

Obituaries

Steven L. Knodel

Aug. 30, 1957 - March 28, 2009

Steven Lawrence Knodel was born on Aug. 30, 1957, in Burlington, Colo., to Lawrence and Ruth (Lippert) Knodel. He died on Saturday, March 28, 2009, after suffering from amyloidosis, a rare blood disease which affected his heart. Steve died at the age of 51 in transit to Presbyterian St. Luke Hospital in Denver, Colo.

Steve was raised on the family farm north of Burlington where he developed his love for farming and ranching. He was baptized and confirmed at the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bethune, Colo., and graduated from Burlington High School in 1975.

Good friends introduced Steve to his wife, best friend and soul mate, Susan Kay Wiley, and they were married on Sept. 10, 1977. Steve and Susan lived and worked in Burlington for six years when they had their first daughter, Angela Sue born on Sept. 20, 1983. Soon after, Steve and Susan were given the opportunity to take over the Wiley farm near Idalia in 1984 where they spent the last 24 years raising cattle, corn and wheat. Their second daughter, Andrea Kay was born on Sept. 22, 1987.

Steve held a special bond with his daughters, Angela and Andrea and loved supporting them through their school days at Idalia School. He was extremely proud of their accomplishments in 4-H, FFA, sports, college and all of their endeavors.

Steve took an active role in his community by serving on the Idalia Visions Board, Idalia School Board, the Arnel Fire Department, church choir, numerous church committees and was an avid fan of the Idalia Wolves sports teams.

His favorite time of the year was gathering with neighbors and friends for their yearly branding. He enjoyed farming, ranching, hunting, fishing, working cattle, playing cards and spending time with his family, neighbors and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Susan, Idalia; daughter, Angela and son-in-law, Troy Worth, Ames, Iowa; daughter, Andrea Knodel and future son-in-law, Tucker Louthan; mother, Ruth Knodel, Burlington; sisters, Joyce Knodel, Burlington, Susie (Tony) Paintin, Kit Carson, Colo.; father and mother-in-law, Ward and Vaudie Wiley, Burlington; sisters-in-law, Patricia Wiley, Greeley, Colo., Sally (Brett) Parker, Idalia, along with seven nieces, one nephew, several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He will be deeply missed by everyone that knew him.

Funeral services were held Thursday, April 2, at the United Methodist Church, St. Francis, Kan. Officiant was Reverend Morita Truman. Burial was in the Arnel Cemetery, rural Yuma County, Colo.

Honorary pallbearers were Jerry Soehner, Keith Weyerman, Roger Richards, Donald Richards, Wayne Weyerman, Freeman Morris, Bob Brenner, Gary Soehner, Dale Nider, and Robin Wiley.

Casket bearers were Jason Scheler, Chad Richards, Ross Morris, Josh Morris, Curt Distro, Duane Richards, Riley Shaffer and Tatt Soehner.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Dennis Ray Ambrosier

Sept. 6, 1945 - March 25, 2009

Dennis Ray Ambrosier, of Bird City, Kan., died March 25, 2009, at Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital in Denver, Colo. He was 63 years old.



Ambrosier

Dennis was born Sept. 6, 1945, in Hill City to the late Alva and Doris (Hendershot) Ambrosier.

He attended school in Hill City and spent his childhood working on the family's ranch with his parents and seven siblings.

After high school, Dennis joined a custom cutting crew and worked his way north to South Dakota where he met and courted Arlene Rose Frix.

On Feb. 16, 1966, he and Arlene were united in marriage in Onaka, S.D. Dennis brought his bride to his hometown where, in December 1966, they celebrated the arrival of their first child, Dawn Marie.

Dennis was offered a lineman position with the presently known Midwest Energy Cooperation which brought the family to Bird City.

Their second child, Shannon Lee, was born in St. Francis in 1969.

Dennis quickly became a familiar face throughout Bird City as he drove around in his company's truck helping many friends and neighbors anytime they would call, day or night. He remained a dedicated employee of Midwest Energy for 35 years before his retirement in 2005.

Dennis was an avid outdoors man. He loved spending time with his family and friends which al-

ways included fishing, camping, hunting and riding horses.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents; his loving wife, Arlene; and two brothers, Gene and Robert.

He is survived by his daughter, Dawn (Brian) Miller, Bird City; his son, Shannon (DeAnza) Ambrosier, Bird City; four grandchildren, Bryce Ambrosier, Goodland, Spencer Ambrosier, Branson, Mo., Montana Miller, Wichita, Kelsey Miller, Bird City; two step-grandchildren, Brandon and Natasha Gordon, Norton; companion, Linda Bayless, Atwood; five siblings, Pauline Cole, Bullhead City, Ariz., Helen Coon, Ponca City, Okla., Eldon (Betty) Ambrosier, Norton, Darrel (Pat) Ambrosier, Almena, Gerald Ambrosier, Hill City; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Services were held Monday, March 30, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bird City. Father Roger Meitl officiated. Burial was in the Bird City Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers were Ned Smith, Darwin Higgins, Martin Burton, Red Curry, Sam Beeson and Terry Burns.

Casket bearers were Ken Krien, Mike Finley, Rod Young, Terry Weinstein, Dave Horinek and Jay Sharp.

A horse drawn carriage carried the casket to the Bird City Cemetery.

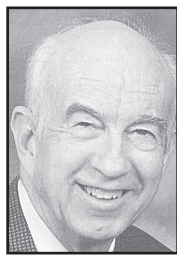
Arrangements were made by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

The Dennis Ambrosier Memorial Fund has been established through First National Bank, Bird City.

Lloyd A. Fredrickson

May 17, 1929 - Dec. 18, 2008

Lloyd A. Fredrickson, 79, of Midland, Texas, died on Dec. 18, 2008. He was born on May 17, 1929, in St. Francis, Kan.



Fredrickson

Lloyd married Dolly M. Waters of St. Francis on Sept. 3, 1950, while attending Kansas State University.

After graduation with a bach-

elor of science degree mechanical engineering in 1951, he worked for Gates Rubber Company and Martin Marietta Corporation in Denver, Colo., where he and Dolly lived for 50 years before moving to Midland.

Lloyd is survived by his wife, Dolly; son, Dr. Mark Fredrickson; daughter, Alice Comer; sister, Frances Canniff and six grandchildren.

A memorial service will held at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the First Christian Church, St. Francis.

Carl B. Keller

Aug. 8, 1983 - March 30, 2009

Carl B. Keller was born showing his stubborn fighting spirit from the beginning on Aug. 8, 1983. He died on March 30, 2009. Carl was 25 years old.

Carl was welcomed home by his older brother, John and parents, Mark and Gwen (Dirks) Keller. Two years later, the arrival of little brother, Luke completed the family.

Carl lived his life in Cheyenne County, Kan. He loved the outdoors and farmed all of his life, starting with his toy tractors and trucks. He proudly rode his little orange lawn mower and mowed every piece of lawn on the place.

At the age of 13, Carl was so proud when he graduated to real equipment; driving it alone and working on the farm with Grandpa John, Uncle Stanley and uncle and best friend, Clay.

His life-long love affair with horses began with Turp and continued with his love of many other horses, namely Smarty. After a couple years of roping for fun with his many buddies, he took it to another level by completing his very own roping arena. The few times he got to rope in it was like watching perfection.

While the classroom and being inside wasn't his favorite place to be, Carl was active in sports. He excelled in football and wrestling but also enjoyed baseball and track. While Carl was definitely competitive, sports taught him that putting pressure on yourself and treating it like a job took the fun out of it; in his own words, "Just do it for fun; don't take everything seriously." Carl was always on the go.

Carl began his walk with the Lord on Aug. 16, 1983, with his baptism at the family home and his confirmation on May 3, 1998, at the Peace Lutheran Church with his class.

Carl's life was defined by his heart; not by the surgeries but rather by the love that filled his heart. His first surgery was Aug. 16, 1983, and his second surgery came on June 10, 1997, as an eighth grader. But the most important thing he did with his heart was to give it to the love of his life

his senior year. He gave his heart to Toni from the beginning and showed it to her daily. Even when she had doubts or fears, he held strong. It was common for Toni to call home during college and Carl was with her parents. He always knew.

Toni and Carl officially joined hearts on July 14, 2007.

Carl was a magnet to smaller and younger kids, always being one of the favorites with younger cousins, niece and nephews.

Carl wrote an autobiography assignment his senior year that said "Because you never know when it is your time to go and you always have to be ready."

Preceding him in death was his cousin, Kelsey Cooper.

He is survived by his wife, Toni Jean Keller; parents, Mark and Gwen Keller; brother and sister-in-law, John and Jaci Keller; brother, Luke Keller; parents-in-law, Bud and Marla Rice; sisters-in-law, Amy Hathaway and family and Meg Rice; grandparents, John and Karen Keller and Tobias and Ann Dirks of St. Francis; Earl and Alice Jensen, Hugo, Colo., and Pearl Rice, Julesburg, Colo.; great-grandparents, Albert and Vinta Keller; uncles, aunts and cousins, Matt and Peggy Keller and Radie; Clay Keller, Darris, Casey and Conner; Bernie and Gail Stoltmann; Mark and Toby Cooper and Mindy; Wes and Amy Cooper and Addy; Max and Irene Kirks, Tobias and Taylor.

Funeral services were held April 3 at Peace Lutheran Church, St. Francis, with Pastor Ken Hart and Pastor Morita Truman officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were Greg Walz, Cliff Pilkington, Roger Faulkender, Tim Lambert, Hoagie Carmichael, Steve Jenkins, Darren Brown, Larry Zion, David Rose, Matt Small and Gabe Walz.

Casket bearers were Brett Petersen, Cory Zion, Randy Dinkel, Mike Frewen, Dallas Walz and Ryan Culwell.

A horse-drawn carriage carried the casket to the St. Francis Cemetery for burial.

Knodel Funeral Home was in charge of the services.

Helen Christina Walter Peter

Aug. 5, 1912 - April 7, 2009

Helen Christina Walter was born Aug. 5, 1912, the oldest of four children born to William and Matilda Miller Walter. She was a graduate of White School and was confirmed in the Zion Evangelical Church.

On March 15, 1932, she was married to Reuben Fred Peter. They started their married life on a farm 17 miles south of St. Francis. One daughter, Annabelle, was born to this union.

After all the drought and hail storms, they decided to leave the farm and in 1946, they moved to town.

Their country church was Lawn Ridge where she was a kindergarten teacher and a 4-H sewing leader. After the move to town, Helen and her family transferred their membership to the United Methodist Church in St. Francis. She was a member of the United Methodist Women and served as a co-chair person for funeral dinners.

Helen was also instrumental in beginning a church thrift shop that operated for several years out of the basement, then second floor, of the Educational Building and continues downtown today as part of her legacy in the community. She cut the ribbon to the front entrance on the day of the grand opening.

In 1947, she started working in different grocery stores. Her last job was with Ideal Market, where she worked for over 22 years.

Helen was a talented seamstress and she especially liked making quilts. The ones she was most proud of were the Old Testament and New Testament quilts that two of her granddaughters now own. She also made dozens of embroidered tea towel sets that she gave as gifts. She continued embroidering well into her 90s, making the towels for friends and family. She

simply loved to give gifts.

In 1998, she sold her home and moved to the Good Samaritan Village apartments. She enjoyed her home there, marked by the birdhouses on the fence in front. She enjoyed spending time with her neighbors and any company who came to visit.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Reuben Peter; her parents, William and Matilda Walter, and her brothers, Paul and Clarence.

Helen Peter died on April 7, 2009, at the Cheyenne County Hospital, just 4 months shy of her 97th birthday.

She leaves to mourn her death her daughter and son-in-law, Annabelle and BA Prater; five granddaughters: Peggy and Rod Meyer, Debbie Mayfield, Kathy and Douglas Brown, Barbara and Tim Lawson and Sarah Prater; her great-grandchildren: Ryan and Kathy Meyer, Jonathan Meyer, Julie Meyer, Holly Mayfield, Lindsey Mayfield, Josh and Amanda Brown, Jourdan Brown, Becky Lawson, Matthew Lawson, Stasia Prater, Cami Prater and Tori Prater, and great-great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Meyer who just turned 1 year old; her sister, Lucille Weedl and sister-in-law, Mildred Burr, along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and a legion of friends of all ages.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, April 7, at Knodel Funeral Home in St. Francis with Reverend Morita Truman officiating.

Casket bearers were Doug Brown, Josh Brown, Eddy Schultz, Gary Walter, Pete Gienger and Roger Jensen.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery, St. Francis.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home.

Arlen Edgar Rico

April 4, 1939 - April 2, 2009

Arlen Edgar Rico, 69, St. Francis, Kan., died April 2, 2009, at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis. He was born April 4, 1939, in Denver, Colo.

He was a farmer/truck driver. Survivors include his wife, Sharon K. (Baker) Rico, St. Francis; sons: Joseph Rice, Grand Junction, Colo.; and Thomas Rico, Burlington, Colo.; daughters: Ronda Rico, Denver, Colo.; and Brenda Briegel, Burlington; nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on

Monday, April 6, at Demi's Diner in Wray, Colo. Graveside services were held Tuesday, April 7, 2009, at Evergreen Cemetery, Deer Trail, Colo.

Honorary escorts were grandchildren, Vincent Rico, Kyla Kizer, Jacob Reed, Kale Rico, Dalton Rico, Trenton Rico, Cole Briegel, Demi Briegel and Dustan Rico.

Memorial may be made to the Arlen Rico Memorial Fund.

Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis, was in charge of arrangements.

Elden Deroy Pettit II

March 29, 1957 - March 30, 2009

Elden Deroy Pettit II (Shorty/PJ), 52, of Evergreen, Colo., died March 30, 2009, at St. Anthony's Hospital, Denver. He was born March 29, 1957, in St. Francis, Kan.

He is survived by Shryll (Bressler) Pettit Behn of Evergreen, his daughter, Jana Marie (Pettit) Quintero, her husband, Rolando, and daughter Teigan Ann, all of LaJunta, Colo.; grandmother, Hope Bressler of St. Francis; sisters, Diana Weinstein and her husband, Terry of Bird City and Cora Lee Pettit of Hot Springs, Ark.; brother, Dwuane Pettit of Colorado Springs and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Elden Deroy Pettit, his step-father, Harold Arthur Behn, great-grandmothers, Addie Bressler and Lucy Pettit; great-grandfather, Ansel Miller; grandparents, James and Rosie Pettit, Earnest Bressler and Art and Hazel Behn, uncles, Rex Bressler, Robert Bressler and his wife, Marianne and nephew Nicholas Weinstein.

Family graveside services will be held in Bird City over Memorial Day weekend.

Memorial donations can be sent to Shryll Behn, 5513 Maggie Lane, Evergreen, Colo., 80439, for a trust fund for his granddaughter, Teigan Anne's education.

Alan Jennings Chumley

Sept. 7, 1961 - April 7, 2009

Alan Jennings Chumley, 47, died Tuesday, April 7, 2009, as the result of an automobile accident. He was born Sept. 7, 1961, in Denver. He was a carpenter.

Survivors include his sons, Jayden, Ethan and Austin Chumley, all of McDonald; daughter, Nicole Chumley, of McDonald; brother, Kevin Chumley, of Denver; sister, Gina, of California and

father, Ralph Chumley of Bird City.

Cremation has taken place. Services were held April 9 at the United Methodist Church in Bird City with a family gathering following.

Memorials may be given to the family, in care of Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Plain Sense

"Good Mental Health"

According to Parlay International "Live Better, Work Better", people who are mentally healthy and able to be successful in their own lives tend to share the following traits:

Good Self-Esteem: they value themselves including their own unique skills and talents, beliefs and feelings. They appreciate praise, but don't always rely on others to tell them they are worthwhile.

Life's Challenges: successful people are able to handle challenges at each stage of life, and work through temporary setbacks.

Flexibility: they do not always have to be right. They are able to make mistakes, and accept those as mistakes and not moral failings, and to make adjustments for change.

Realistic Expectations: they are realistic about what they can accomplish and willing to re-define their goals.

Acknowledge Feelings: successful people are aware of their feelings, even when irrational, and are able to acknowledge those feelings and move on.

Accept Responsibility: they

are able to accept responsibility for their actions rather than blaming others.

Ask for Help: successful people are willing to admit when they cannot solve a problem, and will ask for and get help. They see this as part of the struggle to learn more and succeed.

In addition, people with good mental health have a positive attitude towards life. They accept that no one is perfect, and try not to criticize themselves or others. They are tolerant and treat others with respect. They spend time with family and friends who reflect those same values, and who value their friendship. They practice good stress management by eating nutritiously, exercising regularly, and getting a proper amount of rest.

Contributed by Karen D. Schueler, MS, LCPC, Director, PEO - Prevention, Education and Outreach Dept

Mail questions to: High Plains Mental Health Center, PLAIN SENSE, PEO-Prevention, Education and Outreach Department, 208 East 7th, Hays, KS 67601



*** NOTICE ***

THE SECOND HALF OF TAXES
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WITHOUT PENALTY

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