

Jerome Kiefer January 20, 1913 - May 19, 2006



Jerome Kiefer January 20, 1913 - May 19, 2006 Jerome Kiefer's life was like the books he loved: deep, diverse and in need of careful reading. That extraordinary/ordinary life began on Jan. 20, 1913 in Mack, CO where he was born the fourth of six children to May Kopf and Charles Kiefer, members of a pioneer family that arrived in the Grand Valley in 1882, and were responsible for the development of the Lower Valley and the irrigation water to that area and the Redlands. His keen work ethic began at age five when he delivered milk in his small wagon from the family farm into town. That same dedication to work was evident in his life as a student when he graduated early from Fruita High School at 16, after which he soon took a job with his Uncle at Kiefer Feed and Supply in Elwood,

Indiana. Here he met the store's bookkeeper, Florence Hickner, whom he married in 1935.

In 1939 he returned to the Grand Valley with two small sons. During WWII Jerome worked on the construction crew at Camp Hale before going back to the Valley to work in Grand Junction at W. B. Johnson's Plumbing and Heating as a sheet metal worker, the profession which recently honored him with The Sheet Metal Workers' International Association Award "for achieving 60 years of continuous good standing service as a member of the Association." In addition to working in the profession, he taught at Mesa College for the Apprentice Program in the sheet metal trade. Jerome's first love was his family with whom he enjoyed life as an outdoorsman: camping, skiing, hiking, fishing, photography, rock-collecting and gardening -- anything that joined them in nature. He especially enjoyed being with his family on a number of occasions at the top of his favorite mountain, Mt. Sneffels. He brought the gift of song to each member of his family and to the wider community of Grand Junction. In 1968 he helped found the Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus of which he remained a lifetime member. He also sang in the Grand Junction Community Chorus and the St. Joseph and Immaculate Heart of Mary choirs. A further indicator of his deep dedication to his Church was his membership for 72 years in the Knights of Columbus. After he retired in 1985 he traveled with Florence throughout the U. S. and Canada, always with book in hand. Jerome was preceded in death in 2004 by Florence, his wife of 69 years, and by his two brothers, John and Leo. He is survived by four children: Jerry (Rita) of Evergreen, CO; William (Joyce) of Sunnyvale, CA; Dennis (Karen) of Grand Junction; and Carol Ann (William) of Grand Junction; three sisters: Agnes Kiefer of Grand Junction, Margaret Scheetz of Chicago, and Anne Schmalz of Montrose; eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Visitation was held at 6:00 p.m. Monday, May 22nd at Callahan-Edfast Mortuary with rosary following at 7:00 p.m. Services were held at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 23rd at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with Fr. James Plough presiding. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado or to Catholic Outreach.