



Dale Billhorn

June 28, 1932 - November 27, 2023

LaMoille - Dale Duane Billhorn of LaMoille, Illinois, passed away November 27, 2023 at his daughter's house in Princeton, with his 6 children at his side. Like any good Bureau County farmer, he waited until harvest was finished to leave the fields. He was 91.

The farm family built around Dale goes far and deep. Dale, known as "Pappa Dale" to the clan, enjoyed 18 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

Born June 28, 1932 to William and Bertha (Scriba) Billhorn, Dale attended high school at the old Allen School in LaMoille, where he participated in football and track. After high school, Dale entered the family business as a 4th generation farmer and, in 1953, moved his young family to the Clarion "Home Place" farmstead that had first been deeded to his great grandfather (Veit Billhorn) after immigration to the United States in 1852. Ultimately, in 1974, Dale purchased the Home Place and continued to farm there until 2016. Dale lived in Bureau County his entire 91 years, 70 years on the Clarion Home Place.

In 2022, Dale was awarded the prestigious Illinois Department of Agriculture "Sesquicentennial Farm" award, given by the State of Illinois in recognition of 150 or more years of family farm ownership. The year 2023 marks the 171 st

year of family ownership of the Billhorn Clarion Township Home Place farm.

Over the course of his life, Dale was an avid racecar fan and found success on many dirt and pavement tracks as an owner, driver and chief mechanic. As well as owning midget racecars and stockcars, in the early 1980s Dale drove his own stockcar at LaSalle Speedway as well as the Mendota and Princeton fairgrounds. The driving force in Dale's racing interest started in the 1940s when Dale met and became friends with Danny "the Greek" Kladis, a 2-time Indianapolis 500 participant who, for more than 5 decades, took Dale under his arm and taught him the nuances of oval, open wheel race car competition.

Dale is survived by his six children from his marriage to Doris (Lobach) in January of 1950: Mick Billhorn, Patricia Schultz (Les), and Janice Myers (Daniel) all of LaMoille, John Billhorn (Jill) and Jodi Hoare (Frank) of Chicago, Jackie Martin (Kevin) of Princeton, his sister Donna Zinke of Mendota, and his second wife, Carolee, of Oglesby. Dale was preceded in death by his grandson Ryan Adkins, his sister Charlene Stamberger, and his son-in-law Frank Hoare.

Dale was residing with Jackie in Princeton at the time of his passing. In honoring Dale's wishes, the family asks that all memorials be directed to the family (Jackie Martin) for allocation to the Fresenius Kindey Care, where Dale received dialysis for the last 7 years of his life, as well as the Clarion Lutheran Church outside of LaMoille, which served as the family's base for worship for many years.

The family will provide further information regarding a memorial gathering in the spring at the "Home Place" outside of LaMoille.

Online condolences may be directed to www.norbergfh.com

Arrangements by Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments.

Tribute Wall



“ *As get older, I've realized a list of people that have affected my life maybe a teacher or coach or neighbor. Dale and Doris will always be at the top of that list!*

Dean Schallhorn - November 29, 2023 at 07:46 PM

AD

“ *One of my favorite memories is the many summers I would spend at “ the farm with Dale and his first wife Doris, my sister. On Saturdays night they went to the races and would sometimes take Mick and I with them. So much fun. There are a lot of happy memories from those days. You will be missed Dale, but you are now with all of your family and extended family enjoying a glorious reunion. Please give my love to my family there with you but keep part of that love for yourself as you were loved. Your pain in the butt lil sis in law, Alice.*

Alice DeMoss - November 28, 2023 at 08:39 PM

RL

“ *Sympathy to the family. Wishing you peace and comfort.*



Rick & Paula Lucas - November 28, 2023 at 06:33 PM