

In Memory of Frank R. Drexel, PLS

1925-2008

By Frank N. Drexel, PLS

Frank R. Drexel was born in Crawford, Colorado, on October 5, 1925, to Frank M. and Grace Drexel. He was the second of three children.

He joined the Army in 1944, serving in the Signal Corp at Camp Crowder, Missouri. He was honorably discharged in 1946. Frank attended the University of Colorado where he met his future wife Karyl. They wed on September 14, 1947, in Boulder, Colorado.

Shortly after, they moved to Delta, Colorado, where Frank worked for the Rural Electrification Association as a Linesman.

In 1950 they returned to Boulder where Frank worked first as an electrician then on a survey crew at Rocky Flats. His surveying carrier started in earnest one day in 1952 when he and Karyl were shopping in downtown Denver and came across an engineering supply store. They went in with a bank account balance of \$700 and came out with a transit, survey equipment, and a bank account balance of \$0. Without much experience, he was luckily mentored by a well established local surveyor named Jack Byron, who was happy to teach Frank the ropes for no reason other than friendship.

Over the following 30 years after finding a passion for surveying, he and his longtime business partner Bob Barrell built the successful engineering company Drexel Barrell & Co. Frank also held the office of Boulder County Surveyor for twenty years and was commissioned as a U.S. Mineral Surveyor.

Frank was an avid boater and was active in the Power Squadron, serving as commander for the Boulder Valley chapter as well as for the district. He took his family to San Diego in the summers, boating on the Skinny Dipper along the California coast. He retired with Karyl in 1982 on the Foxfire and embarked on a two year cruise from San Diego through the Panama Canal to Key West, Florida and back again.

In 1993, Frank and Karyl returned to Colorado, settling in Longmont. Frank enjoyed reading, watching musicals, and rooting for the Denver Broncos. His expectations for life's endeavors were always at the highest level and he sought perfection whenever possible. Frank was a generous, philanthropic soul, eager to help many who needed a fresh start. Frank is survived by his wife, Karyl Drexel, a daughter, two sons, and 6 grandchildren.

