

Everett F. Sieckmann | 1928-1997



Everett F. Sieckmann, photo taken about 1929; internet copy provided by Sharlene Miller nee Sieckmann.

Everett Frederick Sieckmann was born on 31 December 1928 at 5:55 a.m. either in Fillmore County, Nebraska¹ or in Alexandria, Thayer County, Nebraska.² He was the youngest child of Fred W. and Ruth E. Sieckmann nee Schafer. His parents were both 35 years of age when he was born. He had only one sibling, his brother, Leslie George Sieckmann, who was born in 1920. Everett was baptized as an infant on 07 July 1929 at the Ohioa Methodist Church.³ He died on 07 May 1997 at a nursing home in Moscow, Latah County, Idaho. His remains were transported back to Fillmore County, Nebraska for burial in the Ohioa Public Cemetery. His funeral services and burial were held on 13 May 1997.⁴

As a child, he lived with his parents on the family farm in Fillmore County, Nebraska. Everett helped his father with farming as a young boy. They did not have all the modern conveniences that are available today. Everett used to help his dad plow using draft horses. As a child he did many unusual things. One day when he was only 2 or 3 years old he decided to climb to the top of the windmill. His mother noticed

that he was missing and began to look for him. There he was at the top of the windmill. This was quite a frightening experience for her as she was afraid he might fall or that the blades of the windmill would seriously injure or kill her little boy. Another time he decided he would like to sit on the wall near the ceiling. There was a nail in the wall for hanging a picture. Little Everett hung his small child's chair from the nail and climbed up to sit on the chair. There his mother found him sitting high upon the wall. When he was a bit older, it was a common sight to see him riding or standing on the backs of the cows or horses.

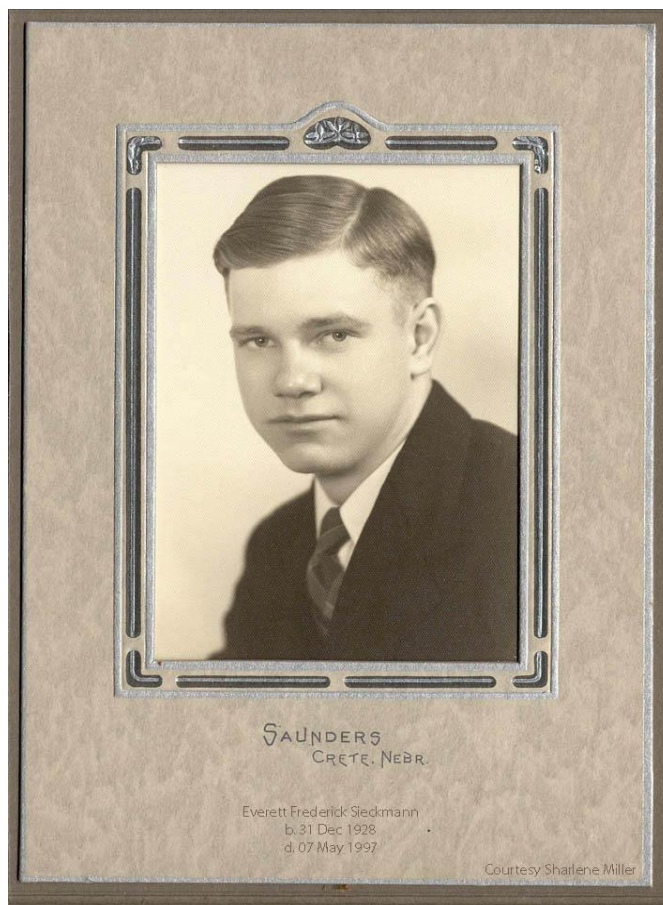
¹ Nebraska Department of Public Welfare, Division of Vital Statistics Bureau of Health, birth certificate, no. 25518 (1929), Everett Frederick Sieckmann; Bureau of Health - Division of Vital Statistics, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 5065, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA 68509-5065.

² Conversation with Lois Sieckmann, wife of Everett F. Sieckmann held in 2000. Lois Sieckmann states that her mother-in-law told her that Everett was born at the doctor's office.

³ Ohioa Methodist Church (Fillmore County, Nebraska), Certificate of Baptism, Everett Frederick Sieckmann, (07 July 1929); Sieckmann family papers, Sharlene K. Miller, CG, 20788 Orchard Lane, St. Joseph, Missouri, USA 64505

⁴ Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, death certificate, no. 82138, Everett F. Sieckmann; Center for Vital Statistics and Health Policy, 450 W. State Street, 1st Floor, Boise, Idaho, USA 83720-9990.

Not all of his time was spent thinking up unusual things to do. Like the other young children in rural Fillmore County, Everett attended a one-room school called District #9 for grades 1 through 8. After graduating from the 8th grade, he continued his education at Ohioa High School for grades 9 through 12.⁵ Everett was valedictorian of the Class of 1946.⁶ Following graduation from high school, Everett attended Doane College in Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. He graduated from Doane College with a B.S. degree in chemistry, mathematics and physics in 1950.⁷ He continued his education at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, graduating in 1952 with an M.S. degree in physical chemistry. After completing his M.S. degree, he went to Ithaca, New York to study at Cornell University for his Ph.D. degree. He earned his doctorate degree in theoretical physics in 1960.⁸



Everett accepted a position of assistant professor of physics at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He taught there from 1957 to 1962. He then was hired by the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho to teach physics as an associate professor. In 1967 he was promoted to full professor and he continued to teach physics at the University of Idaho until his retirement in 1988.⁹

Everett had many interests besides physics and chemistry. During the summer months he enjoyed camping, hiking and backpacking in the mountains of Idaho. He owned burros, which he used to help with backpacking.

⁵ Conversation with Lois Sieckmann, wife of Everett F Sieckmann held in 2000.

⁶ Ohioa High School, Class of 1946, Graduation Program, entry showing Everett F Sieckmann as speaker of valedictory; privately held by Sharlene K. Miller, CG, 20788 Orchard Lane, St. Joseph, Missouri, USA 64505.

⁷ Obituaries: Everett F. Sieckmann, *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*, Moscow, Idaho, 10 May 1997, page 3A, columns 1-3.

⁸ Obituaries: Everett F. Sieckmann, *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*, Moscow, Idaho, 10 May 1997, page 3A, columns 1-3.

⁹ Obituaries: Everett F. Sieckmann, *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*, Moscow, Idaho, 10 May 1997, page 3A, columns 1-3.



Everett Sieckmann was married Lois Lavone Rippe on 28 August 1951 in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida. They were married at the Trinity Methodist Church of Tallahassee.¹⁰ She was the daughter of Henry Edward and Louise Albertina Wilhelmine Rippe nee Hintz. Everett and Lois Sieckmann were the parents of two daughters, Sharlene Katherine Sieckmann and Christine Elizabeth Sieckmann. Sharlene was born while they lived in Ithaca, New York and Christine was born while they lived in Lexington, Kentucky.

¹⁰ Trinity Methodist Church (Tallahassee, Florida), Certificate of Marriage, Sieckmann - Rippe marriage, (28 August 1951); Sieckmann family papers, Sharlene K. Miller, CG, 20788 Orchard Lane, St. Joseph, Missouri, USA 64505.