



## Einer "Conrad" Conrad Swenson

August 16, 1927 - January 6, 2017

Conrad Swenson

When Grandpa was a little boy, he would solve math equations off a blackboard to start each morning. For each wrong answer, more equations would follow until all of them were correct. Surely, his well-intentioned grandmother believed she was guiding this bright boy into a future as an engineer or a professor (for surely Grandpa was always clever). She could not have been more misguided! Every stroke of chalk on slate was torture – this was a boy born to walk the earth, hold it in his hands and feel it between his toes, to climb its summits. And that's what he did.

In his life, Grandpa was many things. He was a hunter, enjoying some of the finest duck and deer hunting in the country and bringing them home to his family. He was a fisherman, pulling catfish out of muddy waters and wild salmon from clear rivers in Alaska. He was a farmer, feeding his community with his sweat and soil. He climbed mountains, broke horses, felled trees, and planted saplings. He milled the steel that built our cities. He was a husband to his beloved wife for 63 years and, with her, was a father to his "wonderful children and grandchildren, and he loved each of them equally." He was a fine specimen of manhood.

E. Conrad Swenson, 89, of Princeton died restfully in his home Friday, January 6, 2017 (his first name was Einer – he never cared for it).

He was born August 16, 1927 in Champaign, IL, son to Einer and Florence (Miller) Swenson. He married Sheila Welsh (an English teacher) on April 11, 1953.

Conrad graduated from Woodruff High School in Peoria, IL in 1945, and he served in the US Army from 1945-1946. He was a farmer for 13 years, and his tomatoes were a huge hit at the grocery store. He then was an electrician at LTV steel. After that, he just kept on living.

He was a member of the Princeton Masonic Lodge #587 and the Optimist Club. He was a longtime volunteer with the Bureau County Historical Society, and he was an award-winning photographer.

Conrad is survived by his wife Sheila; his daughter, Lorraine Oakes of Chicago and her husband John; his daughter-in-law, Debra Swenson of Oglesby; his granddaughter, Katie Nelson of Princeton, her husband Stefan, and their daughters Charlotte and Rosalie; his grandson, Eric Swenson of Rushville, his wife Corrie, and their sons Bill and Oliver.

He is preceded in death by his son, Bill; his parents, Einer and Florence.

He wasn't the perfect father, but he showed his family a hundred times every day how to be a good one.

A visitation will be held at 10a.m. Thursday January 12 at the Norberg Memorial Home in Princeton and will be followed by a funeral service at noon with Pastor Tom Schrock officiating. Afterward, a graveside service will be

held at the Greenwood Cemetery in Bureau.

Memorials may be sent to the Bureau County Historical Society Museum –  
109 Park Ave W., Princeton, IL 61356.

Online condolences may be left at [norbergfh.com](http://norbergfh.com)

“Take it easy Old Timer”

# Cemetery Details

**Greenwood Cemetery**

Bureau, IL

# Tribute Wall

JY

“ Our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy to Shelia and family. We are on vacation in Fl..and was shocked to see this on the computer about Conrad.  
Jerry and Jay thought so ,much of him.  
Prayers and God Bless Jerry, Alice and Jay Yarrington

Jerry and Alice Yarrington - February 15, 2017 at 07:42 PM

BB

“ As a secretary at the Hennepin a Elementary School, I became acquainted with Sheila & Conrad. Wondweful people, fond memories. My sincerest sympathy.

betty Brokaw - January 13, 2017 at 08:02 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Einer "Conrad" Conrad Swenson.



January 11, 2017 at 03:18 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Einer "Conrad" Conrad Swenson.



January 11, 2017 at 11:06 AM

CS

“ Growing up I was privileged having him as a neighbor. Conrad and my dad(Leonard Lourdeau) would joke around with each other. My son Benjamin helped out at the farm when they moved and I enjoyed listening to all the stories. My condolences to Shelia and the rest of the family. Christine Lourdeau Staton

---

**Christine Staton** - January 11, 2017 at 09:40 AM