

Robert (Bob) Bakke

Robert Bakke, 79, died on Saturday, September 17, 2011 at the Karlstad Healthcare Center.



A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:30 PM, Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at Johnson Funeral Service, Thief River Falls. Visitation will be held from 12:30 PM-1:30 PM on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Robert Arthur Bakke was born on April 29, 1932 to Adolph and Alice Marie (Gast) Bakke in Newfolden, MN. He grew up in Newfolden and attended country school until the 8th grade. He worked on the family farm.

He entered the US Army and served during the Korean Conflict from 1952-1954. After his military service, he attended auto mechanic school in Moorhead, MN. When he finished school he worked at the Chevrolet garage in Devils Lake, ND. This is where he met his future wife Mary Ann.

He was united in marriage to Mary Ann Darulis and they were married in Devils Lake on December 19, 1959. They made their home in Devils Lake for about five years. They then moved to Thief River Falls, MN where they have lived ever since. Bob worked at Weiner Motors for a couple of years and then worked as a mechanic at Tunberg Motors from 1967 until 1985. Due to ill health, Bob was forced to retire.

Bob enjoyed fishing and snowmobiling. Hanging out with his grandchildren and great grandchildren brought him much happiness. He enjoyed Lake of the Woods and Pine Lake where they had a cabin for a few years. Sitting on the front porch in his swing and enjoying the outdoors was a favorite pastime. Bob loved to bake and make braided rugs.

He is survived by his wife MaryAnn Bakke, Thief River Falls, MN, daughter Shelley (Mike) Nyland, Thief River Falls, and son Ken Bakke, Thief River Falls, MN, two grandchildren: Tauscha (Bobby Peralta) Nyland, Thief River Falls, Kia (Jason) Naeseth, Thief River Falls, MN; four great grandchildren: Kiana, Makaya, Davin, Shayla, one brother Lester Bakke, Moorhead, MN, sister Arlene Ness, Middle River, MN, mother in law Anna Darulis, Devils Lakes, ND, two brothers in law: Victor Darulis, Devils Lake, ND, Dennis (Mona) Darulis, Ryder, ND, several nieces and nephews.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, one sister Avis Mattson, two brothers Arvin and Larry Bakke.

Les Bakke Remembers Bob Bakke

This story is perhaps the easiest and most difficult for me to write. Simply put, Bob was my big brother and did so much for me. Some of the memories are here but it is still inadequate. When I was very young, Bob and I did a trick, Bob held me up by my ears. Actually, I had a strong hold on his forearms so there was no pressure on my ears. Bob did other things such as letting



me ride on his shoulders, play cards with me and help me with difficult times. The photo is of Bob and brother Arvin (Pete) riding a cow. The photo below is of Bob, me and Pete, relaxing on the farm.



The photo below is of Bob and Pete at our grandparents' farm, located about two miles from ours. Bob, looking very serious, is on the left and Pete on the right.



Bob was drafted into the US Army and was gone for two years, check out his military story on this website. One of the things I remember is that he sent home a small vinyl record he recorded in Germany and my family played it on our old record player. Of course, it was lost over the years. When Bob was honorably discharged, he was changed, he had become an adult. That happens with all of us who serve in the military. Besides that, he smoked, something I'd never seen him do before. Little brother Larry and I stole a couple of his cigarettes, smoked part of them and got sick.

After he returned Bob enrolled in the auto mechanic program at Hanson Trade School in Moorhead, MN. After completing the program, Bob decided to drive to Seattle, Washington to find work. He never made it that far because in Devils Lake, North Dakota he met and married his lovely wife, Mary Ann Darulis. They made their home in

Devils Lake for about five years.

When I graduated high school, Bob and Mary Ann asked me to come live with them for the summer. I enrolled at Moorhead State College in the fall. I am not exactly sure why they wanted me to stay with them/ I think it had something to do with making sure I found work, saved money for college and didn't sit around at home doing nothing. While in Devils Lake, I got to know Bob again and enjoyed some fine moments. I remember one day there was a party in their neighborhood and Bob was having a great time riding a small scooter, probably a Cushman. Bob and Mary Ann had a home a couple blocks from the lake in a small housing development. Many years later when Devils Lake got much bigger, the houses were removed and the area covered with water.

Bob enjoyed camping and fishing and for several years, I met them at the Lake of the Woods campground for fishing, beer drinking and having fun. Fresh caught Walleye, dipped in a beer batter and fried over an open fire is the best. Eventually Bob and Mary Ann bought a trailer on a lake, and I visited often. Bob had a pontoon boat, and we would spend hours on the water, Bob fishing and me enjoying his company. Although I never fished, I did buy a license each year, just

to satisfy the game wardens. One year, I brought my sailboat to the lake and while on the water Bob's pontoon and my sailboat ran into each other. My boat got a hole in it, but it was above the water line, so it caused no real problems.

Snowmobile riding was another of our favorite things to do together. Bob found me two snowmobiles for me to buy. One year when I was in Thief River, we decided to ride to St. Hilaire to the bar and get a beer. My good friend RT was with us and we came to a very large ditch along the road. RT made it over but crashed, I barely missed him by jerking my sled to the right. Bob was following and had nowhere to go, so he hit my sled in the back, breaking his windshield and cutting his lip. One of his sled's skis hit my back pocket and broke my unbreakable comb. Their daughter, Shelley loves that story. I was proud to deliver my memories of Bob at his funeral.

Here is a Bakke family photo from about 1950, taken, of course, by the lilac bush on the family farm. It was a favorite backdrop for pictures. In the back row from left to right are Arlene, Pete, Avis and Bob. The front is Larry Adolph, Alice and Les.



There are many more stories about Bob. I hope these few give you a glimpse into his life. We really miss Bob.