



Parable of Immortality

I am standing by the seashore.
A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning
breeze
and starts for the blue ocean.
She is an object of beauty and strength,
and I stand and watch
until at last she hangs like a peck of white cloud
just where the sun and sky come down to mingle with
each other.

Then someone at my side says, 'There she goes!
Gone where? Gone from my sight - that is all.

She is just as large in mast and hull and spar
as she was when she left my side
and just as able to bear her load of living freight
to the places of destination.
Her diminished size is in me, not in her.

And just at the moment when someone at my side says,
'There she goes! ',
there are other eyes watching her coming,
and other voices ready to take up the glad shout :
'Here she comes!'

By Henry Van Dyke

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The family wish to acknowledge with deep appreciation
the many expressions of love, concern and kindness
shown to them during this hour of bereavement.

May God Bless and Keep You!

THE FAMILY OF JIM LAWSON

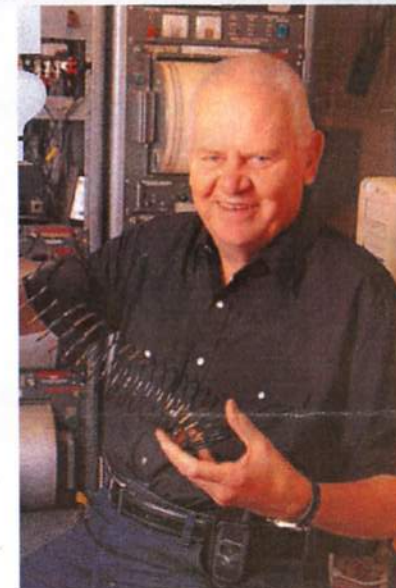
FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

Chapman-Black Funeral Home

108 West Delaware
Cleveland, Oklahoma 74020
Telephone (918) 358-2511
www.chapman-black.com

THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

James E. Lawson, Jr.



Service

Thursday, August 7, 2008, 11:00 a.m..

United Methodist Church
16820 South 259th East Avenue
Leonard, Oklahoma 74043
Rev. Gary McDevitt

December 27, 1938 — August 3, 2008

James E. Lawson, Jr. was born December 27, 1938 in Lebanon, Missouri. He was the only child of James E., Sr. and Alma Lawson. He was raised and attended school in Lebanon, graduating from Lebanon High School in 1956. While in high school, Jim was active in the high school orchestra and continued his love for music throughout his life, playing the piccolo and the flute.

Shortly after graduation, Jim moved with his family to Toronto, Canada where he continued his education; attending the University of Toronto. He later moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where he received a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts Degree from The University of Tulsa in 1965. He continued his education while working and earned his Master of Science Degree from The University of Tulsa in 1968; later he obtained his Doctor of Philosophy in 1972.

In 1971, Jim accepted employment as a geophysicist for the Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS) and for the past thirty-six years, he has been recording and interpreting earthquakes. He monitored Oklahoma's tectonic tendencies from the OGS observatory in Leonard, Oklahoma; observing the seven seismometers sending signals through digitizers producing long lists of numbers. Studying these seismograms allowed Jim to better understand seismic phenomena. Jim called the observatory home because he lived a scant 350 yards away it and shared much of its history. During most of the 1990s, the Russians monitored nuclear testing from one the vaults of the observatory. Jim loved to tell stories of the Russian invasion while providing schoolchildren with educational tours of the observatory. Additionally, during his tenure at OGS, Jim provided tours and educational lectures to thousand of other visitors including news and weather anchors from all of the area television stations. The question he was most often asked during those tours was whether he himself had ever felt an Oklahoma earthquake. "I haven't ever felt one myself, he chuckled. I have to admit, I felt a little deprived."

In 2006, he was honored and recognized for thirty-five years of service to the University of Oklahoma for his loyalty and dedication contributing to the University's excellence throughout the years.

Although, Jim worked long hours and often seven days a week, he always found time to spend with his daughter, Anna and granddaughter, Madilyn Jane. He was proud of both of them and Madilyn and her PaPa where constant companions since her birth. Madi was with Jim when he was tragically killed in an automobile accident on Sunday, August 3, 2008 at the age of sixty-nine.

Additionally, Jim was a longtime volunteer for the American Red Cross, spending much of his free time logging and researching rare blood factors. In 1971, he was honored as an outstanding volunteer, receiving the award from former first lady Pat Nixon. From the mid-1970s to the early '90s, Lawson helped the Red Cross in research and testing donor samples.

He is survived by daughter, Anna V. Canton and his granddaughter, Madilyn Jane Gregory, both of Sand Springs and numerous friends including his extended family at the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

Memorial Service will be held 11:00 a.m. Thursday, August 7, 2008 at United Methodist Church in Leonard with Rev. Garry McDevitt officiating. Cremation and services were entrusted to Chapman-Black Funeral Home in Cleveland.

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