



he came to excel at later in life was cooking and made many delicious meals for him and Gerry. Because of his Dutch heritage, he also learned to make “Knyperpjes”, which were flat sugar cookies that everyone loved.

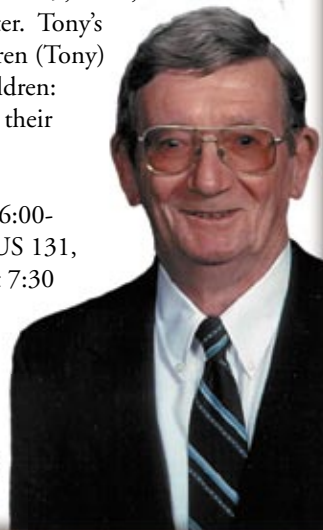
One thing that upheld Tony throughout his life was his faith in God. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church to which he kindheartedly gave of his time and talents. Always active, he and Gerry served coffee and donuts following Sunday services, worked the Friday Night Fish Fry’s and called the Bingo games. Together, they attended the Couples’ Club, whose activities included hayrides and dancing. Tony loved to polka. He was also a member of the Men’s Club. Aside from his church, Tony volunteered at the Hackett High School Cabaret fundraisers making scenery and quietly working behind the scenes. In his spare time, he enjoyed a variety of hobbies, which included sailing, even though he never had a boat, listening to old Dutch music from his youth and decorating the house and Christmas tree for the holidays - this was his favorite time of year.



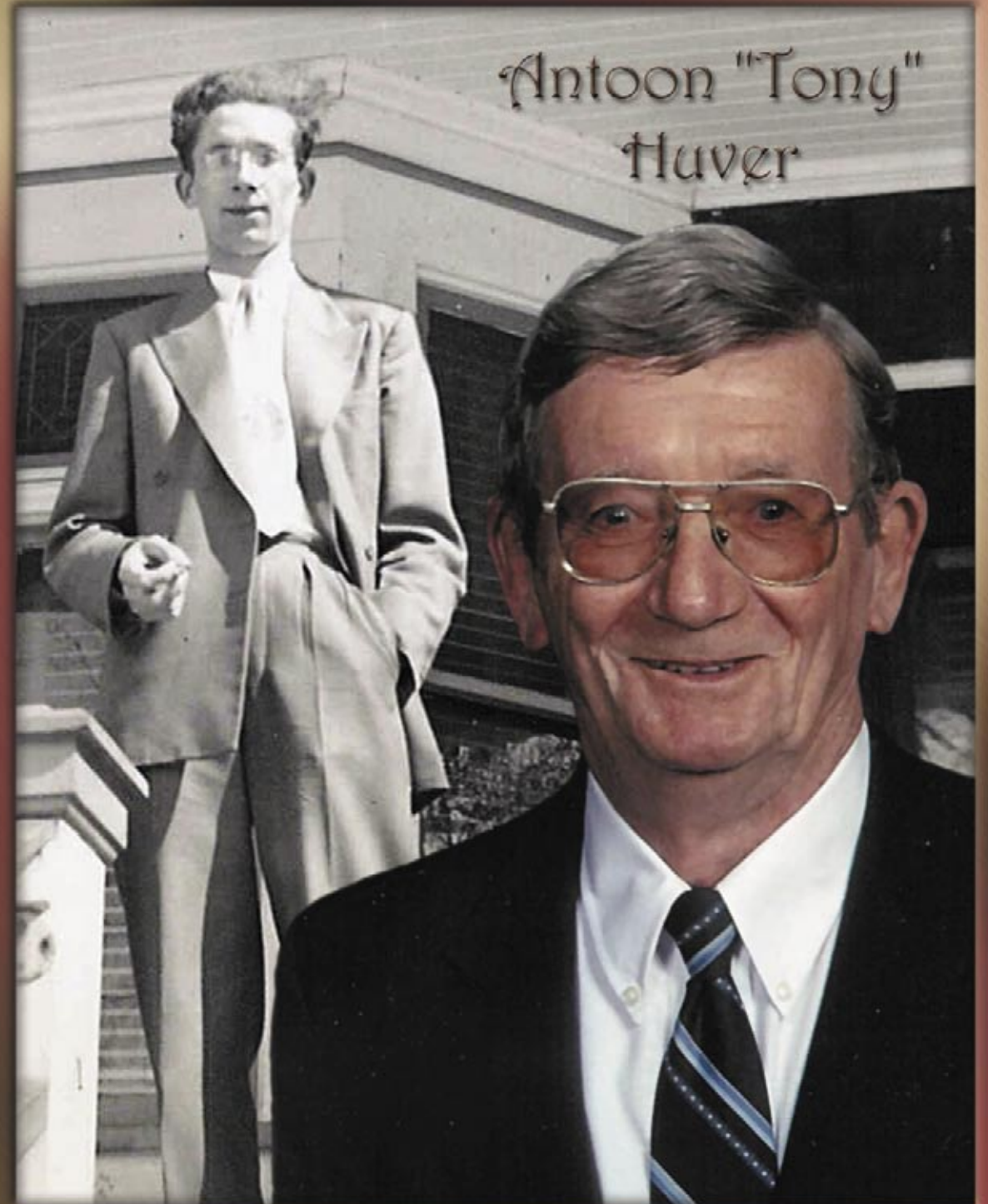
Tony was a loving and kind man who always put other’s first. Although he was quiet and private most of the time, he could always be counted on to help others in need. Yet, it is Tony’s incredibly kind heart that made him the man people were proud to know. Family was the cornerstone of Tony’s life, and he took great pride in his children and six grandchildren, whom he adored.

Antoon Huver of Kalamazoo, MI, died very unexpectedly on Friday, November 19, 2004, at his home. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and one sister. Tony’s family includes his wife Gerry Huver; daughters: Margo (Steve) Zywicki, Karen (Tony) Martella; sons: Jack (Arlene) Huver and Mike (Machell) Huver; six grandchildren: Eric, Adam, David, Anna, Anthony and Rachel; five brothers and sisters and their spouses; and many nieces and nephews.

Friends may spend time with Tony’s family on Tuesday, November 23, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Betzler Life Story Funeral Homes, Stadium Drive, West of US 131, Kalamazoo, Michigan, where a prayer service will be held Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, November 24, St. Joseph Catholic Church at 11 a.m. Interment at Schoolcraft Cemetery. Please visit Tony’s personal memory page at [www.lifestorynet.com](http://www.lifestorynet.com) where you may share a memory, or make a memorial contribution to the St. Joseph Parish.



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## Tony's Life Story

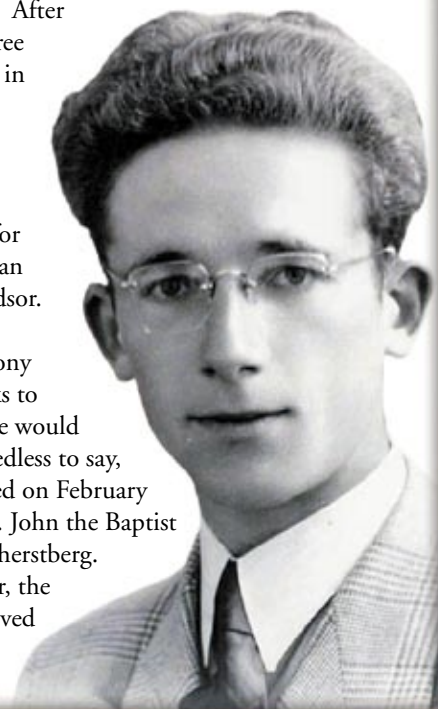
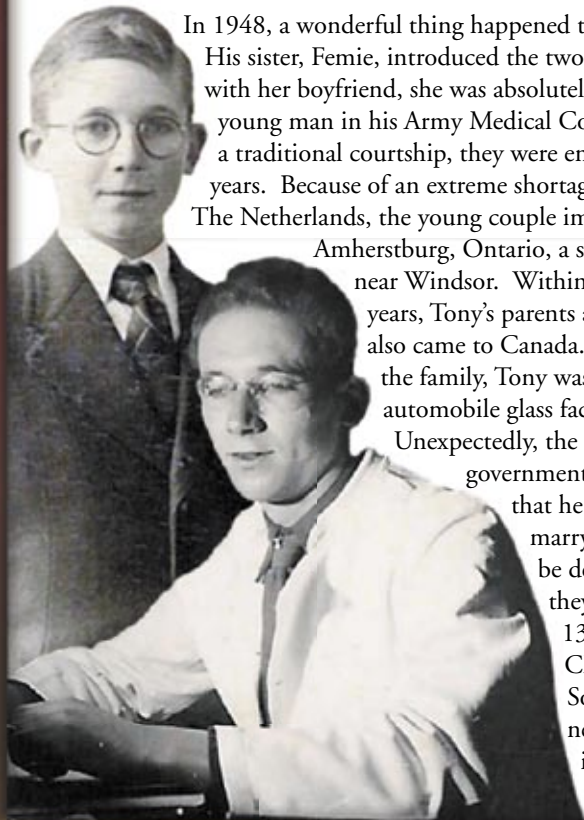
Antoon "Tony" Huver was a soft-spoken man with a big heart. He was intelligent and talented and used his skills in a variety of ways. Most importantly, he was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, willing to help his loved ones in any way he could.

The widespread prosperity of the 1920s ended abruptly with the stock market crash of 1929, and the great economic depression that followed. The depression threatened people's jobs, savings and even their homes and farms. For many Americans, these were hard times. However, for Jan and Greta Huver of Heerenven, The Netherlands, times were simpler. On January 19, 1929, the young couple welcomed their third child, son Antoon, into a family that would grow to include eight children. Jan owned a painting/decorating business and had high hopes that Antoon (called Tony by family and friends) would one day follow in his footsteps. Nevertheless, young Tony had different aspirations in life and later became a talented chemist.



In 1948, a wonderful thing happened to Tony – he met his future wife, Gerry De Vreeze.

His sister, Femie, introduced the two and although Gerry was at the dance that night with her boyfriend, she was absolutely captivated by this tall and especially handsome young man in his Army Medical Corp. uniform. After a traditional courtship, they were engaged for three years. Because of an extreme shortage of housing in The Netherlands, the young couple immigrated to Amherstburg, Ontario, a small town near Windsor. Within a couple of years, Tony's parents and siblings also came to Canada. To provide for the family, Tony was working in an automobile glass factory in Windsor. Unexpectedly, the Canadian government informed Tony that he had six weeks to marry Gerry or she would be deported. Needless to say, they were married on February 13, 1954, at St. John the Baptist Church in Amherstburg. Soon thereafter, the newlyweds moved into their



own small studio apartment in Windsor, where they lived humbly without a car. To get around, they either walked or took a leaky boat ride across the Detroit River. During their three years in Windsor, Tony and Gerry also welcomed the birth of their daughter, Margo.

It was in 1956 that Tony, Gerry and baby Margo came to the United States. Gerry had family that lived in Kalamazoo and they sponsored their move. Tony quickly secured a job as a chemist with Hercules, Inc., where he remained a dedicated employee for 34 years until his retirement in 1991. Their family soon grew to include three more children with daughter, Karen,

and two sons, Jack and Michael. A true family man, Tony's happiest moments always involved the time he spent with his family. Many treasured memories were made on family camping trips, particularly to South Haven where they went every weekend during the summer. His children's fondest memories include their father's great roaring bonfires and how he would throw them into the air while swimming in the lake. Although their

camping trips took them to parks throughout Michigan, Ludington may have ultimately been Tony's favorite spot. During the winter, Tony loved to build a skating pond for his kids and the neighborhood kids. He would get up every couple of hours during the night to add more water to make it just perfect for skating.

Tony was a simple man who enjoyed the splendors of nature. He had a tremendous green thumb, especially when it came to his enormous rose bushes, which adorned his entire backyard. He was also quite meticulous in cleaning their pool. Tony was more than just a "Mr. Fix it." Whether he was a carpenter, remodeling various rooms in their home or doing woodworking projects, he was a man of many talents. Some of his projects included wooden cars and trucks for his grandchildren, picture frames and crosses, which he often gave away as gifts. Another skill

