



## Theodore Wheelock

February 23, 2012

Theodore "Ted" H. Wheelock, age 92, of Richland Center died Thursday, February 23, 2012 at his home with his family by his side. He was born July 16, 1919 the son of Horace & Alphretta (Hawbecker) Wheelock. On December 16, 1950 he married Jeanne E. McQuaid in Wild Rose, WI. Ted graduated from Gibraltar High School, Fish Creek, WI, in 1937. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1944. Before joining the Navy, Ted attended college in La Crosse, WI. After World War II, he attended UW-Madison, and then graduated from UW-Platteville. He taught and coached for 33 years at Gratiot, Belleville, Pardeeville, and Richland Center, WI. For 20 years after retirement, he worked for Richland Community Programs. Ted was a member of the UW-Richland Campus View Corporation, and served the extended community as a long-time member of Kiwanis.

Ted loved music, playing tuba and string bass, and sang in choirs for many years. Known by many as a true sports enthusiast, Ted participated in competition sports, including speed skating, ski jumping, track, and all team sports. He enjoyed cross country skiing, bicycling treks, canoeing and fishing trips in The Boundary Waters and Canada with family and friends.

Deeply loved by his family and friends, Ted was known for his spirit of good cheer, great wit, and zest for life. He will be profoundly missed and fondly remembered with the greatest joy.

Survivors include his wife Jeanne of Richland Center, WI; nine children, Jane

(Paul) Sommers of Egg Harbor, WI, Sally Wheelock of Green Bay, WI, James (Tammie) Wheelock of Richland Center, WI, Robert (Chris) Wheelock of La Crosse, WI, Margaret Wheelock of Richland Center, WI, Barb Richardson of Richland Center, WI, Charles Wheelock of Madison, WI, Patty (Jason) Hill of Richland Center, WI, Kris Wheelock of Portage, WI, 21 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren; sister Dorothy Nicholson of Vancouver, WA; sister-in-law Beulah Steffen of Lake Forest, ILL; brother-in-law John Jans of Butte, CA; nieces, nephews other relatives & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter Mary Jeanne Wheelock; brothers John Wheelock & Donahue Wheelock; and a stepmother Berdella Wheelock.

A Memorial Visitation will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center with a time of sharing at 3:00 PM. Private burial services will be held at later date. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations in his memory to The Salvation Army. On line condolences, pictures & life stories can be made at [www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ Dear Jeanne,

*I was so saddened to see Ted's obituary in the paper. Memories rushed in of good times when we were newlyweds together at the PTC trailer court , Ted taught in Gratiot and my ex and I taught in South Wayne, and when you visited us when we first bought the house in Monona. (I have a photo of your daughter, Jane, in my ex's T-shirt that substituted for her nightie when you stayed with us.)*

*We have traversed different paths through the years, but I will always remember happy times with you and Ted. My very deepest and heartfelt sympathy to you and your family for your great loss.*

*Blessings,  
Jo*

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**Jo Richards - Monona, WI - former PRC classmate** - March 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *I always looked forward to meeting Ted on the street or at an athletic event. He was such a sweet man, and always had a smile for me. His memory was amazing, and we always talked about biking or canoeing. He will be missed, but I'm sure there is a place in heaven for him. He served as an example to many of what a man should be. You all in his family are so lucky to have had him for all those years - you are very blessed, and I know he treasured all of you!*

*My thoughts will be with you as you go through the days of missing him, but I'm sure you will be comforted by all your wonderful memories.*

*In friendship,  
Lindy Cooke*

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**Lindy Cooke - Richland Center, WI - friend** - March 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ So many wonderful memories come to mind!! I will always think of him with his bright smile and enthusiasm for life. He taught my brother Brian & me how to fish and we ate moose meat for the first time with him (just 2 kids from NY, wow!).

Another fond moment was when he & Aunt Jeanne drove to California for my brother, Brad's wedding in 1991. It meant so much to all of us having just lost Mom the year before. The best part was that tied atop of their car, was the canoe...how very Uncle Ted!!

Thank you Aunt Jeannie, Jane, Sally, Jim, Bob, Margaret, Charlie, Barbara, Patty, & Kris for sharing him with all of we other "McQuaid" cousins!! Hugs to you all!!

Cousin Lisa

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Lisa Swearingen Nesbit - Alta Loma, CA - niece - March 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Ted will long be remembered from my early days (early 1980s) with him in the Trinity UMC choir. His quick wit, humor, and twinkle in his eye always had the "boys in the back row" laughing about something. Gosh! Ted could even get our director, the late Ardis Verhulst, to laugh!

My other fond memory of Ted will be seeing him in those years after his retirement biking around Richland Center. I was jealous because Ted always was so physically active and in much better shape than I ever will be.

Farewell, Ted, and thanks for many a pleasant memory.

Paul Murphey

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Paul Murphey - Richland Center, WI - Trinity UMC Member - March 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ I was truly blessed to have Mr. Wheelock as a Phy Ed teacher, 2 of my 4 high school years. It was as if I won the lottery twice, as he didn't do many Phy Ed classes back then. He was very nice but demanded that we pay attention, do our best & take it seriously. You could tell that he practiced what he preached way back then, & I was greatly inspired years later to see him riding his bicycle & hearing about his canoeing. An RC legend for sure.

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**Carl Bethke - Richland Center, WI - classmate of Jane** - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Thank you for sharing the wonderful photos of Mr. Wheelock and the loves of his life. He truly was an inspiration to everyone he met-- especially to stay active and involved in life!

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**Judith Hanzel - San Antonio , TX - Former Student** - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ He took me up to one of his spots in Lone Rock one day when I was living with them. He was teaching me how to hold my paddle and which good strokes were better for speed vs. just cruising. A blue heron took off right above us, and we both shouted "That was TREMENDOUS!" at the same time. I looked back, he winked, and we started laughing. Grandpa, you've definitely rubbed off on me.

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**Leah Wilbur - Madison, WI - Granddaughter** - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Mr. Wheelock was my teacher at the Gratiot High School. My condolences and thoughts to you, Mrs. Wheelock and your family.

*Mary Catherine Wardell*

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**Mary Catherine (Ganshert) Wardell - Monona, WI** - February 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *It sounds like he had a very blessed and fulfilled life. Keep his memories in your heart ... may he rest in peace..*

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**Sylvia Barone - Barrington, IL - friend** - February 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *I think its fair to say that great men are hard to find. In fact more often it seems that they may not exist. Sure there are good guys out there but Grandpa Wheelock epitomized how I aspire to live! The kind of man that people will talk about for years to come! He made a difference in a countless number of lives... I mention his name to people from Richland Center I run across that I've not meet ... As soon as I mention that I'm Ted's Grandson, its as if a bond is formed & words of admiration never fail!*

*In me experiencing that, I know what kind of man he was! Saying that he was happy, kind, considerate, a gentleman willing to help anyone, witty: those are a given. He was so much more! Simply mentioning his name brings a smile to people's face! A TRUE ROLE MODEL*

*Memories of our canoe trip and the packer game my cousins and I attended with Grandpa, will be treasured forever!*

*While the loss hurts.... The memories are filled with joy!*

*Grandpa you will never be forgotten!  
I LOVE YOU!*

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**Joe Brown** - February 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *What a beautiful person, what a beautiful life. Psssst, listen: the bells toll for Ted. Celebrate!*

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**Jose D. Flores, Jr - Richland Center, WI - Friend of Barb** - February 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ I loved sitting with Ted and hearing about all the canoe races and canoe trips that he as done. Then loading up the canoes and traveling to these "secret" spots and hearing stories of when Ted used to do wilderness tripping. There hasn't been a trip yet that we haven't talked about Ted and I'm sure there never will be. I love finding portages that we know Ted has traveled. I plan to continue enjoying the lakes and portages Ted has traveled and share them with my family. Although now we will not be able to tell you about the trip in person, I hope you will be with us on every trip.....and steering us to some good fishing.

*I still remember racing against Ted, at the age of 90. Tristan and I had made a practice run the day before and Ted picked us up. He asked about it and we told him our stagey. There was a slight grin on his face, more than usually, as we talked. Well the next day came and well we should have been asking Ted for more advise. I will never forget coming around the corner of our "shortcut" and seeing Ted and Jim way ahead of us. And then thinking "we just got beat by someone 90 years old".*

*Ted you were awesome!!!!*

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**Patrick Casper - Granddaughter's Husband** - February 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ I don't know if you remember us but we were a newly married couple living at the lake in Pardeeville, in 1955-56, near to your place and also Dick and Erma Davis were neighbors. I was the principal at the grade school for one year before going back to Whitewater for my degree. At the time we were there I think you had two children. Carol worked at the plant that made scoreboards .Since that time we have 4 daughters, 9 grandchildren, and four great-grand children and we are retired and living in Cassville very near to the Mississippi River.

*Our sympathy on the loss of a husband, father and grandfather, and our prayers for strength and hope for a time like this.*

*Len and Carol Demert, 301 Wyota Street, Cassville Wi 53806*

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**Len & Carol Demert - Cassville, WI - Friends** - February 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ I canoe raced with Ted in the late 60s and early 70s We spent many early mornings practicing on the pine river. We would go up the river and then come down as fast as we could. One particular morning going as fast as we could we hit a branch and tipped over. I thought he would be mad but he just started laughing and in no time we were both laughing,

Thanks to Ted , he instilled in me a love for canoeing which has lasted to this day. Shortly after my canoe racing with Ted, I bought my own sawyer canoe which I still have 38 years later. That love has been passed on to my own family which has taken many canoe trips to the boundary waters and other places.

I feel I am a better person for having known Ted  
Bless your family

Sincerely,

Larry J. Fritz

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Larry J. Fritz - Tomah, WY - Friend - February 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ My heart goes out to the family. A few years ago I saw Mr Wheelock at the V A hospital in Madison. He talked to me like we were old friends. He was truly one of a kind. The Heavens have a new Angel....

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Katie Blair - Pardeeville, WI - February 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ I remember running up and down the long staircase and the String Bass was parked at the bottom landing, I felt a sense of class every time I passed by it.  
Thank You Ted for raising the bar for all of us.

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**Barbi Hillehiem - Richland Center, WI - good friend of daughter Patty -**  
February 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ I grew up with Ted's Daughter Patti. My dad taught with Mr. Wheelock at the HS. They all lived just down the street from me and I walked by his house every day on the way to HS. I remember Mr. Wheelock always being positive and smiling with lots of energy! I love his family and even though it has been many years since I have seen him, I will truly miss him. He showed me what importance exercise and fitness was to my well being. Thanks Mr. Wheelock, you will be missed.

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**Becky "Gerdes" Hyde - Petaluma , CA -** February 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ I love you Grandpa

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**Jennifer Casper - Chilton, WI - Granddaughter -** February 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ Mrs. Wheelock,  
Our sincere condolences to you and all your family. Ted was a very special coach,teacher,mentor and friend. He made a tremendous impact on my life and I will never forget him. He will be missed by all the people he touched through the years.

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**Vern and Gloria Geishert Family - Richland Center - Former Player and Friend -**  
February 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ I remember Coach Ted teaching all of us RC kids how to swim during summer swim lessons at the big sandy bottom pool at Kroscup Park back in the 60's. He was a singer in the choir at Trinity Methodist Church for many years with my Mom & Dad, Ardis & Jacob Verhulst. Our families were close and friends for years. We and Richland Center all have fond memories of the always chipper and fun Mr. Ted Wheelock. He will be missed by all.

**Bill Verhulst - Plano, TX - Student and friend of family** - February 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

A(

“ I was best friends with his daughter Kris. I spent so much time with the Wheelock's that I felt very much apart of their family. Ted is a dad everyone wants to have. I loved the Wheelock's because I was an only child, and their house was full of fun and noise and people. I am praying for his family now.

**Angelica Hoskin - Onalaska,, WI - Friend of Kris Wheelock (daughte** - February 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ When I was a poor collage student, new to RC, Mr. Wheelock saw me walking by the football game, and invited me in to watch the game,. "Get a feel for Richland Center" He's been my friend ever since. He was quite an inspiration running up Bashford Hill. I will miss him.

**Diane Brinkley - WI** - February 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Family in their time of loss.

**Debra Adams - Madison, WI - Friend of Maggie and Jim** - February 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ I played baseball for Coach Wheelock in '78 and '79. In addition to coaching the team he always drove the bus to our away games which was the source of many memorable adventures, from the "short cuts" that he would take us on, to the near miss crossing a narrow bridge at the same time as an approaching feed truck, while he chuckled - we never had an accident and he always got us to the game much to our amazement and amusement! I also was always amazed over the years since he retired from teaching at how active he was. He was always riding his bike, walking, or driving by the house with his canoe on the top of the car!

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**Keith Ruetten - Richland Center - former ball player at RCHS - February 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

SW

“ Jim and family, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your loved one. Thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Sue Anderson - Richland Center, WI - February 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM**