

Ortonville newspaper publisher Kaercher dies

Associated Press

Ortonville, Minn.

L.A. (Lem) Kaercher, 89, a newspaper publisher, former legislator and veteran gate-crasher, died Thursday in Ortonville.

Kaercher once said he had fun getting into events without a ticket or an invitation. "I don't need a ticket for anything," he said.

He was one of 11 children of the late Aaron B. and Gertrude Kaercher, who traveled to Minnesota in the 1880s and founded the town of Preston.

Kaercher left home to ride the rails as a youth, returning later to enter several businesses. He and his father

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Kaercher
founded the weekly Ortonville Independent and radio station KDIO in Ortonville. Kaercher served as senior publisher of the Independent and the Northern Star, also a weekly. He wrote a column called "Lemon Drops" in the Independent. He held a seat in the Minnesota Legislature in the late 1950s.

He remained active in the newspaper business and continued his travels until he was stricken with pneumonia three months ago. He never fully recovered, according to his son Jim.

The funeral is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at Ortonville's First Congregational Church.

Survivors are his son Jim; daughter



Lem Kaercher
1958 photo

Barbara McCarthy of Indianapolis, Ind.; a sister, Marjorie Eastvold of Willmar; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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