

Cederberg Family



The Klasson Family, later to be known as Cederberg, originated in the province of Smoland, Sweden, where the family had engaged in farming, carpentry and blacksmithing. In 1905, Anton Klasson, in his late teens, came to America. He was looking for the opportunities which America afforded to immigrants because the economy in Sweden was not doing well. Anton first went to Colorado, but later moved to Michigan after having visited relatives in the Pinconning/Bay City area. His relatives had immigrated to America in 1878 and already had established farms. It was here that he chose to stay.

The family name Klasson was changed to Cederberg when Anton applied for citizenship to the United States. In 1914, Anton married Anna Johnson. They had three children: Ernest, Harold and Gladys. They operated a dairy business in Bay City named Cederberg Brothers Dairy.

The middle child of Anton and Anna, Harold Cederberg, attended Bay City Central High School and went to junior college in Bay City. He attended Wayne State University and earned a degree in Mortuary Science. After serving a stint in the U.S. Army during World War II, Harold met and married Jean Ardern, the daughter of Clark Ardern and Martha Kieckbush, both of German decent. In 1947, Harold bought the Gossett Funeral Home in Saginaw, renamed it the Cederberg Funeral Home. They had three children: Harold, Jr., Kim and Martha.

In 1970, Harold and Jean purchased the Nuechterlein-Wendt Funeral Home in Frankenmuth from Howard and Madeline Wendt. Their two sons pursued degrees from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, with Harold, Jr. graduating in 1971, followed by Kim in 1973. Harold, Jr. and Kim joined their father as funeral directors, working mainly at the Saginaw funeral home.

Harold, Sr. operated the Frankenmuth funeral home, with the help of a manager, for several years until Harold, Jr. and Kim began the process of buying both businesses.

Kim Cederberg married Suzanne Wazny of Saginaw. It was in 1986 that Harold Jr. decided to leave the funeral business, at which time Kim began the process of buying both operations. In 1990, Kim bought out his father completely, operating both the Saginaw funeral home and the Frankenmuth funeral home and relocating to Frankenmuth with his wife, Sue, and their son, Clark. Their daughter, Paige, was born in 1991. The family lived in the Frankenmuth funeral home located on Tuscola Street.

Kim operated both funeral homes until 1999, when he decided to sell the Saginaw funeral home. In 2001, Kim began to build a new facility in Frankenmuth. Aaron Cederberg, Kim's oldest son, graduated from Wayne State University with a degree in Mortuary Science and joined his father and step-mother in the family business. The Cederberg Funeral Home of Frankenmuth, located at 590 North Franklin Street, opened in July of 2002. The new 9,500 square foot building serves Frankenmuth and the surrounding communities, with Kim and Aaron acting as directors and Sue doing all the accounting and office work.

Kim and his family were active in the Frankenmuth community and St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. Kim was a member of Gideon's and the Frankenmuth Lions Club. He served on the board of the Frankenmuth Chamber of Commerce and belonged to the Frankenmuth and Richville Conservation Clubs. Sue was a member of the Frankenmuth Women's Club. Aaron was a member of the Frankenmuth Jaycee's. Clark was enrolled at Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy where he was a sophomore; and Paige was in eighth grade at St. Lorenz Lutheran School.



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