

A Tribute to Peter A. Lewis: Farmer, Developer and Owner



Peter was born in Atkinson, N.H. on March 1, 1940 and lived his entire life up to his passing on May 28, 2008. Peter left this earth quietly and unassuming. It is very hard to properly describe such a unique and gifted man.

He was the president and driving force behind Lewis Builders Development Co., one of NH's leading home building companies which has provided over 2,000 homes in various communities within the surrounding area. With its headquarters in his beloved Atkinson, Lewis Builders recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

He also created several various and successful business ventures, including Hampstead Area Water Company, East Coast Lumber Building Supply Co., and the Atkinson Resort & Country Club.

Peter considered the Country Club his greatest achievement of his lifetime. Just prior to his passing he oversaw the beginning of construction of the Willowcreek Golf Academy, which will offer professional golf lessons and fittings, as well as 12 covered and heated hitting bays for year round practice. Construction has begun on a nine hole par three golf course, which will enable the beginner and time restrained golfer to enjoy a game of golf, as well as anticipated construction to begin on the first of 9 (32 unit buildings) for the 55+ community. Finishing touches on an additional 12.2 million gallon irrigation storage pond are being completed.

Peter was a native and lifelong resident of Atkinson. His family has lived and participated in Atkinson public life for over five generations. Through all his life's tests, he had the strength and intellect to succeed. He was truly a man of few words, but when he chose to use them, they were profound and accurate. He had the vision to see a future that most of us could only imagine. His ability to solve abstract and complicated issues was a constant source of amazement and pride for his family.

Coming from a modest beginning growing up on a dairy farm in Atkinson, he succeeded far beyond anyone's dream. He never lost his grounding or his sense of who he was or where he was going.

Peter was happiest on his tractor and truly loved his family and his life as a frustrated farmer. Even though he was the owner, it wasn't unusual to see Pete operating construction equipment or handling a shovel side by side with his employees. Pete's only regret as the businesses grew was that he wasn't able to do more hands on and have that feeling of accomplishment at the end of the day for doing a hard days work.

He will be sadly missed by his family and his employees who are like extended family. Peter's legacy will continue on through his family being managed by his daughter Christine Lewis Morse with the help of his dedicated employees. As for Pete's first love, his farm, his wife Alice and son-in-law Harold Morse will be seen tending to the farm. You will still see the cows and horses grazing in the fields.

From the Lewis family please accept our sincere thanks for the tremendous display of respect shown towards Peter after his passing. We were overwhelmed by the kindness shown by family, friends, employees and acquaintances either at the Celebration of Peter's Life, by cards or gestures in kindness. Each and every one of us have in some way been touched by our having known a tremendous down to earth man and we will all carry something special to remember him by.