

# OBITUARIES

## Willis Lesh

July 4, 1924 - October 11, 2010

Willis Eugene Lesh died Oct. 11, at the age of 86. The son of Lando and Leila Williams Lesh was born July 4, 1924 in Norton County. He attended Norton Community High School, graduating in 1942. After graduation he continued farming in Norton County.



Willis E. Lesh

Gilbert, and Edgar and his sister Myrna Lesh Mizell Davis.

Survivors include his brother, Philip Lesh; daughters, Gwen Fleske and husband David of Tulsa, Okla. and Gail Christensen and husband Michael of Newport News, Va.; grandchildren, Jeannine Christensen and husband Chris Brooks of Newport News, Vir., Rebecca Moschione Larkin and husband Joel of Blaine, Minn., Ellen Gilbert and husband, Jason, of Williamsburg, Va., and Matthew Fleske of Tulsa, Okla.; foster grandchildren, Gerald and Justin Marshall; and great-grandchildren, Arik Rhone-Christensen, Vittoria "Tori" Rhone-Christensen, Jacy Brooks, Nathaniel Gilbert, Shelby Gilbert, Alexandra Larkin and Thomas Larkin.

Memorials may be given to Grace Hospice of Tulsa, Okla. and to the Will Rogers Library of Claremore, Okla. for large print books.

Leave your memories of Gene and view his tribute online at [www.mmsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mmsfuneralhomes.com).

A graveside service for Willis Eugene Lesh was held Monday at Gaylord Cemetery in Gaylord. A memorial service will be held at Christ United Methodist Church, Tulsa, Okla. today.

Services were under the direction of Musgrove-Merriott-Smith Funeral Service & Crematory, 102 W. 5th St, Claremore, Okla., 74017

In May of 1944, Gene enlisted in the United States Army. He served with the 27th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. His duties took him to Italy, through Austria, and into Germany. On June 12, 1946 he was discharged at Fort Leavenworth, as a Staff Sergeant.

Upon his return home Gene began working for Southwestern Bell in Salina, where he met Donalene Moore. They were married May 8, 1949 in Gaylord. They made their home in Salina, later moving to Lindsborg, Olathe and finally to Wellsville.

He became a member of the Wellsville Baptist Church and was a deacon and church treasurer for many years.

He retired from Southwestern Bell in 1983, after a 37 year career. In June of 2002 Gene and Dona moved to Claremore, Okla. After Dona's death in December of 2007, he moved to Tulsa to be closer to his daughter, Gwen, and her family.

Gene is preceded in death by his parents, Lando and Leila; Donalene Moore Lesh, his wife of 58 years; his brothers Ronald,

# Tribute to a born teacher

Pieces of life's puzzle  
Liza Deines



Today's column was written on October 12, twenty one years after we three lost our mother. You've heard a lot about Mama through these columns but today I'm going to tell you a little more about this very ordinary and yet most remarkable woman.

Mama was born at the turn of the century in a soddie on the western Kansas prairie. She passed away just twelve days short of her ninetieth birthday. One day, while struggling to understand the instructions for a new electronic device, she turned to me and said "In my lifetime I've gone from horse'n buggy to man on the moon. If I'm a little slow on this, you'll just have to understand." What would she think of today's Kindle electronic readers, cell phones, GPS guidance systems? Somehow I'd bet she'd be right in there trying to learn how to use each and every one. Not one to falter at a challenge. Mama took driver training with the 14-year olds after she was widowed at 75 so she could be self-sufficient. She lived at home until the last few months of her life, still gardening, playing in her card club and driving her friends to church.

As a young woman Edith Frances Cafferty became a teacher by

working her way through Normal School, which was the only higher education available to Kansas farm girls in 1917. She taught in one-room schools for several years, even after her marriage, which was unusual.

Teaching in those days required an early morning horseback ride in all kinds of weather, bringing in coal and kindling to get the potbellied stove going and sweeping out the classroom before any students arrived. Those students ranged from four-year old beginners to boys older and larger than she. Establishing and maintaining discipline was essential for effective teaching. It can't have been easy under such circumstances. Supplies, books, even desks were scarce. Yet she loved teaching and followed her students' lives for years.

When my sister Ann made her appearance, Mama was forced to give up classroom teaching. Married women with children were

simply not considered eligible to teach in the 1920's. True teaching instinct cannot be so easily suppressed however, so public education's loss was her children's gain.

Mother's voice reading aloud echoes in our earliest memories. Reading was absorbed so naturally we don't even remember not knowing how to read. Spelling, punctuation and vocabulary simply soaked in. Books were as essential to us as food. Arithmetic came along when we counted the eggs as we gathered them, or figured how many potatoes to peel for supper, or the number of fence posts to friends' homes. Sums and multiplication flashcards were practiced daily while Mama braided my hair. No televised preschool programs, computer calculations or educational toys can ever take the place of a teaching mother.

Baby talk was not for Mama's babies; we spoke properly because that's what we heard spoken. Although I did tease her once about using a common term, "boughten" bread, when I became old enough to realize it was not a legitimate word. She looked surprised, thought a moment and sheepishly admitted, "Well, I do believe

you're right." When my brother became a teenager and came home with some objectionable language Mama would look him right in the eye and say, "Roger, there is no need to be crude." Even in extreme distress, "Oh, shoot!" was as close to profanity as we ever heard.

We learned art in the way our mother made dreary rental houses into cozy, colorful homes with maximum creativity and minimum cash. Her flower gardens and bouquets were works of art enjoyed by our entire neighborhood. Being a housewife in the dirty thirties taught Mama economics the hard way and she imparted thriftiness to each of us by example. We learned early to use it up, make it do or do without. Our home lived green and recycled long before it became fashionable.

Yes, today a teacher must have a college degree or two. But no amount of education can take the place of the instinct to teach. Born teachers are sometimes fortunate enough to make it their career. Others simply teach throughout their life wherever and whenever opportunity arises.

MY MAMASAIID: You have to have a little gumption to make life worth living.

## Donation is received by Norton Police

The Norton Police Department received a \$3,000 donation from the Norton County Community Foundation for the K-9 unit, to be used for drug detection and enforcement.

The Norton County Community Foundation is a local organization that keeps our community strong by providing financial assistance to local projects that will benefit Norton County. The K-9 unit donation was made from the

Iris Olson Fund. Ms. Olson was a longtime kindergarten teacher in the Norton schools and interested in projects for the youth in our community.

"This is a great project for the foundation to be involved in because our goal of being a conduit of financial assistance to help projects get done is our priority," said Norman Nelson, Foundation president.

Other community foundation

projects are downtown revitalization, including Washington Street Park, Moffet Station, Dr. Lyon's House renovation and the Heaton Building renovation.

"The community foundation can be a big player in the success of a community or county. It provides a way for people to help the community that they live and work

in, by giving tax deductible donations to either a project or fund identified by the foundation board of directors," said Scott Sproul, Foundation secretary.

The total purchase cost is \$16,500. It will be used in Norton County and in surrounding counties to assist in drug interdiction efforts with youth and adults.

## Wyatt A. Winchell

May 20, 1919 - October 17, 2010

Wyatt A. Winchell, of Phillipsburg, died Sunday, Oct. 17 at the Phillips County Hospital in Phillipsburg at the age of 91.

Mr. Winchell was born May 20, 1919 in Phillips County, the son of Wyatt and Rose (Behringer) Winchell.

On Oct. 31, 1949 he married Marie Rodenbaugh in Norton. Wyatt was a farmer.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Marie.

He is survived by two sons; Jim, Almema and Rex, Agra; two daughters, Sally McClelland, Almema and Kay Lofquist, Elwood, Neb.; 7 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 8 step grandchildren, 12 step great-

grandchildren and one step great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the Olliff-Boeve Memorial Chapel in Phillipsburg, with Pastor Don Covington officiating. Burial will follow in the Long Island Cemetery, Long Island with military honors by the Ft. Riley Honor Guard.

Mr. Winchell will lie in-state Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the funeral home with the family receiving friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday evening.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Center for Basic Cancer Research or the Alzheimer's Association. Online condolences to: [www.olliffboeve.com](http://www.olliffboeve.com).

Olliff-Boeve Memorial Chapel, Phillipsburg, is in charge of arrangements.

## BIRTH

Levi Robert Willour was born

to Garrett and Shelby Willour on Sept. 30 at the Norton County Hospital. Levi weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21 inches in length. He was welcomed home by three brothers, Matt, Logan, and Braxton.



Levi Willour

Grandparents are Bobby and Lydia Annon, Norton and Randy and Kathy Willour, Ransom. Great grandfathers are Raymond Rojas and Bob Annon Sr., Norton and Don Weeks, Ransom.

## Card shower is requested

A card shower is requested to help Fay Kline celebrate his birthday on Tuesday, Oct. 26. Cards may reach him at: Fay Kline, Andbe Home, Room 1 N, 201 W. Crane St., Norton, KS. 67654.

Send club news to Harriett at [hgill@nwks.com](mailto:hgill@nwks.com)

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General Admission for both movies \$6.00 and \$5.00  
\$3.00 Ticket this Sunday  
Coming Friday, October 22 - You Again (PG-13)  
Check the Theatre website for Upcoming Events [nortontheatre.com](http://nortontheatre.com)

Halloween Horrorfest 2010 - LATE Friday Night October 29 at Midnight  
Night of the Living Dead (NR) and Paranormal Activity (R)  
Halloween Horrorfest 2010 - Late Saturday Night October 30 at Midnight  
Poltergeist (PG) and Saw (R)

ADMISSION is FREE for all of the Halloween films on October 29 and 30. Also there will be a Halloween Costume Contest once again as well. Come in your favorite Halloween costumes to either of the midnight scary movies and be entered into a drawing for cool Norton Theatre gift certificates!  
**HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE HERE FOR A FRIGHTFUL GOOD TIME!**

This ad is brought to you by The Norton Telegram



Pictured from left to right, front row: Karla Reed, Riley Griffin held by Belinda Griffin, Elenore Boyle, Desirae Shields, Kelsi Griffin, Cris Walston and Curtis Walston; back row, Lyman Rowh, Denzel Lofgreen, Mira Bell holding Kyra Bell, Genni Poage, Jessica Schlingloff, Bessy Owen, Shirley Erbert, Verla Grysch, Ted Sanko, and Connie Sanko

THE NORTON TELEGRAM  
and the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce welcome  
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**Doyle Bicknell Schoen**

Doyle Bicknell Schoen died at his home at the age of 90 on Oct. 16, 2010. He was born Sept. 5, 1920, in Osborne, KS. The third child of John Andrew and Grace Eileen (Bicknell) Schoen, Doyle grew to manhood on the Graham County family farm south of Lenora and graduated from Lenora Rural High School. On Sept. 1, 1941 he married Helen Louise Hickert at Norton, KS. Doyle was drafted and trained as a fighter pilot in the Army, but was transferred and served under General Patton as a tank commander with the 1st Armored Division. He return home to farm and ranch winning many cattle awards with J.A. Schoen and Sons Registered Herefords. Doyle ran a custom harvesting operation cutting wheat from Texas to Montana. Doyle and Helen supported many local organizations. He was preceded in death by his parents, J. A. and Grace, sisters, Viola Lorene Hillis and Lola Kathryn Martin. Doyle is survived by his wife Helen, residing at the Logan Manor, a brother Dr. Edwin Andrew Schoen of Virginia Beach, VA, four children, Maxine Caroline Mai (Jim), Edwin Loyd Schoen (Claudia), both of Lenora, Norma Joyce "Butch" Veazey (Tom) of Hesston, KS and Roberta Esther "Susie" Schoen, Santa Fe, NM. Seven grandchildren: Nita Lynn and Jared I. Mai, Melissa Marie and Andy John Schoen, Teresa Christine, Aerica Joan (Chris Kennedy), and Laura Louise Veazey, and great grandchild Helen Elizabeth Veazey-Heying. Visitation will be Wednesday evening at Doyle's home in Lenora from 7:00 to 10:00 pm.

Funeral services will be held Oct. 21 @ 11:00 am at the United Parish of Lenora. Interment of ashes will be Friday at sunset in the Lenora South Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the United Parish Church or the Lenora Jubilee.