

Howe, Jerome J. "Romie"

MONROE – Jerome J. "Romie" Howe, age 83, father, husband, co-worker and good friend. A warm and loving soul departed this earth on June 4, 1998, leaving us deeply enriched by his hearty sense of humor, his unshakable warmth, his love of children and animals, and his commitment to family and friends.

Romie entered this world on November 16, 1914 in Monroe, Wisconsin, the son of William Edgar and Mary Hefty Howe. He, like so many in his remarkable generation, came of age in the Great Depression, served his country in the Army Air Corps in World War II, and then settled into his beloved home town of Monroe.



On April 9, 1942, Romie married Alice Dinsdale, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, and entered into a 43 year partnership of camping and outdoor adventure, shared hardship, family love and mutual respect.

He was a member of Zwingli United Church of Christ in Monticello, Masonic Lodge, the VFW and the American Legion.

Romie was well-known in his community as a meter reader for Wisconsin Power and Light and then as co-owner of the Monroe Cash Market. Here he learned and then practiced the craft of butchering and sausage-making for nearly seventeen years, speaking with the Swiss customers in the language his beloved mother taught him. Proprietorship stole from him that which he most cherished: time with his family. Consequently, he entered into Civil Service with the Monroe Post Office, serving the public well for 14 years while earning the vacations he so cherished.

With his able guide Alice, Romie shepherded children and grandchildren to the magic places of America: Yellowstone and Shiloh, Boston and the Grand Tetons, Madeline Island and the Gulf Shore. Through the challenges and joys of camping, Romie demonstrated a zest for life and a willingness to embrace all that our natural world and shared American heritage offer.

He is survived by his brother, A. Charles [LauraBelle] Howe; the children he so richly blessed, Mary (Urs) Gafner of Monticello, Katie Howe of Monroe, Jim (Tommie) Howe of Salt Lake City and Tom [Sue] Howe of Madison; eight loving grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and numerous devoted nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Romie was preceded in death by his beloved Alice; by his parents; by his sisters, Bernice Riese, Laura Beach, Marian Hunt and Katherine Howe; and by his brothers, William, James, Stanley and in infancy, Henry.

Funeral services will be held at ZWINGLI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST in Monticello at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 8, 1998. Visitation will be on Sunday from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at VOEGELI-NEWCOMER FUNERAL HOME in Monticello.

Friends may call at 10:00 a.m. on Monday until the time of services at the church. The family requests that memorials be made in lieu of flowers.

Walking with Romie around the square in Monroe was a sometimes frustrating but always uplifting experience. Friend after friend, young and old acquaintances alike, sought him out for a quick chat or a lengthy dialogue, usually in English but frequently in Swiss. It always took a long time to get anywhere with him, the easy familiarity with many in his home town

the symbol of a life well lived, of a man who treated others with decency, with respect, with love and with joyful humor. That legacy will live in the hearts and minds of those who had the good fortune to share his easy smile, hearty chuckle and deep warmth. Travel well, Romie!