



Thomas Elwood Loader

September 7, 1943 - December 11, 2021

Thomas Elwood Loader, 78, passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones on December 11, 2021. Tom was born in American Fork to Dale Loader and Sadie Fay Hallsey on September 7th, 1943. He joined sister Linda and later became an older brother to Gail & Clinton. Tom learned early in life how to be a hard worker by farming, tending gardens and peddling fruit with his family. He was glad that he grew up in the good old days, shooting bb guns, making your own toys, using your imagination to entertain yourself, hanging out at the frog pond and chasing the streets with his lifelong childhood friends.

He graduated from American Fork high school in 1961. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Army with his best friend and served most of his 4 years in Germany as a helicopter mechanic. He was honorably discharged in 1965.

When he returned from the army, he attended the University of Utah to learn about History and Archeology. During his time there he was able to travel to Israel on an archeological dig and loved to share his remarkable stories from his time there.

He married Joanne Snyder in 1967, they were later divorced.

He worked at Geneva Steel for a time, but eventually became an ironworker with the Intermountain Ironworkers Local 27 union. He traveled around in his truck and camper, with his faithful dog Soda, to many different jobsites throughout the western United States.

He met Connie Larsen Hawkins in 1974 and they were married in 1976, he helped to raise Mike and they later had a daughter together, Lissie (Melissa). He spent 45 years creating a beautiful natural landscaped yard at their home in American Fork. He loved to plant trees and a vegetable garden, and he and Connie shared the fruits of their labor with many friends, neighbors and loved ones. He was so proud when 3 of his trees were added to the Utah Big Trees registry last year.

Tom was injured while ironworking in the mid-eighties and ended up finding a new career in antiques. He spent Friday and Saturday mornings hitting every yard sale in Utah County looking for treasures (and any other good deal) to fill his antique shop. He ran Lake City Antiques in his home for over 20 years, he eventually transitioned to sell in other locations, his latest at Treasures Antiques in Springville. He loved going down every week to meet with his friends and talk shop. He really enjoyed collecting trade tokens, pottery, art & historical documents, along with many other things. He was also great at refinishing furniture. Tom enjoyed collecting but found even more pleasure in the research that went behind the items he collected; he loved the history behind it. He found many photos, post cards and documents in his travels and was overjoyed when he had the opportunity to connect them with the families to which they were related.

Tom had many hobbies, he particularly loved to arrowhead hunt, bird watch, visit museums, travel to the various plant nurseries in the state searching for unusual plants, flowers, and trees. He was an avid nature lover, the perfect definition of a tree hugger, he was very passionate about the environment and trying to make the world a better place for his kids and grandkids.

Tom had many good friends over the years, there are many fond memories of them gathered at the house to shoot the breeze, play cards, put together puzzles and have a “thirsty Thursday” ... there was always a wealth of knowledge on the most interesting topics, a little BS, and the most hilarious stories being told around the table and out in the yard.

Tom lucked out and found out about a new son, Eric, in 2019. He was so grateful that they had the opportunity to meet and treasured the time they got to spend together.

Tom loved all his family, but his greatest happiness in life were his grandchildren. He and Connie spent most of their golden years raising Zach and babysitting Christian and Maddie. He spent many years pushing all three of them around town in the Cadillac buggy. He made sure they always stopped at the donut store during their walks. He loved passing along his knowledge about antiques, plants, fixing things, nature, conservationism, thriftiness, music, and life to them. He encouraged and supported them in every aspect of their lives.

We will all miss his greeting of “Helluuu”, his Donald duck birthday voice, his fantastic mustache, his adventurous stories from his younger years, and all the conversations that began with “the thing about it is”, along with so many other things. He was one of a kind.

Tom is survived by his wife Connie, sons Mike Hawkins, Eric Saylor (Klaudia), daughter Lissie, son in law, Jason Miller and grandchildren Zach Hawkins, Christian MacDonald and Madeline Miller, also sister Linda Jenkins (Vernon) and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sadie & Dale and siblings Clinton & Gail Loader and many dear lifelong friends.

Graveside services will be at the American Fork Cemetery on Saturday, January 15th at 1pm, followed by a Celebration of Life at the Fox Hollow Golf Club, 1400 N 200 E, American Fork, Utah from 2-5pm. Please stop by for a drink and snack and bring your favorite stories about Tom.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to your favorite charity and/or plant a flower, vegetable garden or a tree.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

Cemetery

American Fork City Cemetery

600 North 100 East
American Fork, UT, 84003

Events

JAN 15 **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM - 06:00PM

Fox Hollow Golf Course
1400 North 200 East, American Fork, UT, US,
84003

Comments



“ well tom ,i was at treasures yesterday when rosemary gave me the news!! what a shock..we have not been meeting since the covid bug .so i had not seen or heard of your troubles..i will miss trading and buying all the many times we got together,especially at your back yard and home.i remember when i found all those berry picking tokens here in pleasant grove.from the loader farm.you ended up with them ,but i never could talk you out of the adamson.star saloon token..you did give me a rubbing of it ,just to keep me off your back! thanks for being one of my best friends,we, from this generation had it all.i miss and love ya lots,Larry Adamson...

LARRY ADAMSON - January 14 at 10:13 AM



“ I first met Tom at antique shows, yard sales and car shows. He was so much fun to talk to with wonderful stories and knowledge of things. I will miss him terribly. Prayers.

Liza Carter - January 13 at 09:31 PM



“ I was lucky enough to grow up in the neighbor hood with Tom, Connie, Mike and Melissa. My Grandma Varney lived across the street. I spent many days growing up with Mike in the presence of his family and always felt loved at their home. I heard many stories about my Uncle Gary Varney. Most recently Tom called me over to his home where he had found a picture of my family from the 1800's. He went into great length of my family... He knows more about them than I do. Till we meet again

Cam Roberts - January 07 at 02:58 PM



“ Connie, melissa and mike. I'm so sorry to hear about Tom's passing. We love all of you so much. You were always such great neighbors and friends. I will never forget the love you showed our family during the time of destrys passing and how much you loved him too. Also i remember how much I looked forward to your christmas cards each year and hearing about your family. I regret not spending more time with you after we moved. Time passes so quickly and it's a reminder to spend time with the ones we love.

Cathy austin - December 20, 2021 at 03:25 PM



“ Uncle Mouse that's what I was called by Tom Loader. Tom was a good person and a good friend. He was always smiling and his laughter filled the place where he was. He cared about his family very much and loved them dearly, Tom was a good family man who was always there when they needed help. Tom and I go way back, a long, long, way back. Tom was more like a brother to me. He was lots of fun to be around. Tom was a hard worker. Tom and I peddled fruit (apples and pears) from town to town. He would talk about us getting run out of town. We would get some food and move to the next town. Tom and I were very close and I have so many fun and good memories of him and the things we did together. I was always going over to his place to talk things over.

Tom if you are listening, I know you are, save a place for me. I want to be with fun and happy people like you.

Signed Uncle Mouse (Grant Slater Loader).

Connie,

Carol and I send our love and support to you and your family. If Carol and I can help in any way please let us know. We are so sorry for your loss.



Grant Loader - December 18, 2021 at 05:09 PM



“ Connie,
We are so sad to hear of Tom's passing. Karen and I share your sorrow and wish you peace and consolation. Tom was a great friend. So many fond memories of our younger days. It all goes by too fast. He will be missed by all of us. May the Lord bless and comfort you.
Kim and Karen Taylor

Kim and Karen Taylor - December 17, 2021 at 12:50 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Tom he was such an special person. Prayers and thoughts for you and family.

Niels and Rose Nielsen



rose nielsen - December 15, 2021 at 06:56 PM



“ I am so sorry Connie. Tom and I use to sit in his little antique shop and talk for hours. That was many years ago. I would occasionally run into him at the supermarket and we would talk. He was always friendly. He would also give me good deals on anything he sold me.

Jerry Miller

Jerry Miller - December 15, 2021 at 05:53 PM



“ We express our sorrow and condolences at this time of Tom's passing. You are in our prayers. We were next door neighbors to Tom and Connie for 18 years. What wonderful neighbors and friends. We are grateful for their kindnesses to us and their patience with our noisy boys! One of our sons loved to save his money to buy books and other items at Tom's yard sales. It was always interesting to talk to Tom especially about his rare and unusual trees. He knew a lot about them and how to grow them. He also knew a lot about antiques and it was fun and interesting to see things he collected. We really enjoyed living next door! Sincerely, John & Leila Gardiner

John & Leila Gardiner - December 15, 2021 at 04:23 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss! Connie you are in our hearts and prayers! Hector and Vanessa

vanessa meneses - December 15, 2021 at 12:44 PM



“ Well Thomas, like a newly made pair of fuzzy slippers we all go in the box eventually. It's a really good thing you aren't awake while you're in the box. I'll be going up in smoke when it's time. I like the thoughts of becoming air pollution. Take it easy!

Dusty Trells - December 14, 2021 at 06:22 PM