



Leonard Frank Sauer

November 25, 1930 - January 1, 2021

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Leonard Sauer, builder of Sauer's Mountain trail near Leavenworth, passed away at his home on New Year's Day 2021 at age 90.

Leonard built the trail across his private property with hand tools over the course of two summers in his retirement, recognizing that Sauer's Mountain is accessible in the spring when the high-country trails remain frozen. Since then, thousands of people have discovered the trail and the outdoors. His family wishes to thank the many kind hikers from around the world who stopped to visit with Leonard at the trailhead during his aging years. Leonard ensured that the site will remain with his family long after his passing.

Born at the outset of the Great Depression in 1930 in Leavenworth, Washington, the principles of work, outdoor adventure, and climbing onward are hallmarks of the heritage Leonard learned as a boy growing up in the nearby mountains, and which he passed on to his family and to others.

Likely no person has ever known Leavenworth's mountains better. Leonard visited every mountain lake multiple times, planted the first fish in many of

them, named three of them, and fed his family from venison and fish that he packed from the top of the mountains every year from ages 10 to 77. His name is repeated many times in the state hunting record books. His trap sets from the 1940s can still be found in the wilderness. He built trails and fought forest fires as a young man. He chose a view of his namesake Leonard Lake to be engraved on his tombstone.

Leonard was a distance runner at Leavenworth High School and ran cross country for Washington State College where he earned a degree. He taught industrial arts, and coached track and football in Richland, Washington schools, where in football he sported an 82-percent winning record and was proud to have worked with Richland's finest young men.

Raising eight children, Leonard worked full-time teaching and coaching, then worked weekends and summers carrying mail, plus he worked his orchard with his children. He established the Sauer's Orchard fruit stand in Kennewick that his son continues to run today. He spent the final years of his career carrying mail full-time.

Leonard was preceded in death by his parents Welcome Friend Sauer and Celia Miriam (Knowles) Sauer, by his beloved wife Jeanne (Riske), his brother Gary Sauer, and his stepson Dave Chambers. He is survived by his sister Dolores Dahl of Des Moines, WA, his children Heidi Kinne of Centralia, Joe Sauer of Leavenworth, Welcome Sauer of Wenatchee, Steve Sauer of Kennewick, and Debbie Draker of Richland, along with stepchildren Nancy Seton of Friday Harbor, Donna Jantzer of Peshastin, Linda Meyers of Wenatchee, Gregg Chambers of Kennewick, and Robert Chambers of Dover, Delaware. He is loved by nineteen grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

Leonard will be interred in a small family service at Old Leavenworth

Cemetery alongside multiple generations of Sauer ancestors. A later tribute will be held at his trailhead. You are invited to view Leonard's Online Tribute at www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com where you can also leave a memory and/or condolence. Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee, WA.

Tribute Wall

CS

“ I am very sorry to hear about Mr. Sauer passing. He was a joy to talk with! I met Leonard about 3 years ago when, like many others, I came to explore his mountain. It was a beautiful day and when i came down from the hike Mr Sauer was there greeting hikers. We chatting shortly about the area, at the time I was looking to buy land near Leavenworth. I am not sure what will happen to this mountain over the next few months, but if it is still accessible, my fiancé and I have plans to elope at the summit this spring. I was looking forward to greeting Mr Sauer on our way down and thanking him for providing a beautiful place for us to get married. Rest in Pease Mr. Sauer and thank you for everything you have given to this area.

Christie Stump - March 23, 2021 at 10:23 AM

KD

“ Just recently was talking with someone about Leonard and went looking to find info on his place. It was before January 1 but not much before.

I was born and began my early life next door to the sauers. A great family and glad I did take the time a few years ago to go with his younger brother ti see his place.

*I was looking for something else when I discovered he had passed.
My condolences*

Kaye Davis - January 28, 2021 at 10:02 PM

CH

“ I am so sorry for the family and communities loss of such a warm, spirited man who shared with thousands of us his love of the Leavenworth landscape. I will miss hanging out and talking with him in the spring as the balsam root bloomed painting hillsides yellow. What a wonderful human. May his spirit live in all of us whose were touched by him. Rest peacefully Mr Saurer. Thank you. Chris Hollinger

Chris Hollinger - January 16, 2021 at 11:20 AM

SD

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Sauer when we visited his property to hike his famous trail one Spring. What a gorgeous view!! Mr. Sauer's love for the land was contagious and he couldn't wait to hear about our wildlife encounters when we came back down. He was a great story teller & also extremely proud of his kids. I left purchasing two bottles of wine from his son's winery. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to hike Sauer's Mountain and for meeting the man who so generously shared his beautiful part of the world with us.

Shelly Darnell - January 15, 2021 at 03:33 PM

SG

“ Frank was a kind and gracious man. Some took advantage of his kindness but know most of us followed his rules to the letter. Appreciating and admiring his handiwork and thanking him profusely for the safe passage through his property. Hike on, friend. Hike on.

S. Grote - January 15, 2021 at 03:05 AM

CJ

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Sauer several times at the trailhead of his beautiful mountain. As I drove up the gravel road each time I would try to peek ahead with the hope that he would be there that day. It was a rare treat to be personally welcomed to a trailhead with a smile and an irresistible offer of ripe cherries. I'm pretty sure I even sprung for a bottle of wine on one trip.

I will always appreciate his incredible gift to Washington hikers. His legacy will live on for many generations.

Collin Jergens - January 15, 2021 at 12:57 AM

KF

“ I was so honored to meet Mr. Sauer at the trailhead one day over the Labor Day weekend 2019. I was amazed to meet the man who had built the trail. After his story of building the trail etc. we hit on the mutual interest of deer hunting. I told him of my successful hunts and he shared his experiences hunting mule deer in the Leavenworth area. This included a walk to his home and viewing of many sets of mule deer horns in his basement (the second team) then up to the living room where the trophy deer were displayed. Wow, any hunter in the world would be amazed by this collection of trophy mule deer.

I'll never forget meeting Mr. Sauer, his son and daughter in law. Thank you, Ron Fredrickson

Karl R. Fredrickson - January 14, 2021 at 10:39 PM

PE

“ Rest in peace Mr. Sauer. Thank you for your kind nature and words whenever we hiked across your property. We'll miss seeing and chatting with you at the trailhead and wish all the best for your family as they grieve.

Pete - January 14, 2021 at 06:10 PM

RS

“ One of first hikes every spring is to Sauer's mountain in Leavenworth . The wildflowers are beautiful in the spring as is the view from the top! Mr Sauer sits below a tree at the trailhead and we always had a nice chat. Such a kind man.
Rest In Peace Mr.Sauer.

Rosie Sgrosso - January 13, 2021 at 12:42 AM

BE

“ I always remember the diversity and beauty of the flowers on Sauer's trail.. He was so generous to share the trail with a few hikers, and then to continue access even when word of the hike brought many many more. Reading his history makes the trail that much more special. May he rest in peace

Betsy

Betsy - January 13, 2021 at 12:31 AM

HS

“ I enjoyed his trail multiple times, always stopping to chat with him on my way out. He was a kind man and many people have been able to experience great things because of what he built.

Haley Sotak - January 12, 2021 at 09:14 PM

ML

“ Spending time in the woods is one of the best medicines available. Leonard Sauer made this activity possible for so many people. The world needs more people like him.

Micki Lippe - January 12, 2021 at 06:20 PM

AN

“ I did not know Mr. Sauer personally, but he was a generous and kind man to have built a trail for others to enjoy the outdoors and appreciate the beautiful creation. I had the opportunity to hike the trail for the first time with my family last fall, it was a perfect trail for my grandchildren. The views were amazing at the top. Thank you Mr. Sauer for your generosity! I hope we can continue to enjoy the trail in the future. My condolences to the family.

Ann - January 12, 2021 at 05:29 PM

DD

“ I've hiked the wonderful Sauer Mountain trail several times and met Mr Sauer, who often would greet us at the trailhead. He was a wonderful man and we always thanked him for his generosity in opening up the trail to us. We always left with a bottle or two of the wine made by his son. He had a great life, most of which I knew nothing about, and I was sorry to hear of his passing.

Diane Doles - January 12, 2021 at 11:14 AM

MP

“ Our deep condolences to the family. We met Mr. Sauer at the trailhead in April 2016 when flowers were in full bloom. He was so kind to welcome us. Rest In Peace Sir.

Myra Prykhodko - January 12, 2021 at 01:22 AM

JK

“ I met Mr. Sauer and discovered his trail while on a bicycle ride up Anderson Canyon. I came back to hike it several times, and always enjoyed talking with him at the trailhead. It was wonderful to hear him share some of his experiences. What a life and impact on so many others!

If you plan to keep the trailhead open, I would like to offer to help with some trail maintenance. (I offered this to Mr. Sauer, but I think he always had it taken care of. :) Feel free to contact me: jkimbell59*at* msn.com.

Jeff Kimbell - January 11, 2021 at 08:48 PM

MP

“ Please accept my condolences. What an adventurer your dad was! My husband Francis Personett and myself were Postal workers with Leonard. I delivered your mail, traded lollipops and cherries with Stephen. What memories I have! Loved visiting with him when he was here during cherry season. God bless each and everyone.
Marian Personett

Marian Irene Personett - January 11, 2021 at 04:41 PM

JW

“ Always Mr. Sauer to me, always will be. Mr. Sauer was a teacher at Chief Joseph Jr. High in Richland, WA. I was in his class in '59 and played football for him in '58. He was so important to the entire male student body of this school and provided guidance, advice and coaching for three years in those days. We all owe him such a debt that can only be repaid in homage and thoughts about his efforts to make us all better men. I like to think he was instrumental in getting me close to where I am. Mr. Sauer loved the outdoors, mountains and streams no matter where. A true counselor for the future. I know he is at the trailhead of another adventure and will be blazing the way for us all. Peace Mr. Sauer. Jim Weaver, Tigard, OR.

Jim Weaver - January 10, 2021 at 08:03 PM

MP

“ My old friend I spent most of three years helping out.. a wonderful intelligent man.. I learned more from him in that time about highcountry , where the big fish and big bucks lived than I could ever had the rest of my life.. farewell my friend, until we meet again at the best lake in the sky.. mack pitts

Mack pitts - January 09, 2021 at 05:57 PM

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Mack pitts - January 09, 2021 at 05:56 PM

DD

“ I am deeply saddened to read of Mr. Sauer's passing. I enjoyed chatting with him at the trailhead, getting calls from him when his cherries were ready and sampling his wine. I still have a painted ladybug rock from Mrs. Sauer. A true and original mountaineer who gave SO much to so many.

Donna Drollinger - January 06, 2021 at 03:48 PM