



Wilhelm AA Perleberg

December 23, 1922 - December 16, 2017

Wilhelm AA. Perleberg, 94, Kearney, died Saturday, December 16, 2017 at Mt. Carmel Home and Rehabilitation Center in Kearney. Funeral services for Wilhelm and Ruth will be on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney. Rev. Brian Klein will officiate and burial will follow at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and also 1 hour prior to services on Thursday all at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the family, to be designated later. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

Wilhelm A. A. Perleberg was born December 23, 1922 in Berlin, Germany to Alfred and Else (Wagner) Perleberg. On June 25, 1949, he married Charlotte Czech in Berlin. In 1952, Willie with his wife and child fled East Berlin. Loading the baby carriage with only a few personal items, they crossed over into the West sector of Berlin to freedom. Unable to inform their family members and friends of their plans for fear of discovery, they left all without saying good bye. Before WWII, Willie received his education in Germany as a tool and die maker. He was a master craftsman and even taught his craft to apprentices. After fleeing East Berlin, the family moved to Eschwege, Germany where he worked as a tool and die maker over the next 7 years. After seeing a posting

at the local employment office that Baldwin Manufacturing in Kearney, Nebraska was seeking a tool and die maker, he decided to apply. J.A. Baldwin hired him and sponsored his family to America. Willie with his family landed on the shores of New York City on December 13, 1959. Thanks to the generosity of many of the Baldwin employees and the community of Kearney, his family was welcome with a furnished apartment complete with all the Christmas trimmings and presents under the tree. Willie retired from Baldwin/Clarcor Manufacturing in 1994. On March 1, 1991, Charlotte passed away after 42 years of marriage. The year before Charlotte's passing, they were able to travel back to their homeland and celebrate with their family the Berlin Wall being torn down. A historic event that no one thought they would ever see. On September 23, 1995, he married Ruth Halmhofer in Kearney, Nebraska at the Evangelical Free Church. She passed away on November 28, 2017. Willie loved to re-design and improve on products. He also enjoyed music, dancing (particularly to swing music), traveling to the mountains and the Pacific Ocean. Weekends were always filled with a drive to somewhere.

Willie was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Ilse and Emmi, his brother Manfred, and his wives, Charlotte and Ruth.

Willie is survived by his sister Gretchen of Berlin; his children and spouses, Ulrich (Debra) Perleberg of Flowery Branch, Georgia, Yvonne (Dean) Smith of Kearney; grandchildren, Reiko (Jamie) Perleberg of Birmingham, Alabama, Tiara (Jesse) Davis of Lincoln, Racheal (Adam) Steinke of Beaver City, Natalie Rodriguez of Berkeley, California, Corinne and Kendall Smith of Kearney; and 6 great grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces in Germany. Also survived by step-children Jurgen Halmhofer, Karen Bosman, Steve(Kim) Halmhofer all of Redding, California; and 5 step-grandchildren

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 20. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

DEC 21. 10:30 AM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Wilhelm AA Perleberg*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *I first met Willie when I started work as a Tool & Die man at Baldwin Filters in Kearney NE. .in 1969*

He trained me for 4 years, I continued to work at Baldwins for 13 years in all. Willie told me he was in the German army. He never talked much about that. He told me that he and his family escaped from East Germany to West Germany when getting off of a train, they exited on the free side instead of the bad side.

Willie his wife and I think one or both of the children. They was acting out a plan to answer a advertisement in a local German newspaper for a Tool & Die maker to be employed at Baldwin Filters in Kearney. J A Baldwin made arrangements for their travel to Kearney and furnished them with a Studebaker automobile. Which they drove monthly to Omaha to buy some certain kind of bread. The Baldwin Tool Room was a Constance source of drama and pulling planks on each other which now days would not be allowed. Willie made a automatic 22 caliber pistol and it worked just fine. The company purchase rags from a local source and we would at times get women's undergarments. The lunch boxes was a great source of prank pulling targets. So one day Willie's lunch box got a pair of panties placed in it. He made sure we all understood they made it home and his wife discovered them.

Signed, Bob Krell

Bob Krell - December 20, 2017 at 08:11 PM

LH

Lee and I have such fond memories of Willie and his family that originated during our employment at Baldwin Filters. We shared so many fun times filled with laughter, dancing, story telling and some adult refreshments 😊 He will be missed. Heaven has claimed a fine gentleman!

*Love,
Lee and Anita Huddleston*

Lee and Anita Huddleston - December 30, 2017 at 03:15 PM

CW

“ *Connie Welty lit a candle in memory of Wilhelm AA Perleberg*



Connie welty - December 20, 2017 at 12:32 PM

HW

“ *We share in your grief losing both mother and father. You would miss them in your thoughts often. It was special that your dad was next door to our mom at Mt. Carmel, where they could speak in German together again, and where we saw you, Yvonne and Karen. Our sincere sympathy to the family,
Heidi Werk*

Heidi Werk - December 20, 2017 at 10:06 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wilhelm AA Perleberg.*



December 20, 2017 at 08:41 AM

AG

“ I first met both Wilhelm and Ruth when they came into the eye office that I worked at. Over the time that I knew them we had a lot of laughs with stories of life 'over the pond' as I am from England and we both had 'funny' accents.

It was a pleasure to have know them and see them together always helping each other.

May they rest in peace and my thoughts and prayers to all the family at this difficult time.

Anne Harrison de Groot.

Anne Harrison de Groot - December 19, 2017 at 05:00 PM

TR

“ Hello Yvonne and Ulrich and families, the Rall family sends our deepest sympathy and hugs to you all. I will see you on Thursday. God bless you. Theresa

Theresa Marie Rall - December 18, 2017 at 06:38 PM