annually make biscotti cookies during the holidays and ship numerous parcels of them to family and friends using multiple stamps on the packages. Gary told me that one time the post office clerk in Marquette saw a package that had 40 to 50 stamps on it, started to count the many small postage stamps, and finally Gary assured the clerk that he had the right amount of postage and the clerk took his word for it!

Gary always had a positive outlook on life, even while he struggled with stomach cancer these last two years. I had talked to him several weeks ago on the phone and he was still looking to return to Sparks this summer.

Throughout the years, Gary kept actively involved in the community, giving back whenever possible. In his leisure, he enjoyed time spent with family, coin collecting, genealogy, and stamp collecting. He was a member of the American Numismatic Association, Commemorative Air Force Association, American Philatelic Society, Nevada Stamp Study Society, Palatines to America, Marquette County Genealogy Society, and Marquette Range Engineers.

Gary is survived by 4 sons, 2 daughters, 25 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and his special friend and significant other, Rose A. Moratti.

Rest in Peace, Gary! Condolences can be sent to Rose Moratti, 304 Jonathan Carver Rd, Marquette, MI 49855.