

COX - Roland Ray "Bud" Cox

Submitted by Louise Cox, Widow of Roland Cox

COX- Roland was born in Kewanee, IL on October 29, 1929. He was the second child and only son of Ray and Madelin (Cullom) Cox. He had an older sister Margaret born in 1928 and two younger sisters, Marilyn & Carol.

" Bud " is how everyone knew him. He didn't talk much about his childhood nor his difficult past after his parents divorced. Bud went to live with his dad and his sisters went to live with their mother in Toulon. He spoke often about helping both of his grandfathers and one of them gave him the nickname of Bud.

Bud went into the Navy in 1947 after World War II. He was deployed to the South Pacific with the Seabees in construction/mechanic for clean-up. While there, he was shot in the right leg by a Japanese sniper and carried remains of shrapnel in his leg for the rest of his life. Someone once asked him if he got a medal for it. Bud said all he got was a bandage and sent back to work.

Upon getting out of the service, he became a semi driver. He bought his own truck and hauled whiskey from Hiram Walker to California and brought wine back to Chicago for the Catholic Church. He hired another driver because back in the early 1950s trucks were nothing compared to the ones now days and it took a week to do a turn-around from Peoria to California to Chicago and then back to Peoria.

Bud always had some very interesting stories to tell about his driving experiences. When the trucking firm went under, he worked for Bosch Transport out of Peoria, IL hauling from coast to coast. I met Bud in 1976 and we became very good friends. He went his way and I went mine but he always knew where I lived. He had to quit driving in 1977 due to the onset of diabetes and could not pass the CDL physical. He went to work for the City of Peoria working on police cars, street sweepers and all the trucks. In 1982 he was promoted to the Fire Garage and worked on the fire trucks. The firemen really liked Bud because he was such a good mechanic. He retired in 1990 and moved to California but found he really didn't like it out there. He came to visit me in Canton IL and we got along so well we married in 1997.

After I retired we started to travel. Our first few adventures were in an old Airstream. Bud was so handy that within six months it was totally refurbished and it looked like something that just came off the show room floor. Whenever we would go to an Airstream Rally course, we had the oldest Airstream and everyone remarked how nice it was. Then we purchased a 40' American Tradition Coach which was a real beauty. One year we took his Aunt Violet Cox (wife of Leslie Cox) from Toulon to Wisconsin to visit with his niece Janice (Cox) Sothman. Aunt Vi thought that was really the way to travel!

Then we purchased a mobile modular home and lived in a nice trailer park. In 2004 we decided to move the house to a small village not far from Canton. We were almost ready to have the house moved when Bud had a massive heart attack on July 5, 2004. There was hope he would survive, however on July 8 he went to his final resting place. He was a wonderful man and a great friend. To this day he is missed by many.

Photo: Roland, Carol, Marilyn and Margaret Ann Cox

