

Charles Feeser, 68; taught social studies and history at Helix High for 29 years

By Chet Barfield
STAFF WRITER

Everyone wishes he or she had a history teacher like Charles R. Feeser, who spent 29 years at La Mesa's Helix High School.

"He was a very positive person, and he was creative in his method," said his wife, Charline. "He didn't use the same old date-for-date (style). He was more into concepts, why one thing causes another in history.

"He didn't think it was nearly as important that you knew Paul Revere's horse's name as why one thing brought the next."

Mr. Feeser died of heart failure Dec. 19 at his Spring Valley home. He was 68.

He was born in Springfield, Ohio, and moved to San Diego County in 1957, teaching two years at Coronado High School.

From there, Mr. Feeser went to Helix, where he spent almost three decades teaching history and social studies. He was chairman of the social studies department for many years.

He also coached varsity football and wrestling at Helix in the 1960s, winning some championships along the way.

"We still hear from the kids" he taught, his wife said. "He was a very strong person, but caring. He wasn't mushy. He just took time with them."

His efforts earned him a teaching award in 1975 and a Greater San Diego Industry Education Council

award in 1977.

Also active among his peers, Mr. Feeser worked for the California Teachers Association in the early 1970s as a consultant and legal representative. He was a past president of the Grossmont Education Association at a time when key contract provisions were set in place.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Feeser was an avid hunter and outdoorsman. With a rich voice and booming laugh, he was known for the tales he'd tell around campfires or at family gatherings.

A favorite yarn was one about the time he and his companions were accosted by bandits while hunting in Mexico. "It was them or us," was the punch line, recalled by his wife.

"He just had a flair" for storytelling, she said. "People would just say, 'Tell this one! Tell this one.'"

A voracious reader, Mr. Feeser went through several books a week. He had an old tobacco tin in which he kept scraps of paper with the titles he intended to get to next. "He said he'd read Post Toasties boxes if he had to," said his wife.

Mr. Feeser's other survivors include a son, Shawn Feeser of Stevensville, Mont.; a daughter, Andrea Baumgartner of Chehalis, Wash.; two sisters, Lena Skillings of Springfield, Ohio, and Jacqueline Raymond of Spotsylvania, Va; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service is scheduled for 3 p.m. tomorrow at the Lemon Grove Congregational Church, 2770 Glebe Road.

In Loving Memory Of
CHARLES "DICK" FEESER

Native Of
Ohio

Date Of Birth
November 17, 1929

Date Of Death
December 19, 1997

Memorial Services
Tuesday, December 30, 1997
3:00 P.M. At
Lemon Grove Congregational
United Church Of Christ

Officiant
Pastor Ed Pettis

Pianist
William A. Officer

Services Conclude In Church

God hath not promised
skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way,
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy
Undying love....

FEESER

Charles "Dick", died December 19, 1997.
Husband of Charline Feeser. Father of Shawn
Feeser and Andrea Baumgartner. Brother of
Lena Skillings and Jacqueling Raymond. 2
Grandchildren. Memorial Services Tuesday 3
p.m. Lemon Grove Congregational United
Church of Christ, 2770 Glebe Rd., Lemon Grove
91945. In lieu of flowers donations to Helix High
School Library appreciated.

GREENWOOD MORTUARY 264-3131