



## LaMoyne J. Fern

March 15, 1922 - October 13, 2016

LaMoyne J. Fern, 94, Kearney, died October 13, 2016 at the Mother Hull Home in Kearney. Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at First United Methodist Church with Rev. Alan Davis officiating. Burial will follow at White Hill Cemetery with Military Rites provided by United States Air Force Funeral Honors Team, Kearney American Legion Post #52, and Kearney V.F.W. Post #759. Visitation will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Monday, October 17, 2016 at Horner Lieske McBride and Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services and one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to White Hill Cemetery Association or First United Methodist Church. LaMoyne was born March 15, 1922 in Kearney to Delbert and Elizabeth (Patterson) Fern. He grew up in Kearney and graduated from Kearney High School in 1939. LaMoyne lived briefly in California and then enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He served two years in Guam during World War II, before returning to Kearney in 1946. LaMoyne married Janice English on November 18, 1946 in Oberlin, Kansas. They have lived all but three of their 70 married years in Kearney. LaMoyne worked in Kearney and Minden as a butcher and then sold insurance for Bankers Life of Nebraska. From 1963 to 1969 LaMoyne and Janice owned and operated A&W Drive-In. His exploits at retrieving stolen mugs and slowing down speeders were legendary. They later owned Tastee Freeze near the college. LaMoyne also worked at Kearney Buick, the Sherriff's Department, and Brodine Inc. He joined the Fire Department in 1971 as a driver and volunteer fireman. He became an Emergency Ambulance Technician in 1982. LaMoyne retired as a driver in 1987. LaMoyne and his wife also owned the Cowpoke Western Store from 1983 until 1995. He drove for Eppley Express from 1991 until 1998. With his curly white beard and mustache, little red nose, cherry cheeks and eyes that twinkle, more than nine thousand children visited LaMoyne since December 1992. That was the beginning of his service as "the real Santa" in the Christmas Gingerbread House on Central Avenue. Every year he began growing his beard in August. During the holiday season he worked three days a week and talked to an average of 900 children of all ages. LaMoyne was a member of First United Methodist Church, Corvair Society of America, Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America. LaMoyne could fix anything and everything. He enjoyed tinkering, woodworking, and traveling the world with his wife.

LaMoyne is survived by his wife Janice; daughter Julie Thatcher and husband Fred of Overland Park, KS; son John Fern and wife Janis of Glenvil, NE, daughter-in-law Barb Fern of Grand Island, NE; five grandchildren, eight great grandchildren; and sister Betty Harty of Denver, CO. LaMoyne was preceded in death by his son Jeff.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl

2421 Avenue A

Kearney, NE 68847

(308) 237-2259

<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *LaMoyne J. Fern*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM

SJ

“ *LaMoyne was a great friend who always took the time to day Hello and offer up kind words. He was Kearney's best Santa Claus and I am proud to call him Friend. God Bless the Fern Family. Our condolences, Shari&Jacie*

**Shari Johnson** - October 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ *So sorry for your loss. Jan we would have visited but couldn't find you after North Ridge. Monty enjoyed LaMoyne's friendship and appreciated his years of work on the farm. (And he enjoyed your whisky sours.)*

**Monty Verbeck** - October 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *So sorry for your loss. My father worked with LaMoyne at KVFD as a driver. We enjoyed visiting him. He will be missed by all.*

**June Stover** - October 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the Fern family. In about 1964 I worked as a carhop at A&W and yes, LaMoyne was GREAT at retrieving mugs and chasing speeders! He was even better at making sure his carhops were safe...even driving a bunch of us home in the back of his pickup after closing. Fond memories of a wonderful employer.*

*Jannie (Stovall) Featherston*

**Jan Featherston** - October 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ *To the family of LaMoyne Fern: He was a precious jewel among men! May all the beautiful memories of times with him bring his family comfort in the days ahead. With sincere sympathy & loving concern to all. Patty & David*

**Patty and David Copeland** - October 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM