



## Estel Thayne Smith

January 5, 1929 - July 11, 2021

Estel Thayne Smith was born on January 5, 1929, in Healy, Kansas to Paul Bliss Smith and Myrtle Ruby (Nolte) Smith. He passed from this life on Sunday, July 11, 2021, at his home in Claremore, Oklahoma at the age of 92 years. Thayne is a native of Kansas and resident of Claremore, Oklahoma, an award-winning author, editor, writer, photographer and public relations professional, with a distinguished journalism career spanning more than 70 years. He is a past president of the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA), Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW), Outdoor Communicators of Kansas (OCK), and the former Great Rivers Outdoor Writers (GROW). Additionally, he is an honorary life member of the Missouri Outdoor Communicators (MOC) and Texas Outdoor Writers Association (TOWA), is a member of the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association (SEOPA) and a Heritage member of the Professional Outdoor Media Association (POMA). In his early career, Estel served as a reporter and editor on daily newspapers at Newton, Garden City and Salina, Kansas, and later as editor of *Kansas Outdoors*, *Kansas Fish & Game*, *Bassin'*, *Crappie*, *Popular Lures* and *Winning* magazines. He also served in public relations posts with numerous outdoor recreation related firms, including the Coleman Company, Kansas Highway Commission (now KDOT), Kansas Fish & Game Commission (now KDWP), Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA), w Corporation and Lowrance Electronics. Thayne has won many awards for his writing and photography, and was elected in 2012 to the Freshwater

Fishing Hall of Fame, Legendary Communicator Division. Those he leaves behind who hold many cherished memories include;

2 Sons;

Kellard Smith and wife Jennie

Scott Smith and wife Karen

4 Stepchildren;

Jeff Hansen

Patti Braun and husband Allen

Richard Hansen and wife Jane

Kim Giebler and husband John

And a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren

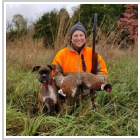
He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Myrtle, 7 brothers, 1 sister, his first wife, Doris Ruth (Burgert) Smith Thompson, and his late wife, Joan Marie (Nail) Hansen Smith.

# Tribute Wall

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“*Thayne and I were close throughout my 40-year-plus writing career. He was one of the early editors that helped me get started. I fishing and hunted with this outdoor legend whom we all miss. RIP old friend!*”

Kenneth L. Kieser - August 06, 2021 at 12:38 PM



“*We loved Thayne. He was one of the great ones. He loved this country and he loved the Lord. We will miss him. Bill and Rita Keaton, Spencer, Indiana*”

Bill Keaton - July 21, 2021 at 10:55 AM

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“*Uncle Thayne was an artist with a camera around his neck. And I've a lifetime of positive memories due to childhood visits from him, Doris, Kelly and Scott always in lasting photos. When I last seen him we shared memories of his Mother and the kitchen dish's we both still treasure as well as her bible. So, here's to family and love and photos. O'Della Kelley*”

O'Della Kelley - July 15, 2021 at 11:42 AM

OK

“*O'Della Kelley sent a virtual gift in memory of Estel Thayne Smith*”



O'Della Kelley - July 15, 2021 at 11:06 AM