

## STERLING DREW ELROD

Sterling, as everyone knew him by, passed away January 2, 2002 as a result of an automobile accident.

Sterling was born in Palestine in the early hours of a blustery morning on November 26, 1952. He had recently moved back to his birthplace, and like everyone of us that have fond memories of where we grew up, we dream of someday returning to the place where our childhood friends were. It seems we can only remember warm summer days spent in a "make believe world," entertaining ourselves by believing we could really fly like superman, or ride a horse named Trigger, of course if anyone asked you your name, it was Roy-of course.

Well most of you understand these things and could add volumes of your own to the examples given.

I've said all of this to tell you of a dream fulfilled-a success story if you will. While living in Dallas for a time managing several large automobile dealerships, Sterling's uncanny ability to motivate his staff with his quick wit and seemingly unlimited knowledge of his product soon made him a much sought after commodity among owners of other dealerships eager to be the Best, by Having the Best.

If success is measured by huge salaries and bonuses and many other perks, then Sterling was certainly leaps and bounds ahead of the rest in his chosen field.

However, Sterling measured success by another standard-one of happiness. He achieved this by doing what the rest of us are still dreaming about-he left Fame, Acclaim, the glitter and glory-to move back to Palestine. He still did what he enjoyed, and that was to supply automobiles, the best he could find, so as to make his

old friends as happy as he was.

The Lord blessed us all by allowing us to enjoy his many talents for 49 years, one month, and seven days.

He was preceded in death by his father Charles Elrod and his mother Helen.

Sterling leaves behind his wife, B.J. and by my observations she was also his best friend. Sterling also left behind his pride and joy-his son Cullen Drew Elrod, and a sister Lisa Sigford of Centerville, TX.

He also leaves me, his brother, Tim, missing him more than anyone will ever know.