



Keith Edmund Shader

April 14, 1933 - June 18, 2023

Keith E. Shader was born April 14, 1933, to Bryan and Ellen Shader in Fort Collins, Colorado. Keith died June 18, 2023 (Father's Day) at Pathways Hospice. Keith and his four brothers grew up on their family homestead farm in the Harmony community. He attended grade/middle school at Harmony School and graduated valedictorian from Timnath High School. During this time, he met his future wife, Barbara Williamson. She was still in high school as he attended Colorado A&M. Keith wrestled at the 123 lb. class, lettered and graduated from Colorado A&M in 1955. He and Barbara were married December 28, 1955. That same year he began his teaching career at Cache La Poudre High School. In 1964 he helped open the new Poudre High School where he taught Math, Physics but primarily Chemistry. He was Runner up Teacher of the Year for the State of Colorado in 1981. He coached wrestling, football and track. He started the wrestling programs for both Laporte and Poudre High School. He was assistant Football Coach at Laporte when they won State in 1956 and Assistant Football Coach for Poudre High School when they won state in 1969. He was the Track Coach for Laporte when they won the CU Relays. He retired from teaching in 1988. In the spring and summer, he, Barb and the girls grew 3 acres of gladiola flowers that they sold to florists and farmer's markets. He was an active member of the Laporte Presbyterian Church.

Keith and Barb have three daughters. He was very involved with all their activities whether it was academic, 4-H or athletics.

Keith is survived by his wife Barbara, his daughters Coleen (Loren) Miller of Gillette, WY, Shawna (Jim) McKenna of Fort Collins, Kelly (Dan) Haferman of Fort Collins. Five grandsons and their families: Wade, Shanna, Chevy & Casin Miller. Scott Miller and Hailey. Kyle McKenna, Brianna, Kyndal & Kayden. Jason and Audrey Haferman, Ryan Haferman. He is preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, several cousins and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Friday, June 23, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Laporte Presbyterian Church, 3820 County Rd. 54G, Laporte, CO 80535
Memorial gifts can be made to Laporte Presbyterian Church or Pathways Hospice c/o Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Fort Collins, CO 80524.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **23**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Laporte Presbyterian Church
3820 County Road 54G
Laporte, CO 80535

Tribute Wall

NL

“*Mr. Shader was a pillar of the Poudre High community when I was a student (late 1970's). He was so enthusiastic that all his students seemed to forget that chemistry was supposed to be hard. Now as a chemistry professor at CSU, I still teach two of the methods he taught us in our high school class.*

I also remember several laboratory experiments we performed - splitting water in to hydrogen and oxygen gas using electricity (electrochemistry), making peanut brittle in December for holidays, but two specific experiments stand out:

1) We made soap - we had to find a recipe and follow it. Being well before the advent of the internet, finding a recipe was challenging. Our soap was judged on a range of criteria: hardness, shape, aroma, color, ability to foam, and ability to remove bicycle grease from Mr. Shader's hands. We got extra credit if the soap were clear or could float. This was such a great experience for students to figure things out on our own.

2) We made esters, molecules that have a certain arrangement of atoms, and often have lovely aromas. One of the esters started by using butyric acid, which smells like rancid butter. Despite the classroom being in the basement all the way at the end of the hall, when someone spilled the butyric acid, the whole school smelled awful, just in time for Poudre to host the regional meeting of Student Councils. To this day, I still remember making butterscotch (with the butyric acid) and wintogreen (methyl salicylate) molecules.

I feel blessed to have had Mr. Shader ignite my own continued interest in science, chemistry in particular.

Nancy Levinger - June 25, 2023 at 01:11 PM

MJ

“ *Maureen And Geoff Johns lit a candle in
memory of Keith Edmund Shader*



Maureen and Geoff Johns - June 23, 2023 at 03:34 PM

TB

“ My memory of Keith Shader, I taught at Poudre High School with Keith for 15 years before he retired. I have no idea how this came up or how I found out but Keith was a Magic Man at the chalk board. Keith was left handed, and as a child to follow the Palmer Method of handwriting and penmanship. You know, sit up straight, slant your letters, and angle your paper on the desk top, feet flat on the floor, all the basic rules. Well for a lefty, he had to curl his wrist around as he wrote. So when Keith got into the classroom as a teacher, he discovered that he could only write on the bottom foot of the chalk board with his curled around wrist writing, so he taught himself how to write right handed. That somehow morphed into him writing with both hands on the chalk board, and writing with both hands at the same time.

Many years after he retired Keith would come to my classroom, stand at the middle of the white board and write his name, “Keith” with his left hand, “Shader” with his right, working on both words at the same time. “ Keith Shader”, pretty slick, two words both five letters long, Then he would write words with both his right hand going left to right and at the same time spell out the first part of the word with his left hand going from right to left. Then he would write his name upside down, backwards, jumping back and forth from his right hand to his left. The students would just watch, I was always mesmerized, and you know what? After he left, none of us could write one word both handed at the same time, let alone one word backwards. Yes “Magic”!

Keith would chuckle and smile as he wrote, I’ve never seen anything like it before and have no idea how he figured it out. Yes he was a Magic Man; I will miss your magic. REGREB ST

TS Berger - June 22, 2023 at 04:28 PM

SH

Thank you for sharing. I didn't know that about Keith. My dad was Keith's brother and he did similar writing tricks on the board. In early elementary school, Keith would turn in normal looking papers, but he wrote everything upside down. You may not have noticed, but he could be facing your desk and read your work upside down, including chemistry drawings. I believe this is a genetic trait.

soni huffman - June 23, 2023 at 10:37 PM

NL

I remember the same two handed writing when I took chemistry from Mr. Shader! The best was drawing two swans in mirror images of each other - one with the left and the other with his right hand.

Nancy Levinger - June 25, 2023 at 01:01 PM

NJ

“ Keith and Barbara were vital members of LaPorte Presbyterian Church when I was pastor. He will be remembered by so many people in the area. I loved his humor, his gladiolus, and his commitment to inclusion. He will be missed.

Nan Jenkins - June 21, 2023 at 12:26 PM

CS

“ My condolences and prayers for the family.

Cindy Salazar - June 21, 2023 at 09:05 AM

EE

“ He made chemistry fun and opened a door to science for generations of young people. He was a remarkable teacher and valued mentor to so many. A life well lived. RIP Mr Shader. You will be missed.

Erin Eckert - June 21, 2023 at 07:28 AM

MH

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Shader’s passing. He was a huge part of Poudre and a fabulous coach. I never had him as a teacher but everyone loved him. I was a member of the class of ‘69-70.

Milre Goodrich Henry - June 20, 2023 at 12:46 AM

KA

“ I remember when Keith Shader when he partnered with Mr. Thayer in raising Gladiolas. They started out in the front pasture of Mrs. Tiptons who lived east next door to where I grew up on West Vine Dr. In a few years they moved they planted a field on the south side of the West Vine Drive east of The Prenzlows who lived in the stone house. They did grow beautiful Gladiolas.

Krispin Andersen - June 19, 2023 at 10:47 PM

SH

“ So many memories. Keith teaching me to play Chopsticks. Animating a skeleton with a record player. Singing songs on the (non-working) radio in the brown truck. Teaching me about gladiola biology. Mowing the CSU-Wyoming score in the grass. My favorite times were sitting around and listening to the "Shader Boys" stories. There are so many happy memories that I couldn't list them all. The best of all is always knowing I was loved.

Soni Shader Huffman - June 19, 2023 at 06:46 PM

CN

One of the best teachers and friends a person could ever have. I made sure my girls all knew him. Carolyn Wright Nukaya

Carolyn Wright Nukaya - June 20, 2023 at 10:08 AM

LP

*Sending all of my love to the family at this difficult time. Keith was the only reason I managed to pass high school Chemistry--he did a great job of tutoring me. Keith also shared so many memories of Harmony when I was publishing *In Search of Harmony*. His help is greatly appreciated.*

Lois Williamson Peltz - June 22, 2023 at 11:48 AM