



Mr. Bion John Manning, Sr.

July 6, 1909 - February 15, 2015

Mr. Bion John Manning, 105, of Cortland, passed away Sunday February 15, 2015 at Oak Hill Manor, Ithaca N.Y. Known as "B.J." to most, Bion John Manning was born near Spencer, New York on July 6, 1909 to Rufus George and Emma Brown Bliven Manning. The family lived on a small farm and his first business enterprise was raising chickens to produce eggs, the bulk of which were sent off to New York City by train. He graduated from Spencer High School in 1928, with 13 other classmates. His sister Grace Helen Foster died in 1966.

He married Hazel Howell Manning on Thanksgiving Day 1936 at the Methodist parsonage in Groton N.Y. The couple spent many happy hours and miles riding on a Harley Davidson. The couple made their first home in Syracuse and later in Liverpool, N.Y. They moved to Cortland in 1949 where they remained for the rest of their marriage. They had three children; Nancy S. Manning of Aberdeenshire Scotland, Haven C. Manning who died in 1944 and Bion J. Manning, Jr. of Elkins, West Virginia. Hazel preceded him in death in 1964.

He married Ruth Lord Manning in July 1966. Later in their retirement years, they moved to Walden Place in South Cortland. Ruth passed away in 2007.

He attended Cortland Normal School studying physical education.

Subsequently, he joined the Atlantic Refining Company in Syracuse N.Y. as a truck driver and later became a commissioned distributor for Atlantic Refining operating a bulk plant in Homer N.Y. He happily served many dairy farms that surrounded the Cortland area in the 1950 – 60's. The business was sold to Patch Bros. of Dryden, N.Y. and subsequently removed due to the I-81 Homer interchange placement. Over the years, he drove truck, retiring from A.R. Gundry Inc. of Syracuse N.Y. He had also worked briefly at carpentry. After he retired, he became a parking lot attendant at the Cortland Savings Bank and continued there for a quarter of a century, including the changeover to First Niagara. He became an iconic feature of the downtown scene making many acquaintances over the years at the parking lot. He was a member of the Homer Methodist Church.

There will be no hours of visitation. A private committal will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Riccardi Funeral Home, Cortland, N.Y. www.riccardifuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

RG

“ To the family of B.J. Manning, I would like to send my deepest condolences, B.J. will truly be missed. B.J. was definitely a legendary town "icon," who will ALWAYS be remembered for his abundant energy, exuberant personality and infectious smile. When growing up in Cortland and passing by the Cortland Savings bank, B.J. would often stop what he was doing to say something nice to my Mother and I. Over the years we became good friends and stayed friends, even after he and Ruth moved into Walden place. I lost track of him after that and have thought of him often. I hope he is now at peace with family and friends that have passed on before him. Respectfully, Berta

Roberta Barron Gabriel - May 18, 2018 at 11:07 AM

JW

“ Our sincere and heartfelt sympathy for the passing of Mr. Manning. He was a true gentleman and a wonderful friend and neighbor. We have very fond memories of BJ. He was always upbeat, very resourceful and meticulous in all that he did. BJ left a wonderful legacy and we learned so much from his wisdom and life experiences. He will truly be missed. John&Trica

Thoughts and prayers to his family.

John & Tricia Woodward - May 18, 2018 at 11:07 AM

LY

“ With "Cap's" passing many memories of my childhood have been replayed. His first wife, Hazel Howell was a favorite cousin to my Mother, Gertie Howell Decker. I can see him now enjoying those many, happy, Howell reunions he attended at my mother's. My love and prayers to BJ [Jr] and his sister, Nancy. Lynda Decker Blanford, Portsmouth, VA

Lynda - May 18, 2018 at 11:07 AM

LC

“ My husband, children and I lived next door to BJ and Ruth for many years before they moved to Walden. BJ was a kind and generous man who was always ready to lend a helping hand. Such a lovely man. Peace and prayers to his family. The Cutias

Lisa Cutia - May 18, 2018 at 11:07 AM

JH

“ My connection to Uncle B.J.was through his second wife,my Aunt Ruth. The first time I met him was when he and Ruth came to Oregon to visit my Mom, Norma, (Ruth's sister).I loved him from the start;what a fun,loving,happy man. We were blessed to stay with him & Ruth in a visit to NY in later years. It's one of my happiest memories. He was so gracious, took us to see friends and sights - a perfect host. Even tho I seldom was able to visit - he remains a very special memory in my heart. What a special man!

Joan Baker Hagstrom - March 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM