



James Boyd

November 26, 1941 - December 31, 2010

James Allan Boyd age 69 of Newton, NJ, and formerly of Dixon died Dec. 31, 2010. He was born Nov. 26, 1941 in Dixon the son of Alan and Catherine (Buchner) Boyd. He was a graduate of the Dixon High School class of 1959. He attended the University of Illinois and graduated from the Layton School of Art and Photography in Milwaukee in 1962. In 1964 Jim became and film editor for WTVO television in Rockford and also a freelance contributor for Railroad Model Craftsmen and Trains Magazine. In 1967 Jim became a field instructor for GM's Electro-Motive Division delivering and field testing new locomotives. In 1969 he became a brakeman for the Illinois Central Railroad. In 1971 he landed a job at Carsten's Publications in New Jersey where in 1974 he was instrumental in the launching of Railfan Magazine now known as Railfan and Railroad Magazine. Retiring after about a quarter century at the throttle of the magazine Jim went on to author, edit, and/or design over 30 books for a number of publishers and continued on as a columnist for Rail Fan and Railroad magazine. He was a founding member of the North Western Illinois Chapter-National Railway Historical Society in Rockford. Jim enjoyed deep sea diving with vintage equipment and was a central figure with the Northeast Diving Equipment Group. He was preceded in death by his parents. Jim is survived by his sister Barbara Fane of Dixon, nephew Marty Fane, nieces Roxanne (Dan) Mahan, Lynette Kirk and Cindy (Derek) Griffith, and 6 great nieces and nephews. A celebration of Jim's life will be held on Saturday Feb. 26, 2011 at 1:00 PM at the Post House Ballroom in Dixon with the Rev.

Tony Hawkins officiating. Burial of Creains will be at a later date in Oakwood Cemetery in Dixon.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Boyd*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *James Boyd*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *We were sorry to read of Jim's death. We didn't know him personally but I'm sure he will be missed. It sounds like he was a very talented individual. Our sympathy to the family.*

Hal and Jane Weaver

Hal and Jane Weaver - December 31, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jim was always a quiet and sincere person in my memories of DHS. I didn't know it then, but we have had a common delight in trains. May the sound of those long train whistles in Dixon have carried him with joy in this life and into the next. Love and sympathies to his family and friends, Sandra*

Sandra K. Harvey - December 31, 2010 at 12:00 AM