



Merryman, Donald

July 1, 2011

Merryman, Donald L., age 79 of Bryce Street, Bellaire, died Friday, July 1, 2011 at Belmont Community Hospital, Bellaire.

He was born November 4, 1931 in Bellaire, OH the son of the late Harold and Dorothy McLane Merryman.

Donald was a retired mechanic from Merryman Buick and Wheeling Chrysler, he was a US Army veteran and a Catholic by Faith.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by two brothers: Bill & Bob Merryman.

Survivors include his wife: Rose Holub Merryman; one son: Vergil (Marilyn) Tubaugh of St. Clairsville; two daughters: Tish (Jerry) Kinney and Sheri "Pip" (John) Vavrek all of Bellaire; seven grandchildren: Jennifer (Jason) Bruce, Jeff (Jill) Tubaugh, Erica (Jason) Miller, Kacie and Ashley Vavrek and Justin and Jessica Kinney; two great grandchildren: Emma Bruce and Addison Tubaugh; one brother: Paul Merryman and several nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday from 2-4 & 6-8pm at the Grisell Funeral Home, 400-33rd Street, Bellaire where funeral services will be held on Wednesday at 11:00am with Rev. Don Lawson and Fr. Daniel Heusel officiating.

Interment in Belmont Memorial Park, Bellaire.

Tribute Wall



“ I had one encounter with Don Merryman and it was a meeting I will never forget. Over 20 years ago, I went to an old cars swap meet in my home state of Wisconsin. One of the guys selling parts had a sign top in it's original box. It was just part of something for a Buick dealer showroom and I wanted it. I bought it and on the box was the name of the Dealer where it came from.. Merryman Buick in Bellaire, Ohio.

I spent a few months thinking about what this sign top was for. I sent pictures to a buddy of mine In Seattle who was a boy in 1949 helping his dad who owned the Seattle Buick Dealer there. He excitedly called me after receiving the photos to tell me that this was PART of a 1949 Buick accessories display stand and it just happened to be the very first thing his dad had asked him to try to assemble for the Seattle dealership showroom in the Fall of 1948.

My friend Tom asked me if I had the rest of it -- which, of course, I didn't. But he said this was 1949 for certain and I had to see if I could find the rest of it. I realized also that I needed to find it as well because all my Buicks were 1949's. THAT is my year and my love.

So--- I found the name of the Dealership where it came from on the box and called Merryman Buick and asked to speak to the owner. When Mr. Merryman got on the phone he assured me that they had an auction about nine months ago and everything got sold. I was so disappointed. I called my friend Tom back and told him the bad news. While we were talking, he explained what the entire stand looked like. A couple of shelves, padded boxes and chromed pipes.

After thinking about all this information, I decided that there was a good chance that nobody would have wanted to buy the tables without the lighted sign top. So --- without calling again, I took a chance and drove the 750 miles down to Bellaire to see for myself. Merryman Buick had recently moved to the new location but I first went to the original store on 33rd. Standing there in the parking lot, there was two big garbage gondolas and in the upper windows, I

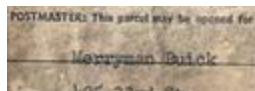
could see boxes. I knew now that what I wanted was most likely there.

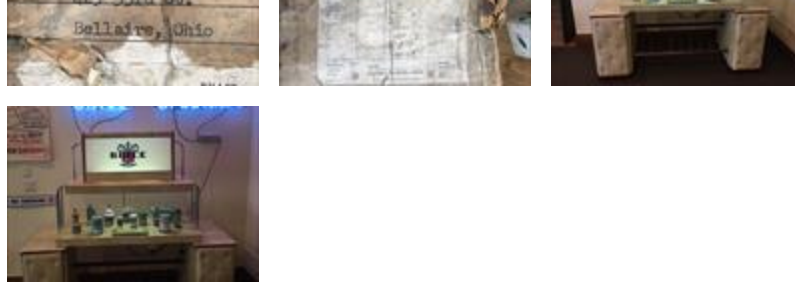
I arrived early and walked in to the new dealership at 9am or so and asked to see the owner. Mr. Merryman came to the counter and I said, "I don't know if you remember me, but I'm the guy who called you from Milwaukee, Wisconsin about that tabletop for the sign I have from this dealership. He said "I told you all that stuff was gone-- where did you say you're from"? I told him "Milwaukee, Wisconsin"

He was pretty insistent that nothing was there but I kinda pleaded that I would be willing to pay any of his employees 2 hours wages just to let me in to the old dealer for a half an hour to see if what I wanted was there. As certain as he was there was nothing, he was nice enough to send me with an employee if I was willing to wait until 5pm closing time. I was FAR from home and possibly on a Wild Goose Chase, but I also was so happy he took pity on my and was going to let me in.

Five O'clock came and I was a "ready teddy." Myself and an employee (a young guy) went over to the building. As we were walking to the front door, the employee told me, "I was supposed to have cleaned out this building weeks ago. That's why these gondolas are here" So-- we went in, up to the top floor and there it was. Exactly what I was looking for --- strewn all over the place, loose--- but there. I gathered up all the big stuff and completely SWEPT the entire floor so as to make certain I had all the tiny screws and such. I had it all.

When it came time to ask what the price was, the employee told me that his boss said if I found what I was looking for -- just give it to him free. I only met Donald Merryman once, but I love that man. This 1949 Buick accessories display is still my most prized find and my best old cars related story. Please see my photos.





Gary Behling - March 22, 2022 at 05:46 PM

GS

“ To all of the Merryman family please accept my heartfelt condolences. I worked at Merryman Buick with Donnie from 1963 until 1968. I am sure he will be sorely missed by all. Gary Scott

Gary Scott - July 09, 2011 at 02:11 PM

DF

“ Pip and your family, Tish and your family, and your mom-my entire family sends their deepest sympathy. The memories of all those ball games and hearing him cheer makes us smile. I am sure you will miss him greatly but he is always with you. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all. Sincere sympathy.

Denise Liberati and family - July 06, 2011 at 03:26 PM

CG

“ My sincere condolences to the Family and Friends of Donald L. Merryman. I Pray God will give you comfort in your time of sorrow. I am grateful for Donald L. Merryman service to our Great Nation and greatly appreciate Him for my freedom. Donald L. Merryman, you are a true American Hero and will not be forgotten. May our Heavenly Father welcome You home to rest. Peace Be to Us All

Cheryl J Skinner, OH & WV Patriot Guard - July 05, 2011 at 03:53 PM

ST

“ Tish, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I know from all your stories he was loved and admired by you all. My sincere sympathy.

Sally Taylor - July 05, 2011 at 09:46 AM

KR

“ To the entire Merryman Family,I am so sorry for your great loss. My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to such a close and loving family. God Bless you all!!!

Kevin Roseberry - July 04, 2011 at 03:44 PM

VW

“ Tish, Jerry, Jess, Justin and the Merryman family, Words can not express our heart felt sorrow for you and your family. Your father was an awesome man who will be missed dearly. I personally will miss our trips to the away games which both him and your mom made so much fun. Our Deepest SympathyVince, Kathy, Dakota and Vinnie

Vince West - July 03, 2011 at 03:55 PM

MT

“ Hi Rose, so sorry to see your husband's obit..Take care my friend, I think of you often, and miss you too...So sorry for your loss,Mary

Mary L. TAYLOR - July 03, 2011 at 02:20 PM