



## Ralph Edwin Bonnell

February 13, 1933 - May 24, 2016

Ralph E. Bonnell, 83, of Dewey, died Tuesday in Dewey.

Ralph was born to Everett E. and Luella (Wiggins) Bonnell on Feb. 13, 1933, in Cedar Vale, KS. He was raised and educated in Cedar Vale and after graduating Ralph entered junior college in Arkansas City, KS. Shortly after, he enlisted in the Navy Sea Bees, but while in transit to Korea the war ended. He was then sent to the Philippines where he worked in the modification of the Subic Bay naval base, and also served in the Aleutian Islands. After honorable discharge, he continued his education at South Western College in Winfield, earning a bachelor's degree in business. While in Arkansas City he met Mary Jones at the local café she worked at. Ralph started his career with Phillips Petroleum Co. in 1964 and a year later, Mary joined him after they got married on Dec. 13, 1965, in Sedan, KS. They moved to their current home in 1972 a year after their son John was born. Ralph worked for 27 years at the research center on a wide range of projects, many of which led to products we take for granted today.

Ralph had many passions in life but music and cars were his favorites. He enjoyed many different genres but he especially loved to play guitar and sing country music. He started to write his own music after he turned 70. He was known for his Studebakers and his Gremlin which he still drove regularly around town. Ralph was a super fan of the Beatles, he admired the fact that the fab four were all equally talented and performed their own individual music. Ralph felt their music touched the soul in a way that has been lost in

the modern era. Ralph's son John admired his father and they were best friends - John recalls his friends admired Ralph for being "too cool for this world." Ralph was John's greatest fan and supporter. He will be dearly missed by many, but most of all John.

Ralph is survived by his son John Evan Bonnell of Dewey. He is preceded in death by his loving wife and his parents.

Memorial services will be held 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 28, at the Davis Family Funeral Home Chapel, with Chaplin Mike McDougan officiating. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared with Ralph's family at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY 28. 2:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home - Dewey Chapel

113 S Osage Ave

Dewey, OK 74029

(918) 534-3030

davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall

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“ During the early 1970s Ralph was sent up to our lab for a short time. I so enjoyed the time we had while he was assigned there. Ralph knew more facts and stats regarding automobiles than anyone else I'd met then or now! He knew much about the lesser car manufacturers like Studebaker, Packard, Cord along with Graham. Cars which by then were largely only a memory. Also enjoyed learning of his experiences while in the SeaBees during the 1950s. Actually Ralph was a 'one and only'.....have never met anyone like him since. So enjoyed knowing him.

Charlie Leigh

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Charles Leigh - May 27, 2016 at 02:25 PM