



## Ralph N. Hoaglund

December 29, 1925 - February 15, 2017

Ralph Hoaglund, 91, of Homestead, Wisconsin, passed away on February 15, 2017 at ManorCare Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Kingsford, Michigan.

Ralph was born on December 29, 1925 in Iron Mountain, Michigan, to Edwin and Esther (Thomas) Hoaglund. A lifelong resident of the area, Ralph attended grade school in Homestead, and graduated with the Kingsford High School class of 1943. After High School, he enlisted in the Navy, serving the last half of WWII in the South Pacific, reaching the rate of Petty Officer Second Class, Radioman.

In May of 1948, Ralph married Rhoda Osterberg, who became his right arm in all of his ventures. They enjoyed 66 years, in fact just one day short of 67 years, before Rhoda passed in May of 2014.

In the early 1950's, Ralph took over his father's dairy farm for a few years, but gave that up in favor of retail employment with Montgomery Ward before assuming the position of General Manager of the Florence County Cooperative in Aurora, Wisconsin. During his 25 years there, he greatly expanded the services that the Co-op offered to its members. Professional associations related to his service at the Co-op included Loan Officer and Assistant Treasurer of the Co-op Credit Union, Chairman of the Midland Manager's Association of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and General

Chairman of the Midland Managers' Association in Minneapolis.

Ralph took pride in service to his community including as a Charter Member of the Homestead-Aurora Conservation Club, serving as President or Secretary for nearly fifty years. Ralph also served on the Homestead Town Board as a Supervisor for ten years. Being a historian at heart, Ralph helped celebrate the Homestead Centennial in 1994 by writing *The Town of Homestead: From Things I Have Heard and Things I Remember* with input from the community and much help from his first cousin, Marion Hoaglund.

In his "retirement" Ralph worked as a Logger and Sawyer, then tried his hand at making maple syrup, and what started as a hobby turned into an award-winning business. Ralph and Rhoda were honored in 1991 at the North American Maple Syrup Convention with the first place award for light amber syrup and in 1997 as the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producer of the year. In his second "retirement" he turned his Sugar Shack into a wood-working shop, where he continued to work with the wood from his beloved Peaceful Acres.

In addition to his parents and wife, Ralph was preceded in death by his brother Bob, his grand-daughter Heather LaBine Bahr, his son-in-law David LaBine, and his son-in-law Barry Reinheimer.

Ralph is survived by his three children, Rhonda LaBine of DePere, Wis., Wesley Hoaglund and Susan Reinheimer both of Orlando, Fl., sister Janet (Melvin) Dahl of Arlington Heights, Ill.; grandchildren Andrea and Brian LaBine, Axel and Emily Reinheimer; great-grandchildren Alexis, Indica, Olivia, Shonn and Seth; and great-great grandchild Chloe, with another on the way. Ralph was very proud of his family and their contributions to society.

In accordance with Ralph's wishes, private family services will be held at a later date. Burial will be in the Aurora-Homestead Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com).

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## **Homestead-Aurora Cemetery**

1372 Osterberg Parkway  
Niagara, WI 54151

# Tribute Wall



“ *Håkan Sjöberg lit a candle in memory of  
Ralph N. Hoaglund* ”



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**Håkan Sjöberg** - February 26, 2017 at 02:49 PM



“ Ralph, thanks for unforgettable memories together with you and Rhoda.

We have always lived far apart from each other so the possibilities to meet haven't been many but when we met, we felt we met really good friends.

The first time we met was in 1976. We were members of a Swedish folkdancegroup visiting the U.S. and we were invited to stay with American families. We were fortunate to stay at Ralph and Rhoda's for some wonderful days.

In 1979 we met again, this time in Sweden. We had a day in Stockholm and showed you the city, the royal castle, the ship Wasa, the old part of the city and more. We ended the tour in the evening at a very old restaurant called Gyllene freden. After dinner you asked "Now, you've showed us a lot of old things here, don't you have anything new here in Sweden?"

In 2004 once again we had the privilege to see you stay with us for a few days, with Rhoda as your travel guide. One day we took a trip to Riala, in the middle of nowhere, to listen to a concert with the fiddler Per Sörman. We didn't find any good place during the trip to get some lunch, nor did they serve lunch in Riala except Swedish fika. Luckily they had a small lottery and we won the first prize, a bucket with lots of food for a picnic, so we had late lunch in the car. On our way home we stopped in Uppsala at McDonald's to have midnight dinner, which we thought was a little embarrassing, you find it funny.

2008 we travelled to the U.S. and were invited to stay at the Peaceful Acres with you. We will always remember those days, The Fried Fish Friday, the Friday Night Dance and the midnight snack at

*Ginette's place.*

*Tack för allt.*

*Håkan, Ewa och Lisa*

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**Håkan Sjöberg** - February 26, 2017 at 02:47 PM

BB

“ *Ralph will be dearly missed. He and Rhoda were such an asset to our area. I am sure Rhoda is smiling welcoming him home in heaven. My life is a lot richer for having had the privilege to work with them. Rest in peace Ralph.*

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**barbara bauer** - February 21, 2017 at 10:28 PM

KW

“ *My cousin, Ralph was a notable historian, writer and an interesting conversationalist. He was also known as a kind and honest man who served his country, his community and his family well.*

*He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by me and my family.*

*With sympathy for your loss,  
Kathy Witynski*

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**Kathy Witynski** - February 18, 2017 at 10:18 AM

SW

“ *Ralph and Rhoda were neighbors of ours and they were always very thoughtful and kind. He will be missed. Our condolences are with you all. May you find comfort knowing that he is now resting in peace with our Lord. Our prayers and thoughts are with you. Al and Sharon Weber*

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**sharon and allan weber** - February 17, 2017 at 04:43 PM

DW

*Peaceful Acres was a big part of my childhood. Ralph and Rhoda make up so many memories for me. I used to spend so much time with Rhonda and enjoyed all the time I spent there. Ralph and Rhoda always had lots of animals and made it a fun place to be. I am sending you Rhonda, and all your family sincere sympathy. I wish I could be there for you , but know I am thinking of you from a distance.*

*Love, Donna*

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**Donna Walstrom** - February 17, 2017 at 05:47 PM

MB

*I've have great memories of the times I spent at the Hoagland farm. What a great family. God's blessings to you all.*

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**Mark Bjorkman** - February 18, 2017 at 08:32 AM

PA

*The entire Hoaglund Family always welcomed me in their Florence, Wisconsin home. As a city person, I've been acquainted with few farmers though Ralph and Rhoda showed me a side of life directly connected to their heritage and the land. Peace be with you all Wes, Sue and Rhonda.*

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**Paul Abramson** - February 23, 2017 at 10:06 AM