

Rich Guerber, November 17, 1923 – March 31, 2000, left a legacy that lives on in the thousands of people in Benton County he touched throughout his life. An active volunteer with Benton County Fair for close to fifty years. An avid 4-H volunteer and long-time Fair board member. If something needed to be done, he did it! If 4-H or the fairgrounds needed something he bought it, begged it, borrowed it or built it! No task was too tough, no job too big. If he could not do it himself or did not have what was needed he always knew somebody who could and more importantly, he could always get them to do it.

During “Fair Week” Rich could be found organizing the sheep dog trials, supervising the Livestock Association’s barbecue, helping run the 4-H Livestock Auction, making sure the rodeo went okay and anything else that needed doing. In between he managed to offer encouragement and advice to young 4-H members, calm rattled 4-H leaders, soothe ruffled superintendents, support fair staff and board members and of course find time to visit with just about everyone who attended the Fair.

Despite the many activities he organized and the many building projects he supervised, by far his biggest accomplishment in life was the many and endearing friendships he fostered over the years. Everyone was Rich’s friend and he was always there to help, to lend a hand, to do what needed doing. Rich’s capacity to give was tremendous. He was always the first one to chip in when something was needed or to help someone out who was in a jam. Typical of Rich, most of his deeds went unmentioned.

Rich was very fond of and devoted to his family. It was truly a joy to watch Rich interact with Eleanor his wife of fifty-five years. He was especially proud of and close to his two grandchildren. When his only son and daughter in-law were tragically killed in an automobile accident, Rich took the awful tragedy and made something positive come out of it by encouraging people to contribute in Ron and Patty’s name to the Benton County Fairgrounds Foundation.

Rich was a simple man by some standards; he didn’t amass a great financial fortune, had a modest home, didn’t travel much and frequently described himself as just an old farmer. Yet, if you judged him by the deeds he did for others, his capacity for caring, his many friends, his devotion to family and his love of life he was truly a great man, rich beyond words!

