



James Bell

January 1, 1753 - April 2, 2007

James "Jim" Bell, 76, Topeka, passed away Thurs., March 29, 2007. He was born in Havelock NE in 1930, the son of Melford Allen and Ruby Jennison Bell. Jim lived in Florida for many years, where he learned to sail and swim. He and his sister, LaVonne (Vonnie) lived with their maternal grandparents in Manchester IA. In the late 1940's, Jim and his family moved to Topeka. He graduated from Seaman Rural High School in 1948. Soon after graduating he married Cathryn Vivion. They had three children, Marta, Mark and Pamela. They were divorced. He worked many years for Ed Marling's, Stearns and was self employed in furniture repair and refinishing before retiring in 2000. He enjoyed competitive sailing at area lakes for many years. He was one of the oldest members of Shawnee Yacht Club. For many years he sold sailboats for IVOR Johnson Boat Works of White Bear Lake, Minnesota and Melges Boatworks of Zenda, Wisconsin. He won Shawnee Yacht Club's Commodores cup three years in a row and became the permanent holder of the cup. It became known as the Bell Commodores Cup. Jim married Nancy Renyer on October 28, 1981 in Breckenridge CO. They returned many times to the Colorado Rockies for skiing and vacations. She survives. Other survivors include his daughter, Marta (Marti) and her husband, Bruce, their sons, Jacob and Zachary, daughter Jennifer Haugh; his son, Mark and his wife Marilyn and their sons Matthew and Michael, also great grandchildren, Sydney, Brendan, Zallee and Kallie. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Pamela; sister, LaVonne Bell Smith and his parents. Family will greet friends

Monday, April 2, 2007 at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW
Urish Rd, Topeka KS 66614 from 6 to 8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be
made to Midland Hospice House sent in care of the funeral home. Online
condolences may be sent to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Bell*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Marti, Bruce and Kids*

I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. I remember meeting your Dad at a Thanksgiving dinner. I know you will treasure all the wonderful memories and those will comfort you in the days ahead. You are in our thoughts and prayers. We love you all.

Lori & Bill

Bill & Lori Stewart - April 03, 2007 at 03:40 PM

“ Jimmy,

I was floored to receive this news. We had an interesting connection over the many years. We shared a lot of thoughts and personal passages, strangely enough, considering the age difference. But we were able to talk and relate as equals somehow. Somehow we understood aspects of each other. As I think of it, you were one man I feel actually "knew" and empathized with more than superficial way.

One of my first memories as a child was visiting your house. And I always made it point as an adult to come say "Hi" whenever I could when visiting the area.

It's true what Mark and Paula say, you were a good teacher and instructor. I know how my own father revered your sailing skills and the effort you so willing offered and gave in teaching of others when asked.

I am once again impressed all the moreso by what Mark and Paula had to say because once again I can relate to this characteristic in you. I hold you in ever higher esteem as a person who's life touched mine and that of my family.

A man who is loved as you are by those not even compelled to do so by blood is surely a man who has lived and loved in ways greater than himself. You will be entirely missed.

Best wishes on your continued journey,

Chris Hall

Chris Hall - April 02, 2007 at 11:35 AM

MB

“*Heaven final has the best furniture refinisher on earth! We send our deepest sympathy to Nancy, Marty and Mark and the rest of Jim's family. Jim was a great hard working man. He was a major influence in our lives and we will never forget him. He taught us to work hard, play hard, laugh a lot and cry a little. Our days at the Shawnee Yacht club were some of our foundest memories. Thanks for letting us crew for the best skipper on the lake.*

Thanks for showing us the true meaning of work. We both credit our work ethic to Jim. Our days of sanding and stripping, were hard work but the final product was worth the blisters! Jim may be gone but his furniture lives on through out the state as a tribute to one of the last true craftsman.

Thanks for raising us as your own,

Love Forever,

Mark and Paula Bodine

Mark & Paula Bodine - April 02, 2007 at 08:56 AM