

# David Trail a man who could get things done



Geoff Crimmins/Daily News

Flowers rest outside David Trail's office on Jefferson Street in Moscow on Monday.



Trail

**By Terri Harber/Moscow-Pullman Daily News**

Long timers are remembering Moscow businessman David Trail, 76, one of three people shot to death Saturday.

Attorney and former Moscow Mayor Paul Agidius has known the Trail family for decades.

“Dave was always on the list of people to talk to among community members,” Agidius said. “He wasn’t the person up front, seeking attention. He just wanted to get things done.”

Both Dave and his brother, Tom, were interested in politics. Dave was more conservative than Tom, who served as a state representative, but was highly engaged in various matters over the years, Agidius said.

“He was a mainstay in our community,” Agidius said. “All those who knew him were happy to call him a friend.”

Gary Crabtree has known Trail for decades as well. His locksmith shop is across the street from Trail's insurance office and apartment building on East Third Street.

One of Trail's hobbies was collecting cars. Red appeared to be his favorite color of automobile, including some of those he would occasionally drive to work, such as a vintage Ford truck and a Thunderbird, Crabtree said.

"A really pleasant fella, an easy-going guy," Crabtree said. "But not a 'got to get attention' sort of guy."

Trail was heavily involved in 4-H. He also got Crabtree to work with some of the students. Crabtree admired the amount of time and effort Trail and his wife, Suzie, put into 4-H.

"But it was a lot of work," Crabtree said of his own experience.

Along with supporting 4-H, Trail also was involved with local education. The family offered to donate land for a new high school to be built in Moscow.

He graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in business and agronomy. He was a strong supporter of the University of Idaho, according to university President Chuck Staben.

"The community lost a very, very good person. He did a lot of great things," said Howard Peavy, who knew Trail from Rotary Club. He remembered Trail's efforts in getting the Palouse Ice Rink constructed.

Peavy also mentioned how much Trail enjoyed music. He played the keyboards and had a band, Dave Trail Quartet, while attending the UI.

He continued performing and "was very good," Peavy said.

As well as operating a rental business, Trail was the senior financial representative for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Moscow. Even at age 76, he still had hundreds of clients.

Northwestern Mutual honored Trail this past summer for 50 years of service during a national gathering. They talked about him in front of 10,000 fellow employees and it was a moment he found humbling, he told a reporter after the event.

Trail and his wife, Suzie, have four grown children: Martin, Michael, Roger and Kathy. They also have eight grandchildren.

---

**Terri Harber** can be reached at (208) 883-4631, or by email to [tharber@dnews.com](mailto:tharber@dnews.com).

