

# Hard work and family is the center of Allard's 100 years

By Ginna Young

Chester “Chet” Paul Allard Sr., Holcombe, has been known as many things over his 100 years on this earth, but a hard-working family man – who loves to laugh and tease – is at the top of the list.

Born April 16, 1923, to Paul and Mildred (Hunt) Allard, in Holcombe, Chet was one of seven children living on the family farm. Growing up, Chet’s family didn’t have electricity and had to put heated rocks in bed at night to stay warm. He also milked cows by hand, sitting on a metal stool.

“I didn’t stay on the farm,” said Chet.

He attended Holcombe High School, then entered the Army in 1943, serving in France and Germany, in World War II.

He returned home in 1946, and married Bernice Thatcher in 1947, where they made their home in Holcombe. Chet worked for Barney Walters at the elevator and did many different jobs while there.

The couple raised five children during that time – three boys and two girls – but it was hard to make a living in this area, so they packed up and moved to Illinois. Chet worked in the

construction trade, where three more boys were born to the family.

Chet was dealt a blow in 1981, when Bernice was lost to him from cancer. He later retired from construction after 55 years.

He then spent winters in Arizona, and summers with his children in Illinois, until he married Betty Bowers in 1992. The two purchased a house in Crivitz, wintering in Arizona, and traveling to Alaska, Germany and many places in the United States.

Sadly, Betty passed away in 2003, so Chet sold their Crivitz home, and moved in with his daughter in Holcombe, for 10 years, continuing to travel to Arizona, for winters.

In his early years, Chet enjoyed fishing and hunting, but wasn’t big on sports, for a simple reason.

“Never had time for that,” said Chet.

Chet worked hard to support his family and saw that they didn’t go without. Over the years, he did get to visit casinos, where he was quite lucky at winning.

“He’s the best pancake maker ever,” said daughter Karen Rios, adding that he made pancakes for his Arizona trailer park, every Sunday.

“I made a few,” said Chet.

As he looks back on his 100 years, Chet encourages people to just keep working, just keeping going, since that was how he lived.

“I’ve done damn near everything there is to do,” said Chet.



Photo by Ginna Young

From his early beginnings on the family farm in Holcombe, to celebrating his 100th birthday at Cornell Health Services, Chet Allard has seen and done it all. The hard-working family man is known for his humor and his pancakes, among many other traits, continuing to keep everyone on their toes.

## Know the workings of lawn machines inside and out

Spring is here, and as lawn mowers and other outdoor power equipment is brought out of storage to work in yards, businesses and other green spaces, it’s important to keep safety in mind.

“I can’t stress enough to review manufacturer’s safety guidance before starting up any equipment – especially your lawn mower,” said Kris Kiser, president and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute.

The following are tips for readying and using outdoor power equipment:

- Know not all lawn mowers are the same. Whether a mower is a garden tractor, zero turn mower or other, it has a unique design, requirements, weight classification and other differences that impact how to use it safely. The newest machines have the latest safety standards.
- Know the specific machine. Many mowers may look similar, but the technology is ever evolving, with evolving safety systems. They vary in design, power supply, performance, operating parameters and more. The manufacturer-supplied owner’s manual will guide in these differences.
- When using mowers on slopes, follow the manufacturer’s guidance to the letter.
- Do not disable or alter manufacturer-installed safety equipment.
- Walk the yard before mowing. Slopes, wet grass and weather may impact equipment performance, as well as

safe handling procedures. Pick up sticks and limbs that may have fallen to the ground over the winter, and any loose objects that could be hit by a mower. Inspect trees for damaged limbs that may get in the way when mowing.

- Look over equipment before use. Check the air filter, oil level and gasoline tank. Watch for loose belts, and missing or damaged parts. Replace any parts needed or take the equipment to a qualified service representative.
- Protect the power. Use only E10 or less fuel in gasoline-powered outdoor power equipment, if it is not designed for higher ethanol blends. Add a fuel stabilizer if the gas sits in the tank for any length of time. Burn off any fuel before storing the mower more than 30 days. For battery-powered equipment, only use battery packs specified by the manufacturer. Follow all charging instructions as outlined in the owner’s manual. Be sure to store fuel and batteries safely. Keep batteries away from other metal objects, store them in a climate-controlled area and never stack batteries.
- Keep children and pets away from machines during operation.
- Keep the mower clean. It will run more efficiently and last longer. Always remove dirt, oil or grass, before using and storing. Store equipment in a dry place, avoiding damp or wet environments.

For more safety information, visit [opei.org](http://opei.org)

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