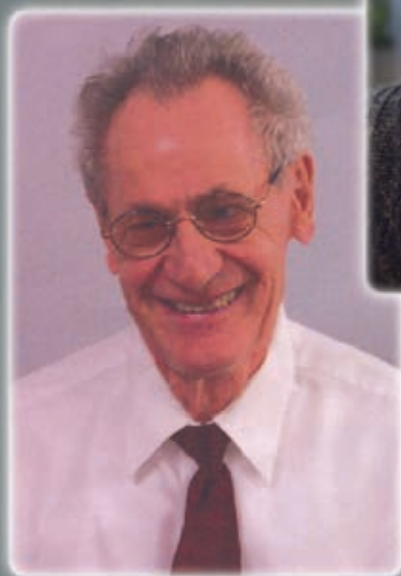




YVONNE
BANNINGER



CHRISTOPHER
BANNINGER



CONRAD
BANNINGER

Yvonne M. Banninger was born on August 25, 1934, to Gerald Gooden and Ruth (Penney) Gooden in Mancelona, Michigan. Two more children would be born from this union, Jeannie (1935), and Billy (1936). After the parents divorced in 1939, the siblings were separated, the two youngest being adopted, leaving Yvonne to spend a lengthy time in a boarding home. Yvonne would eventually be taken in by her paternal grandparents who would raise her to the age of seventeen. She then moved to Grand Rapids with three other girls to work for an insurance company, returning to Mancelona on weekends.

In the summer of 1952 Yvonne would meet the love of her life, Bruce Banninger, at a July 4th dance at the tennis courts in Alden, Mi. It is a favorite family story. They would wed on February 7, 1953, welcoming two children, Terri (1954), and Christopher (1955). The young family would stay in the area until 1965, moving to Flint, Mi., and later in 1968 moving to Texas, both for work advancement and educational opportunities for their children. In 1980, they moved to Denver, Colorado, both working for a local hospital. Upon retirement, the happy couple returned to Kewadin, Mi., and enjoyed years of travel in their motorhome, meeting up with friends in beautiful locations and RV Rallies.

Yvonne had many interests. She was an avid reader and had an extensive library. She often would say, "I think I have a book on that", to which a book would be produced on the subject at hand. She enjoyed painting, photography, and music. Her favorite sayings by which she lived were, "Knowledge is Power", and "The more you do, the more you know you can do." Over the years her career was spent in accounting and management positions. Most of her life, Yvonne was an active member of the Seventh-Day-Adventist Church living out her faith and her belief in serving others.

Yvonne was a devoted wife, loving mother, wonderful grandma and great-grandma, sister and aunt who took delight in her family. She is survived by her husband Bruce, daughter Terri (Ben Colon), Grandchildren, Emelia Banninger, Rob Clement (Stephanie), Jennie Dalgas (Geoffrey), and great-grandchildren, Kiya, Caleb, Jeliya, and Keenan. Yvonne's father remarried and his second family became much loved "Bonus" siblings, Donna (Harold), Linda, Ron, Rick and Lori. She was preceded in death by her parents, son Christopher, and brother's-in-law, Willard and Conrad.

A special thank you to Munson Hospice for their extraordinary care, with a special acknowledgement to Burnadette Cole and Donna Burniell. Memorial Contributions can be made to Munson Hospice 1150 Medical Campus Dr. Traverse City, MI 49684, or online at: www.munsonhealthcare.org/supporthospice.

A Celebration of Life will be conducted on June 9, 2024, at the Traverse City Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 2055 N. Four Mile Rd., Traverse City, MI. 49686. Visitation: 10:00 am. Service: 11:00 am. The family is being cared for by Life Story Funeral Home of Traverse City.

Christopher Bruce Banninger was born on December 26, 1955, to Yvonne (Gooden) Banninger and Bruce Banninger in Kalkaska, Michigan. His elementary years were spent on a small farm in Kewadin, Michigan. In 1965 the family moved to Flint, Mi., and later in 1968 to Fort Worth, Texas achieving better work for his parents, and educational opportunities (he had a childhood dream of becoming a physician) for him and his older sister.

In 1974 Christopher graduated from Chisholm Trail Academy in Keene, Texas and started attending Southwestern Adventist University. Because of his talent as an accomplished musician on piano, guitar, and vocals he was given the opportunity to travel with the Heritage Singers, a gospel international touring group. At the end of the tour, the group went to Gaither Studios in Alexandria, IN., to record an album. The Studio quickly became aware of Christopher's ability as a sound engineer. Although he wasn't sure he wanted to make a career as a sound technician, he remembered something his dad had told him, "Whatever you do, even temporarily, do it better than anybody else". Christopher is quoted as saying, "And that's what I did. I worked at it until I knew more and was the best sound guy in the studio." Christopher stayed with Gaither's for three and a half years when he moved to California still working in the recording business. He eventually found his way to television production, becoming an Emmy award winning sound engineer working on shows such as Who's the Boss, Almost Perfect, The Academy Awards, The Rose Parade, Up Close and Personal, and many other projects. At the time of his death, October 31, 2019, he was working for ABC in the capacity of sound production for the day-time Emmy winning General Hospital and preparing to open his own recording studio back in Texas. As a young man living in Texas, Christopher had earned his pilot's license. Several years later he bought two twin-engine planes starting a charter company, which transported a chemical cancer treatment. He said, "The first time I flew and delivered that life-saving chemical was an incredible, rewarding experience for me. It was that feeling I always imagined I would have if I had become a doctor." Christopher lived life large, using his many talents, endless energy, and amazing opportunities, to touch and serve others.

He is survived by one daughter, Emelia Banninger, his parents, Bruce and Yvonne Banninger, sister Terri (Ben Colon), Nephew Rob Clement (Stephanie and their children Kiya and Keenan), Niece Jennie Dalgas (Geoffrey and their children Caleb and Jeliya), aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his grand-parents, and an uncle.

A memorial service will be held June 9, 2024, at the Traverse City Seventh-Day Adventist Church. 2055 N. Four Mile Rd., Traverse City, MI 49686.
Visitation: 10:00 AM. Service: 11:00 AM. Memorial contributions can be made to: <https://883thejourney.org/christopher-banninger-memorial-donation-form/>

The family is being cared for by Life Story Funeral Home of Traverse City, MI.

Conrad (Connie) Milton Banninger was born on August 15, 1936, in the house he would grow up in, to Anna May (Coleman) Banninger and Charles Thomas Banninger. It was a long and difficult birth resulting in Connie being physically and mentally challenged. As parents they had been recommended to send their child away to a facility, as he would require special care for the rest of his life. Instead, they chose to raise Connie at home. He grew strong and thrived with love and a purpose on the small dairy farm environment of hard work.

Connie loved John Deere tractors and trucks and tractors with diesel engines. Connie also had a passion for photography, filling many albums with his adventures. With his incredible memory, he rarely forgot a name, and enjoyed engaging in conversation with his many friends. His generous heart would find him sharing a piece of candy or other goodie. He had a special gift of bringing joy to all he came in contact with.

Connie is survived by a sister Patricia Banninger, brother Bruce Banninger, nieces, nephews, other family members and many friends.

Connie was preceded in death by his parents, a younger brother, and two nephews. After leaving the farm he went to live in an AFC home where he was thrilled to be employed by Grand Traverse Industries (GTI). Connie was so proud of his, "Paycheck." A special thank you to the staff of GTI, and especially Steve Purdue who went way beyond the call of duty to make each participant feel special and fulfilled.

At birth Connie was not given a long-life prediction, but he lived to be eighty-five. On January 16, 2022, our dearest Connie succumbed to Acute Hypoxic Respiratory Failure and ARDS secondary to Covid 19.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Grand Traverse Industries, 2170 Traverse Field Drive, Traverse City, MI 49686; designate "In Memory of Conrad Banninger."

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 9, 2024, at the Traverse City Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 2055 N. Four Mile Rd., Traverse City, MI 49686. Visitation: 10:00 AM. Service: 11:00 AM.

The family is being cared for by Life Story Funeral Home of Traverse City, MI.



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