



Fair Preston

December 13, 1923 - October 7, 2009

Fair “Dick” Preston, age 85, of Canon City, died peacefully at his home on October 7, 2009. Dick was born on December 13, 1923 in Romona, Oklahoma to JD and Violet Preston. He grew up in Englewood, Colorado and joined the US army during WWII. He served in the 421st Engineer Dump Truck Co. in Guadalcanal, Batangas, Luzon, and Japan. When Dick returned from the war, he worked as a carpenter (a trade he learned from his father). He built many houses in Colorado. He married Ethel McConnell on June 14, 1957. Dick opened Fair Auto Wrecking in 1962 fulfilling his dream, of owning a wrecking yard. He also started Poor Fair’s Classic Cars. On August 28, 1965 his son, Rodney, was born. After he sold the wrecking yard, Dick continued to buy and sell classic cars. In 1991 he had a heart attack and open heart surgery. Following this, he needed less strenuous work, so Dick taught himself to restore stainless steel trim on classic cars. He loves to make things shiny and we attribute this to the Cherokee Indian in him. As the years progressed, he became well known nationwide as the best at his trade. Because Dick infected everyone around him with his love of Antique Cars, of course his son would share in this passion. Together they restored many cars, and started Stainless Trim Works. Now, Rodney carries on the family business. On September 10, 2005, Dick got the daughter he never had when his son married Heather Deshaies. And as Ethel would say, Heather could wrap Dick around her little finger! Dick enjoyed helping his son and daughter-in-law with their new home, by building sheds and fences, painting, and even laying

flagstone. Dick and Ethel had been preparing to move to Fort Collins to be closer to Rodney and Heather. Dick Preston possessed an amazing knowledge of Antique Cars and was happy to help anyone who asked. He has bought, restored, and sold countless old cars. He died next to his old Cadillac with a wrench in his hand, doing what he loved. Along with his love of cars, Dick loved meeting and talking to people. He was extremely generous throughout his life. If it was too cold to work outside, you would find him reading. He could read several books in one day. He loved reading about history, but mostly he loved reading his bible. He faced death with the same courage he faced everything else in his life. And he took comfort from knowing he would be going to heaven when he died. Dick is survived by his wife Ethel, his son Rodney (and Heather) Preston of Wellington, his brother Jim (and Evelyn) of Englewood, and a multitude of friends and extended family. Because Dick touched so many people in his life, there will be 2 memorial services. The first memorial service will be held at the Canon City Community Baptist Church (at 1111 Monroe Avenue in Canon City, Colorado) on Thursday, October 15th at 11 am. The second memorial service will be held at Englewood Bible Church (at 3190 South Grant St. in Englewood, Colorado) on Saturday, October 17th at 11am. In tribute to Dick, classic cars will be welcome at both services. His ashes will be interred at Fort Logan on a later date. Ethel asks those who are willing to please share a memory or a story here.

Tribute Wall



“ *Fair Preston*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *I was so glad to find Fair Dick Preston. Fair's Mother Violet was my Grandfather Walter Ray Garner's Sister. Violet and Walter had a Brother names John Fair Garner. Their Father was Elza Beckett Garner, Mother was Belle Brinegar Garner. Walter, John Fair and Elza are buried in Chelsea Rogers OK Dawes Cemetary. Wish I could have met Fair Dick Preston, he sounds like a wonderful man. My Husband and Son also restored a 1957 Chevy, who knows our Son might have bought chrome parts from Fair. We just passed through Canon City this past week, wish I had known that Fair and family lived in Canon. God Bless all of you, so glad to know that Fair was a good Christian.*

Betty Parks - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Uncle Dick was an amazing man! I was fortunate enough to spend several vacations with him and enjoyed our talks together. The most memorable moment would have to be visiting Pearl Harbor with him, feeling his sorrow as he broke down reading the names of his friends on the Arizona Memorial wall. He is missed and will forever be in my memory.*

Rob Bertholf - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ My name is John Spishock,

As a young man I worked for George Murray. A Auto salvage owner for many years. Dick would come in a couple times a month and him and George would talk for hours about the good ol days and modern times that have change everything. Dick would tell many stories about cars and all the cars he built back then, I use to love to listen. I admired him for what he had accomplished in his lifetime at that time. It sounds like whatever he wanted to do he was very good at it.

One story that stands out with me is he told me once that when we he was a very young man he had to work very hard to support his family, this one job he was shoveling gravel so fast, shovels of rock were in the air when the next shovel was coming out of the shovel. He was up against a big strong man with big arms. And in a two hour time period the big man gave up and Dick got the job.

After George died I lost contact with Dick but I never forgot about him. Sorry for your loss he was A great Man. Thank you for reading this.

John Spishock

John Spishock - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ Dick and Ethel were like family to me. I loved spending the night with them and playing games. Ethel is a excellent cook and a super sweet lady. Dick always told us interesting stories of the past and was always working on some kind of project. We have always missed sharing our lives together for the last 7 or so years. We never stopped loving you or praying for you both. Our love and hugs go out to you now and always. Love in Christ, Paula Akin God Bless

paula and gordon akin - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ Such a wonderful person... have not seen him in a while but we have such fond memories and we are sorry he is gone. We know we will see him again in Glory... We love you Ethel and Rodney and maybe we will get down to see you soon. We are sorry we cannot be there for the service but are already committed for the week-end. Please know our prayers are with you and we will be thinking of you!
Love you,
Dick's little sis,
Sharon #2 & Ralph

Ralph & Sharon Estill - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ Dick was really a nice guy. He will be missed.

Jan and Tom Valentine - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Rodney, Heather, Ethel and family,
We are so sorry for your loss! Thank you for sharing your sweet father with us over this recent 4th of July! The car show drew us together and gave us the opportunity to meet your wonderful family. Our fathers were two of a kind.. both WWII vets that we are so grateful for their service to this great country so that we are able to enjoy such special days as the 4th of July together. Dad really enjoyed meeting someone of his own age and caliber!! It was a pleasure to greet your father as he entered his treasured vehicle and we all weathered the downpours that offered to threaten the small car show we all have grown to love. Please remember that your father/husband is as close as you could ever imagine and know in your heart that he is indeed at the right hand of THE FATHER!! Chin up and please do not hesitate to order up the next car crazy car show to honor your DAD! xoxox

Bill, Hobert & Stephanie Bodkins - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ the one thing i could add to the beautiful obituary already written is that i remembered how extremely polite Mr. Preston was when i would go visit Rod and that he and Mrs. Preston were always there for our football games and anything else we did in school. A very special man.

Tim Valentine

tim valentine - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ I remember Dick as a very gracious friend. We spent many evenings with Dick and Ethel playing 42 in dominos. Men against women. You know who probably won most of the time.

I remember Dick telling about the time when he was sitting in his living room in Denver watching TV with the lights off and if I remember right, Ethel wasn't home. A burglar came and took the door off the hinges and proceeded to come in. Well, Dick helped him change his mind about that.

Also, wasn't it Dick that helped play a trick on Sharon Dowell (when she and Clyde moved to Denver to become our music director) by taking her precious tinkets out of a packed box and filling it with broken glass, etc. Then, while Sharon was watching, toss the box to someone to take care of and they dropped the box. He did seem to love to play tricks. All of these things are good fun and good memories of friends. Dick was a good friend. We were enriched to have known him.

Russ and Sharon Estill - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ Ethel, Rod and Heather,

I have great memories of our families being together for holidays. He always greeted me with a big bear hug! Dick was a super nice Uncle. I loved seeing that sweet, gentle side of Dick when he was playing with Holly and when he would tell me stories about her. Dick had a very strong work ethic, a great laugh, the kindest heart and he loved the Lord. I'm proud to be his niece.

*Love,
Pam*

Pam Preston - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ Always enjoyed visiting and talking old cars over the years. Thanks Dick

Gary Werner - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ Ethel, Rodney and Heather,

I'm terribly sorry for the loss. I know Dick was struggling with his health for the past couple of years, but of course, we all hoped he would manage.

He was certainly a generous man, and we enjoyed his company. I was always amazed at the depth of his knowledge of cars. Lots of that was via the lens of Rodney, who assimilated so much of what Dick had to offer. I know that he was a tremendous husband, dad and father-in-law. And it seemed that he accomplished so much of what he wanted in this life.

*Our love and thoughts are with you now,
Ken*

Ken - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Ethel, Rodney and Heather,
I am so truly sorry for your loss. Dick was indeed a generous, friendly, talented, hard-working and funny man. I am glad that I had the opportunity to meet and spend time, all be it not enough time, getting to know him.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Love, Mary

Mary Deshaies - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ Dick was a good friend and good Christian. I learned a lot from him through work and friendship. My favorite memories are working out the stainless steel and polishing it while listening to stories of his past. I will miss him.

Vaughn Chamberlain - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Dick was such a wonderful man he will be greatly missed but of course he is in a place where my wife and i long to be .As I told Rodney when the Lord brought Dick into this world he broke the mold there will never be another like him so sweet and generous .May the Lord gtnve you all the cup of grace you will need for the moment God Bless and keep up the beautifu work you are doing for the Lord Love Ray and Sandra.

Ray and Sandra Montoya - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ We remember Dick for his friendship and his Godly advice. His love for missions and missionaries. Roy has a great memory of a trip to CA. to bring back a Stutsbearcat on a car trailer pulled by a Cadillac. We are looking forward to our reunion with him and our Saviour in Heaven.

MR. & MRS. ROY E. ENDERS - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM