



## Wert Pearson Obituary

February 13, 1924 - May 29, 2012

Wert Pearson, age 88, of Oak Ridge, TN, went to his Heavenly home on Tuesday, May 29, 2012. He was born in Chattanooga, TN, in 1924, and was a longtime resident of Oak Ridge since 1947. Wert was a member of First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, where he served in numerous capacities over the years.

Prior to his retirement, Wert worked for 34 years with the Department of Energy's Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI). He then worked an additional 10 years for Los Alamos Technical Associates (LATA) and Advanced Sciences Inc. (ASI). He was a member of the Mended Hearts program and lovingly served as a Methodist Medical Center volunteer visiting heart surgery patients and offering words of encouragement and support. Wert was a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and helped build 12 houses in Anderson County. He was also a charter member of the local Contact Helpline. Wert thoroughly enjoyed his hobbies and was skilled in crafts, woodworking, jewelry casting, clock making, caneing, antique restoration, and miniature furniture. He was a former member of the Foothills Craft Guild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; James Noah and Rose Cate Pearson; sisters, Martha and Dorothy; and by brothers, James, Samuel, and Clyde. Survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Oveda; daughters: Linda Baker and husband Steve of Knoxville, TN, Janet Urza of Richland, WA; grandchildren: Dr. Shannon Urza, Dr. Marc Urza, and Andy Baker; and nieces: Carol Hudson and Cate Pearson.

The family will receive friends Friday, June 1, 2012, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., at Martin Oak Ridge Funeral Home. The funeral will follow at 12:30 in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Larry Dipboye officiating. In lieu of flowers the family request memorial contributions be made to Habitat for Humanity of Anderson County, 111 Randolph Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Burial and graveside services will be held Friday, June 1, 2012, immediately following the funeral at Oak Ridge Memorial Park with Pastor Larry Dipboye officiating.

# Comments

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“ Oveda,

I'm so sorry to hear of Wert's passing. I enjoyed his sweet, loving way of speaking with me. I pray that God's presence and loving arms will hold you close in your sadness and loneliness.

**Sharon Cowen - Oak Ridge, TN - First Baptist Church** - July 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I always called Uncle Wert "Festus" because when I was a little girl I watched "Gunsmoke" with my family and Uncle Wert's southern accent sounded just like Festus to this midwestern girl. He was never insulted by that, he even seemed to take it as a compliment as it was given. I am so thankful that I got to see him and talk to him at our last family reunion in March of this year. I was playing gospel hymns on the grand piano in the lobby of Uncle Wert and Aunt Oveda's retirement home and looking over at Uncle Wert I saw tears in his eyes. I went over and kissed his forehead. Thank you God that I got to do that. Love to Aunt Oveda, Janet and Linda and families.

**Patty Bowers Clark - St. Peters, MO - niece** - June 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Linda and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I know how much your dad will be missed. He is now with other members of your family who passed and someday you will see him again. Until then, just keep all your love and memories of him in your heart and he will always be with you.

**Denise - Knoxville, TN - friend** - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Oscar and I are so very sorry that Uncle Wert is gone, but we are so happy that he has gone to his Heavenly reward. Our thoughts and prayers are with Aunt Oveda, Janet, Linda and all of the family.

We have many happy memories. My first memory of Uncle Wert and Aunt Oveda is of their wedding when I was their Flower Girl and I think that my Dad performed the ceremony. For the next 50 (+ or -) years we only saw each other a few times. But after we moved to Florida in 2002, Uncle Wert and Aunt Oveda came down many times and we got together for picnics and family fun, along with my Dad, my brother Grant, Aunt Joyce and Uncle Bill Bogart, Aunt Reba and Uncle Bill Bowers and Billie and Martha Bowers. Uncle Wert and Aunt Oveda went with us to yard sales, always looking for a bargain.

We will always cherish these happy times.

**Margaret Hall Fowler and Husband Oscar Fowler - Davenport, FL - Oveda's Niece, Wlateral's Daughter** - June

01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Sid and I were extremely saddened to learn of Wert's death. We always appreciated his warmth and his friendliness. Oveda, you are in our hearts and prayers. Pat and Sid Powell

**Pat Powell - Oak Ridge, TN - friends** - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I remember how much I loved to visit my family in Oak Ridge and go see Uncle Wert and Aunt Oveda square dancing or see Uncle Wert's antique booth and workshop.

Dad and Uncle Wert used to tell stories about their childhood home they all built together in Moccasin Bend in their hometown of Chattanooga, TN. One time when he and Uncle Wert were kids, they decided to cut each other's hair. Uncle Wert was four years younger than dad, and when he saw what he had done to Dad's hair, he said "you're not cutting mine." They also put food coloring in food they made and had blue mashed potatoes. They were close and talked regularly until the day before Dad died.

Having grown up during the Great Depression with four other siblings and having lost their mom as children or young adults, they didn't have it easy. For this reason, they both were frugal and enjoyed a bargain, just like Aunt Dot. Uncle Wert outlived all of them and lived longer than each of them. Now Aunt Martha Rose, Aunt Dot, Uncle Sam, Dad, and Uncle Bud are finally reunited and putting their talents and senses of humor to good use in Heaven.

Uncle Wert's nickname was Jigs. Dad said he was good at everything he ever tried to do. He was witty, caring, and loyal. I will miss him so much and am so fortunate to have had him in my life. He will always hold a special place in my heart. I will try to carry on the last of this branch of the Pearson family name with the same integrity Uncle Wert had. He was the embodiment of a faithful Christian servant in his humility, kindness, and acts of service. It is no wonder he raised such amazing daughters who gave him three highly intelligent and successful grandchildren, of whom Uncle Wert was incredibly proud, as well he should be. I am grateful to call them family.

**Cate Pearson - Louisville, KY - niece** - May 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Square dancing with the both of you will always be loved memories I will cherish forever. Norma Woy

**Norma Woy - Oak Ridge, TN - friend** - May 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ My prayers for all of you will continue as you move through this difficult time. Uncle Wert was a one-of-a-kind guy, such a dry wit, low key, a gem. He and Mom are probably trying to outdo each other on bargain deals even now. I am sad, but I know that Uncle Wert is now in his eternal rest with our Lord and Savior.  
My love to you all,  
Carol

**Carol Hudson Childers - Aberdeen, MD - niece** - May 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Linda & family,  
Know that our thoughts & prayers are with you now & in the days to come.  
Rusty & Pat

**Rusty & Pat Cabage - Knoxville, TN - friend** - May 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Granddad, I will greatly miss you and all the good times we shared together. I love you so very much and look forward to seeing you again in heaven.

**Andy Baker - Atlanta, GA - Grandson** - May 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM