

'Ordinary man' special to many

He was just an ordinary man who touched ordinary people in ordinary ways. However, to the hundreds attending the receiving and funeral at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church, Ross Wideman was anything but ordinary. He was extra-ordinary — a devoted husband; an adored father; a loving grandfather; a devout Christian; a trusted employee; a talented athlete and a faithful friend.



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

He died the same way as he lived, peacefully at home Feb. 8.

He was 86. Born at Dickson's Hill, one of five in the family of Herbert and Myrtle (Grove) Wideman, Ross lived much of his life in the area where he grew up. However, not even he could have imagined such an outpouring of admiration and respect for someone so humble.

Most were people whose lives he'd touched including granddaughter Amanda Wideman and Ivy's uncle, Alfred Woodland, both of whom travelled from Vancouver to attend.

Son and daughter-in-law Harold and Brenda Wideman, cut short their 25th anniversary holiday in The Bahamas, so they also could make it back in time.

Ross received his secondary school education at Markham High, then his teacher's certificate at Toronto Normal School.

Ross's classroom skills gained personal fulfillment, not through public schools but Sunday schools, including Missionary churches at Dickson's Hill, Altona and Stouffville. At one time, he played the saxophone. He also sang in a community quartet with brother Lloyd, neighbour Will Barkey and, according to Lloyd, whoever else happened to be around.

Ross was good at hockey but even better at baseball and fastball. Usual positions were third base, second base and short-stop. He also wielded a powerful bat.

Ross was even more prominently visible aboard his BSA motorcycle, a bike that transported him thousands of miles from coast-to-coast. He also rode it to work at Toronto Elevators. Later, when people enquired concerning a smaller model of a similar machine, he would joke: "Left out in the rain too long, it shrank."

For more than 33 years, Ross drove an oil truck for the Stouffville Co-operative, work he truly enjoyed. He was offered the job by George Timbers, then the firm's manager. Often, when customers realized supplies

were running low, Ross would gladly come to their aid, completing emergency calls on Saturdays and holidays. Without complaint.

While all these positives were moments to remember, Ross was first and foremost a family man. He and Ivy (Schneider) were married July 21, 1956 at Claremont Baptist Church. To this union was born three sons, Paul, (Vickie), of Cannington, Harold, (Brenda) and Norman, (Isola), of Stouffville, and one daughter, Lois, (Ron), also of Stouffville. There are 12 grandchildren.

Ross is also survived by two brothers, Harley, of Toronto; Lloyd of Dickson's Hill and one sister, Betty Balantyne-Brown of Markham. He was predeceased by an older brother Bruce.

Rev. Douglas Gray, formerly of Stouffville and now of Kitchener, described Ross as an individual "strong in physique and spiritual stature."

Several family members recounted the benefits of growing up in a church oriented atmosphere where those simple things of country life are all the more important to them now. They told of camping trips across Ontario as well as to the east and west coasts.

Sister Betty recalled the "special times" when they, as a family, would gather around the organ on Sunday afternoons.

Brother Lloyd said Ross was always someone with whom he could talk and confide.

"We're short on role models today," said friend and neighbour Bob Lewis, "Ross's children and grandchildren certainly benefited from one."

A family photo presentation was prepared at the service by son Paul. As a fitting conclusion, Ross's late nephew, Ed Wideman, a member of The Stamps Quartet, was featured in a recording of He Touched Me.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 50 years.

AND MAC CHEESE

When Cathy asks, as she always does, "what do you want for dinner?", I invariably reply "Mac and Cheese — or anything else", hoping against hope that more often than not I'll actually get Doreen's Mac and Cheese. It's the curl up in my easy chair type of meal that is the fitting end to a long and full day. Comfort food at it's finest.

Reg. \$10.95
Serves 3 to 4

25% OFF THIS WEEK

DRISCOLL RASPBERRIES

Life evolves — and so does the produce business. It wasn't that long ago that you could only get Chilean berries at this time of year. Fall and winter varieties of raspberries are now available almost year round — and to me the Driscoll variety is the best. We pay a bit more to get these, but I think you'll find that they're really good value! — and delicious, too!

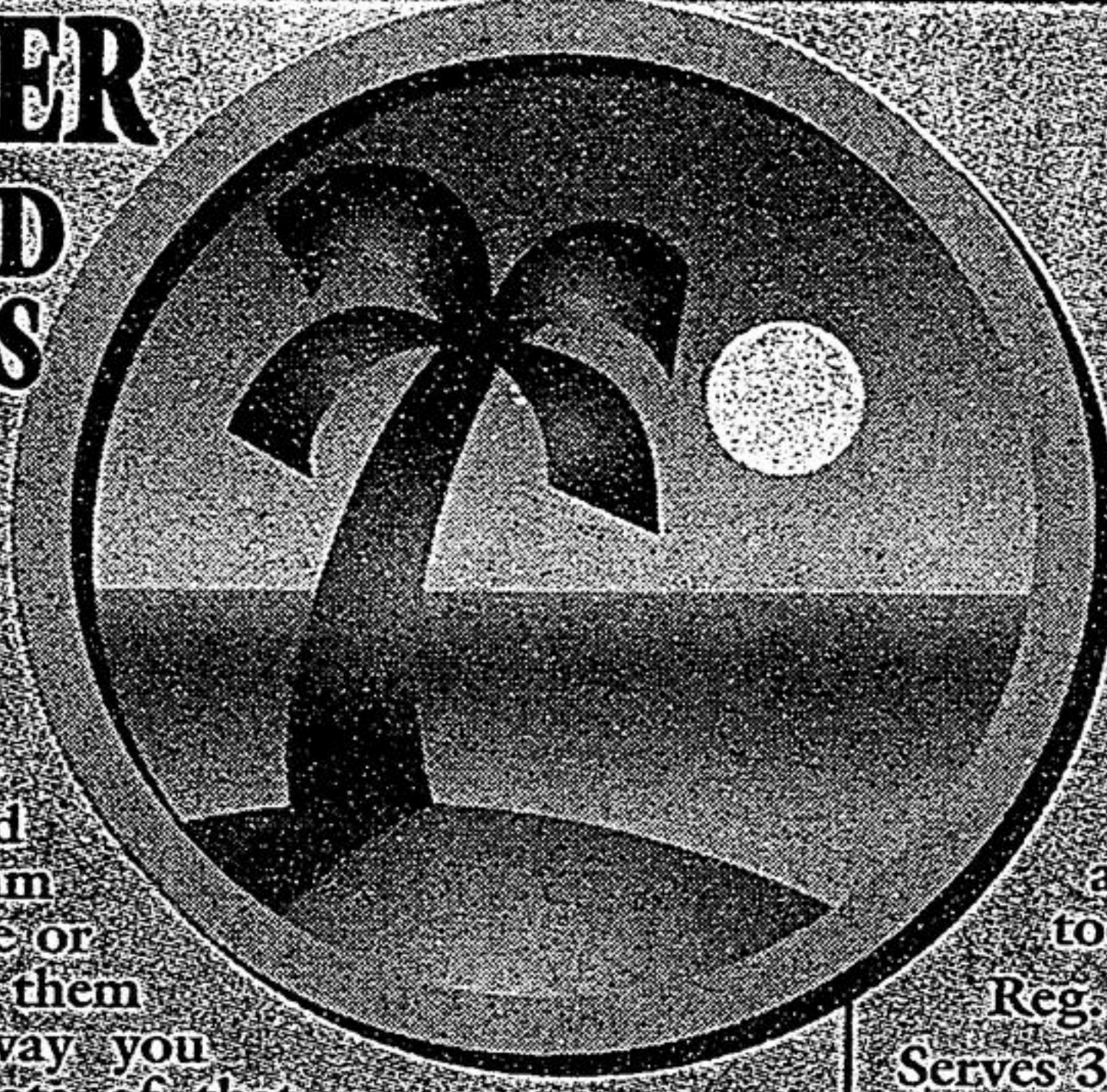
From California.

1.99
CONTAINER

KASSELER SMOKED PORK CHOPS

We've been making these for quite a few years now, and they've become very popular over time. When you get them, they're fully cooked — all you need do is warm them, steam them with red cabbage or sauerkraut, or even do them in the micro. Any way you choose, they've got lots of that 'smoked over oak' flavour.

Reg. \$5.95 lb.
Made Daily.



25% OFF THIS WEEK

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP!

With the number of people under the weather (and this would include most of my family), I feel that I'm doing my civic duty by prescribing our chicken soup. I'm not a doctor, but I know this feels good to the palate and the body going down — and get lots of rest, too!

Reg. \$5.99
Serves 3 to 4

25% OFF THIS WEEK

MEATLOAF

The last time we featured this (a year ago), I explained about my dear aunt Minnie and her meatloaf — and my mother-in-law's amazing meatloaf, as well. It turned out that I kicked a sleeping dog, so to speak, because that ad triggered an avalanche of customers, all with fond recollections of meatloaf from the past. Fast forward to the present and we'll be making lots of it for this week — in two sizes.

Large, which will serve 4 is **\$9.95**
and the smaller size, which will serve 1 or 2 will be **\$5.95**

TEXAN HOT SAUSAGES

These sausages are just full of flavour with a fair degree of heat. They're larger (like most things from Texas) than our other sausages and they're great grilled, if your BBQ is close, or roasted, if the oven is your choice.

Made daily.
Reg. \$3.99 lb.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

EXCITING! URN NEWS!

Anne Marie and I just returned from our buying trip to procure a good supply of neat and wonderful garden planters and urns. All this amazing stuff will arrive in good time for you (and us) to plant our little hearts out.

WHAT'S BAKING THIS WEEK!

When Jaana came to me with her list of features for this week — all chocolate — I said no, not chocolate — you've got to do a Tropical Island deal. I, among others, need a break from this winter, and so here goes

- KEYLIME PIES** — reportedly better than you can get in the Florida Keys **\$12.95** ea.
 - BANANA CREAM PIES** — with ripe bananas, our amazing custard and whipped cream. **\$12.95** ea.
 - COCONUT CREAM PIES** — with toasted coconut, coconut cream and custard. **\$12.95** ea.
 - PINA COLADA JELLY ROLLS** — filled with Pina Colada custard, which is made with everything that you'll find in the drink **\$14.95** ea.
 - CHEESECAKES in 3 VARIETIES** — there will be Margarita (Tequila, Grand Marnier, fresh lime and a bit of Amaretto), Strawberry Daiquiri (fresh strawberries, rum and lime) and lastly, Mango, (mango puree and fresh sliced mangoes).
All these will be in 2 sizes **\$12.95** and **\$20.95**
 - CRME BRULEES** — available in two varieties, Margarita, just like the drink and Chunky Monkey, with sliced bananas, Creme de Cacao, Banana Liqueur and chocolate **\$3.99** ea.
 - MUFFINS and SCONES** — Pina Colada, with fresh orange, pineapple and coconut **\$1.49** ea.
- And lastly,*
- TROPICAL FRUIT FLANS** — made in a shortbread crust, with custard, piled high with strawberries, mango, pineapple, oranges and kiwi **\$22.95** ea.

All of the items will be featured at

1/3 OFF THIS WEEK

SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26TH

Hours:

Mon. 11:00-7:00 ~ Tues. Thurs. 9:00-7:00 ~ Fri. 9:00-8:00

Sat. 9:00-6:00 ~ Sun. 10:00-5:00

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