



Jon L. Saxton

July 19, 1942 - July 27, 2014

Jon L.'s Story

Jon L Saxton was born on July 19, 1942 in rural Mason County, the only child of Orvan & Nondes (Leedy) Saxton. His parents owned a farm in Riverton Township where he grew up and attended East Riverton School. As a teenager, he attended Mason County Central Schools in Scottville, participating in football, and track, as well as playing trumpet in band and graduating with the Class of 1960. During his high school and college years, Jon L worked at Briggs Hardware in Scottville alongside his parents, who managed the store. Following high school, he attended Central Michigan University, earning his Bachelor's Degree in 1964. During his college years and for a time after, he continued to help out his parents at Briggs, and also worked part-time for WKLA Radio in the area of advertising. In 1970, a full time position opened up at Scottville State Savings Bank, now West Shore Bank, where he worked for almost 30 years, and was employed in several different roles during his tenure. At the time that Jon L retired from his full time work, he was serving as the personnel director of the bank.

During one summer while he was still working at Briggs, Jon L heard that the school had hired a cute young lady as the new band director. Before long, under the guise of needing valve oil for his trumpet, he managed to meet Miss Debbie Gale, a graduate of Michigan State University. They were wed on

August 15, 1970 in Birmingham and celebrated 44 years of marriage, raising their son Brett and daughter Morgan. Jon L was a proud and loving father, never missing an opportunity to support his children in their school, their past-times or their play times. He took advantage of every occasion to share his pride in them and how they were doing.

As a very active member of the community, Jon L served in many roles over the years. As a member of the Sugar Ridge Church of the Brethren he presided as Moderator, Deacon, President of the Board, Treasurer, and representative to the denomination's Michigan District. Jon L's service to his church was borne out of a deep and abiding faith. He was a Life Member and past President of the Scottville Optimist Club, honored as Optimist of the Year, and a longtime member of the Optimist Golf League at Lakeside Links. He and his partner, George Reeds, won the league more often than not and it was a past-time he thoroughly enjoyed. Jon L also resumed his trumpet playing as a member of the Scottville Clown Band, and was a proud and very vocal member of the CMU Century Club, holding season tickets for his beloved Chippewa Football team. A treasured highlight of his football fan life came the first time his CMU Chips beat Debbie's MSU Spartans - in East Lansing – a victory that brought him much joy!

Although Jon L retired from full-time work, he continued as a courier for the bank, worked at Lakeside Links golf course during the summer months, and was a dedicated Funeral Assistant at Stephens Funeral Home. He continued to enjoy golfing, both here at home and in Arizona, where he and Debbie had begun to spend their winters. His dry sense of humor and love of conversation will always be remembered and bring a smile to those who knew and loved him. Jon L could not have been more proud as he became a Grandpa – he had always had a special kindness for children and was thrilled to have grandchildren to cherish and dote upon. As an only child, he had taken on the responsibility of caring for his mother after his father Orvan passed away and he was a loving and devoted son, tending carefully to Nondes until her death.

Jon L will be greatly missed by his family: his wife Debbie, his son Brett and Beth Saxton of Pentwater, his daughter Morgan of Mt. Pleasant, his grandchildren Spencer Bowman and Brayden Saxton, his mother-in-law Florence Gale of Prescott, AZ, his brother-in-law Geoffrey Gale and his niece Amber Gale, both of Flushing, MI.

Funeral Services will be held for Jon L. at 11:00 am on Wednesday, July 30 at the Sugar Ridge Church of the Brethren with Pastor Dave Wood officiating. Burial will take place at Brookside Cemetery. Friends may meet with his family for a time of visitation on Tuesday evening from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the STEPHENS FUNERAL HOME in Scottville, and on Wednesday morning from 10:00 am until time of services at the church. Those who wish to make memorial contributions are asked to consider the Sugar Ridge Church of the Brethren, the Scottville Clown Band Scholarship Fund, or the American Diabetes Association.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **29**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - Stephens Funeral Home
305 E. State St.
Scottville, MI 49454
(231) 757-3333
wyman-stephens@sbcglobal.net
<https://www.wymanfuneralservice.com>

Visitation

JUL **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Sugar Ridge Church of the Brethren
2012 East Wilson Road
Custer, MI 49405

Service

JUL **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sugar Ridge Church of the Brethren
2012 East Wilson Road
Custer, MI 49405

Tribute Wall



“ Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Jon L. Saxton



Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - September 04, 2014 at 10:07 AM

TW

“ I knew "Jon L" through his job at State Savings Bank Of Scottville. He was my first contact for W.K.L.A. advertising, before turning the "reins" over to Clare Reeds. They & the bank advertised on hundreds of girl's & boy's basketball games and boy's football games that I had the pleasure of broadcasting with Rod Beckman, Ray & Tom Plank, & Richard Dancz (with half time guest Jim Shoup). I also received several "tokens" of appreciation and refreshments at several Bank Holiday Open Houses, which were hosted several times, in part, by "Jon L." He, on occasion, helped out at the radio station when former employees helped with broadcasts to raise money for local charities. He was always a pleasure to deal with and talk to. Deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and co-workers at State Savings Bank Of Scottville (now West Shore Bank), W.K.L.A., Brigg's Hardware, Lakeside Links, etc. Sincerely, Terry Williams, Ludington, Michigan.

Terry Williams - September 26, 2014 at 02:05 PM

PW

“ *Pat & Stub Willick lit a candle in memory of Jon L. Saxton*



Pat & Stub Willick - July 31, 2014 at 08:09 PM

CG

“ *I had the great pleasure of working with Jon L. at the bank. He was always a pleasure to work with, like everyone else has mentioned, he was always smiling. We had a common factor, since I live in Riverton, he went to school with many of my husband's family, we shared many stories! My sympathies and prayers to Debbie, Brett and Morgan. He will be greatly missed, but his memories and smile will live always!*

Bob and Cindy Gerbers

Cindy Gerbers - July 30, 2014 at 08:19 AM

GB

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Jon L. at State Savings Bank Of Scottville, now known as West Shore Bank. He was a great mentor and friend. He always had a smile for everyone!
Our prayers go out to Deb and their family.*

Ginny & Roger Beadle

Ginny Beadle - July 30, 2014 at 07:53 AM

BB

“ *Jon's passing is a true loss for Mason County, particularly Scottville. He was a wonderful getlemen, who would give the shirt off his back if needed. He cared about everyone, always had a wonderful smile on his face, and was a really nice man. I don't believe one can think about the Scottville Clown Band, or West Shore (State Savings Bank of Scottville) without having a memory of Jon.*

Jon was always interested in his town and it's residents.

Our sincere sympathies to Deb and family, as well as the community of Scottville.

*Bob and Bev Budzynski
Houghton Lake, Michigan*

Bob and Bev Budzynski - July 29, 2014 at 05:54 PM

RS

“ *Robert Saxton lit a candle in memory of Jon L. Saxton*



Robert Saxton - July 29, 2014 at 03:26 PM

CS

“ *We were saddened to get the news of Jon L. passing! Our prayers are with Deb, Morgan and Brett during this time of loss. Jon L. was truly a gentle person who touched many! Lynn and I have fond memories of times spent with Deb and Jon L. particularly as we tried to master the golf links!*

Chuck & Lynn Sandro

Chuck Sandro - July 29, 2014 at 02:32 PM

DA

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Diane Areklet - July 29, 2014 at 02:26 PM

JS

“ I had the pleasure of working with Jon L at West Shore Bank as his successor in the HR Department after his retirement. Jon L had a kind soul and was a real gentleman. My prayers to Debbie, Brett and Morgan for God's healing and comfort during this time.

Jean Slimmen

Jean Slimmen - July 29, 2014 at 01:16 PM

DA

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Diane Areklet - July 29, 2014 at 12:26 PM

DA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Diane Areklet - July 29, 2014 at 12:21 PM

DM

“ *Dan Meyers lit a candle in memory of Jon L. Saxton*



Dan Meyers - July 29, 2014 at 11:53 AM

DM

Debbie you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Dan Meyers - July 29, 2014 at 11:55 AM

DA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Diane Areklet - July 29, 2014 at 09:33 AM

JC

“I had the pleasure of working with Jon L at West Shore Bank. He was WSB's human resources officer when I was hired in 1997. Jon L cared about the bank and employees, was always helpful and always had a smile. Remembering Jon L brings back many good memories and laughs. He was a good man and I'm glad to have known him. He will be missed.”

- John Carlson

John Carlson - July 28, 2014 at 01:02 PM

RW

“Jon was a good friend and employee to our family and funeral home. We will truly miss all the conversations about CMU football, tips on how to golf from the "master", and stories from the Scottville Clown Band. Jon was always willing to help out whenever we needed. Jon, we know you are home with your Savior, God Bless You!!

Randy & Sherry and family

Randy & Sherry Wyman - July 28, 2014 at 08:27 AM