

Terry Lee Heckman
Aug. 7, 1951- Mar. 5, 2002

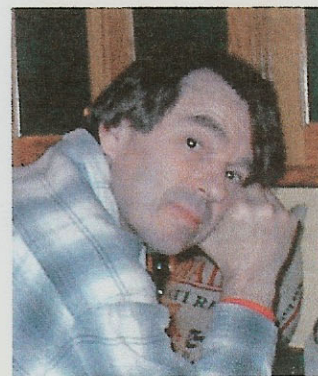
Born on his father's birthday Terry was the third son of Wilbur and Beatrice Heckman. They raised him on a farm 10½ miles south of Adair, Iowa where he raised sheep to show at county fairs, rode his bicycle around the mile section to visit friends and played in the woods and fields. After primary and secondary school at Bridgewater-Fontanelle Schools he attended Creston Community College for two years earning an Associates Degree. During the summers he worked construction for Iowa Star Silos. He loved to climb to the top of a newly finished silo and look at the world spread out around him. He completed a BS in Ed. degree at Northwest Missouri State University graduating in 1974. Terry married Kristy Walters on March 28, 1974 in Maryville, MO. The 1974-75 school year was spent teaching Art to K-12 grade students at Barnard, MO. In the summer of 1975 Terry and Kristy moved to a farm near Argyle, TX and converted an old goat barn into their first pottery. They made their living traveling to fairs and festivals selling their pottery for the next 12 years. The arrival of children, Nickolas in 1979 and Katherine in 1982, changed life's focus and in 1987 Terry moved his family to Lamar, MO.

He began working at Pittsburg Pottery in Pittsburg, KS teaching wheel-throwing to the workers there. Soon he was designing new product lines, learning the commercial manufacturing business, working with the marketing staff, and eventually became plant manager. In 1991, Terry started his own ceramic manufacturing business, Thin Ice, Inc., in Lamar. Always a teacher at heart, he valued education above all else, and gave many young people their first job. He enjoyed their company and hoped he had taught them something about Art, Work and Life.

Always patient and kind, he worked side-by-side with employees as a co-worker more than a boss. He let employees bring their children to work when necessary, even baby-sat at work for sick employees and bailed them out of jail. He always hoped to be an example and that others would recognize, and the code he followed was "Individual Responsibility". In the last few months of his life he became active in the Arts Council of Barton County. Terry never did anything half-way, and always did his best no matter the personal cost.

He will be sorely missed.

The candle that burns twice as bright burns half as long



Terry Lee Heckman

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