

Jim Colling

Written by Joan Thompson and presented by Mark Schulz

I am James William Colling, son of Arthur and Rose Schemmell Colling. I was born at Granville, Iowa on November 12, 1929. My family moved to Sanborn, Iowa when I was a child. I have a brother Ronald and sister Marjorie. I graduated from Sanborn High School in 1948.

In 1951, I joined the United States Air Force and served until 1955, achieving the rank of Sargent First Class. I was an airplane mechanic, working mostly on the B-36. After the service, I returned to Sanborn and worked for a well digging company.

On November 21, 1956, I married Myrna "Babe" Brendle and became a step-dad to Susan and Ronda. Babe and I made our home in Hartley, where we welcomed our daughter Joan into the family. Babe and I purchased and operated the Hartley Dry Cleaners for many years. Later, during the summer months, I enjoyed working as an insurance adjuster and helped Cloy Olhausen on the farm. I was not the best cultivator, as once I wiped out an entire row of corn. Fortunately Cloy was understanding.

As a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church I served on the Board of Stewardship and was an usher for many years. I was also a member of Arthur Kirchoff Post 152, American Legion. Babe and I were charter members of Meadowbrook Golf and Country Club. We enjoyed league golf and entered many couple's tournaments. I believe you will find my name on the plaque of persons who have had a hole in one. I also bowled in men's league for several years and once came within two pins of having a perfect game.

Babe and I became experienced square dancers. We traveled all over northwest Iowa doing di-si-dos. We also enjoyed many other types of dancing and sometimes in the evening we would dance in the living room just for fun. Another evening activity was playing Cribbage. The whole family had to sit down and play at least one game, which usually led to a rematch or two.

Babe and I enjoyed many summers at T & C (that's Treimer and Colling) Lakeside Living (a single-wide two-bedroom trailer) at Gerk's Resort. Many good laughs and great times were had at T & C Lakeside Living. Rainy days were reserved for card games, including Kings in Reverse, which sometimes got quite competitive.

My love of being a mechanic meant that I was almost always working on a "repairable" car or van. The family never got attached to any car because they knew once it was done, I would be selling it and bringing the next one.

Babe and I enjoyed traveling. We visited many states in one of my "repairables," converted into a camping van. We had a key ring that said, "On the Road Again!"

I was an avid fisherman, and often traveled to Canada with a group of friends, searching for the biggest Walleye. I even taught myself to tie my own flies.

I served on the Hartley Chamber of Commerce and Retail Committee and was a volunteer fireman for the Hartley Fire Department for twenty-five years. I served as Fire Chief for fifteen of those years, and also became a fire-training service officer for the State of Iowa in conjunction with Northwest Iowa Technical College at Sheldon.

Each of our daughters married a man named Ron—which made it easy for me to say "My favorite son-in-law is Ron." We were blessed with four grandchildren that I adored.

After I was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) in 1979, I participated in medical research trials through the University of Minnesota. I wanted them to learn from me so that hopefully others would not have to endure the destructive, debilitating effects of ALS.

I died on Friday, February 21, 1986 at Mesa Lutheran Hospital in Mesa, Arizona at the age of 56.