



Resident Jim Fox

Jim was born and raised in Beardstown, Illinois. His parents were Vivian and Harlan Fox. Jim has three brothers and three sisters. They only lived three blocks from the river, but Jim never really cared for it. When he grew up, Jim worked as a Tree Topper and cut firewood. He had this occupation for 42 years. At the same time he also worked at Kent Feed for 25 years. He had to retire at 58 after having knee surgery.

Jim has two children. His son, Kenneth, is a commercial fisherman. His daughter, Lori lives in Peru Indiana. She is currently working at a car dealership, but plans on retiring soon.

For 14 years, Jim and His wife, Dora, spent the winters in Mission Texas. Also, during his retirement, Jim took on the hobby of wood-working. He sold his creations from his home and at different craft

sales. They often participated in the Spoon River Drive and Heritage Days. They also attended Sweet Corn Festivals and the Watermelon Festivals in Iowa. Whenever the event was not local, they would load up their 35' motor home and a 22' Cargo trailer and hit the road. After arriving they would set up a 52' space to sell his merchandise. It was a lot of work for a hobby!

Jim made so many different products it is hard for him to name them all. A few examples of his creations were collectible doll furniture, nick-knacks, quilt racks, shelves, personalized signs for businesses and homes, yard art, and Christmas décor such as reindeer and nativity scenes. Jim also crafted wall art plaques. One example is the 23rd Psalm which took 168 hours to complete. It is 32 inches wide and 41 inches tall. He has five of these pieces hanging in churches around the country. Jim has also made The Lord's Prayer, and the face of Jesus plaques.

I wish I could see some of his creations. Hopefully his family will bring a few photos in for us to see. We are very blessed to have Jim staying here at Everly. He is an interesting fellow with a fun personality.

