

Thomas Van Hoose put enthusiasm into likfe projects

SUSAN BERO Nov 27, 1996

CEDAR LAKE - Thomas Andrew Van Hoose put his heart and soul into everything he did.

"He loved life and everything about it," daughter Terri Rae Bigheart said.

"He just wanted to take everything in and he did."

Bigheart said this was reflected in the many interests he pursued. "There was nothing he couldn't do," she added.

Her father chiseled the likenesses of birds, dogs and other creatures from woods, had the ability to bring a crowd to tears with his vocal rendition of "Old Shep" and then have them on their feet clapping to the beat of his banjo.

"He had so many talents," his daughter added.

Mr. Van Hoose, 71, of Cedar Lake, died Nov. 18, following a battle with cancer.

Bigheart said her father's musical skills knew no boundaries. In addition to singing and strumming the banjo, her father could play guitar, horns and harmonica.

This versatility made him an asset to Little Willie's Recreation Vehicle Park band in Arcadia, Fla., where her parents spent the winter months, Bigheart said.

Her father also had a fondness for the great outdoors, and sports that included hunting, fishing and golfing.

Mr. Van Hoose enjoyed reading, attending air shows and was known for always wearing a "wall-to-wall smile."

"Papo had a great life, he really did."

Mr. Van Hoose served with the U.S. Navy during World War II, was a retired mechanical foreman supervisor for Inland Steel, a member of the Cedar Lake American Legion Post 261 and the Cedar Lake Amvets.

He is survived by his wife, Donna; son, Thomas (Janie) Van Hoose of Cedar Lake; daughter, Terri Rae Bigheart of Lake Dalecarlia; sister, Toddie Beaty of Bluffton, Ind.; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Dorothy (George) Harshfield of Chadron, Neb.; nieces and nephews; special friend, Laurie Dejarlain; and beloved friends from Little Willie's Recreational Vehicle Park.

Services were Nov. 21 at the First Baptist Church of Cedar Lake. The Rev.

David Nykamp officiated. Arrangements were handled by the Eller-Brady Funeral Home in Cedar Lake.

Interment took place at Chapel Lawn Memorial Cemetery, Schererville.