

Obituaries

Bernice Eberhart

Sept. 13, 1913 - Feb. 12, 2007
Burlington, Colo., resident
Bernice "Bernie" Eberhart, 93, died Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, after a short stay at Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital in Burlington.

She was born Sept. 13, 1913, at Beecher Island, Colo., the daughter of Glen Allen and Nora (Busby) Allen. Her parents were delighted to have a little girl since their other babies were both boys.

Bernice loved school and excelled in her classes. A most happy time was when she started going to Sunday school and thus began her journey of faith and her love for her Lord. In those formative years she chose *This Little Light of Mine* as her favorite song. In keeping with "this little Light", her favorite Bible Verse was "Let Your Light So Shine."

She attended school at Arnel, Colo., and graduated from Wray High School in Wray, Colo. She continued her education with Normal Training at St. Francis, Kan.

She took her first teaching job at Blue Ridge and taught there for four years. She taught one year at Clough Valley. She taught all eight grades, had German-speaking students, was expected to do the janitorial work, had to walk to school and still she loved her teaching. She shared her teaching experiences with many people throughout the years. She remained in contact with several of her students and looked forward to receiving phone calls, cards and letters from them.

While teaching she met her future husband and the father of her children, Ted Eberhart, at a barn dance. They danced their way into love and marriage. They became "Mr. and Mrs." at a double wedding shared with her brother, Berl, and his bride, Hattie, on June 3, 1936.

They moved to a farm southeast of Burlington and began their "farmer career" together. It was during dust bowl times and they survived through their sheet grit and determination to succeed.

On July 26, 1937, Lonnie Bruce was born. He was the first grandchild on the Allen side of the family and was the delight of his parents, grandparents and aunts and uncles.

On June 8, 1941, during a tornado, Connie Jo was born which answered a prayer of Bernice's that she have a little girl to go with her little boy. Thus, the Eberhart family was complete.

The tornado damaged or destroyed homes as well as the Smoky Hill School House. The Smoky Hill School House was the hub of the community for education, socialization, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, trap shoots, basket dinners and meetings. People truly cared about each other and worked together to make the community special. The Smoky Hill Picnic is evidence of the cohesiveness of that community. Until the last few years, Bernice was instrumental in planning and promoting the picnic, always making sure that there was an appropriate news article for the newspaper.

Bernice was instrumental in starting the Smoky Hill Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and the hot lunch program. Her love for learning, teaching, doing and her leadership abilities were instrumental in the Smoky Hill Community.

Bernice was one of three charter members (50 years) 1946-1996 for the Green Valley Extension Club. She held all offices available in the club, hosted, directed and exhibited leadership abilities and was one of the "ring leaders" in preparing the club's fair booth.

After 23 years on the farm, Bernice and Ted built a new home in Burlington and began their new retirement career. When Bernice moved into their new home, she was so overjoyed that she said she didn't have to die to go to heaven, this was as close to heaven as she'd ever been.

Bernice loved decorating her new home and equally loved her yard and garden. The Eberhart home received the "Yard of the Month" award much to "Bernie's" delight.

Ted fished and hunted and loved this time at Bonny Dam with his boat and the "guys." Bernie became very involved in the community. She began teaching Sunday School at the Methodist Church and also led Bible Study Classes for many years. Additionally, she recorded the entire Bible in her own words; talking her way through the Good Book from Genesis through Revelation. These recordings were done for the benefit of her children and are personal and private treasure for them.

In June of 1994, The Rocky Mountain Conference Board of Laity chose Bernice as a recipient for the "Quiet Disciple" award. In her nomination it was said that in her Church, she was the one with the

most Biblical knowledge. Kids, young parents and older folks in her classes pointed to Bernice as the one whose faith they most respected.

Bernice described one of the loves of her life was to work with Young Mother's. Colorado Mothers is an affiliate of American Mothers Inc...incorporated 1929 in New York. Their aim is to strengthen the moral and spiritual foundations of the home. She began working with Young Mothers in 1964 in Burlington and under her supportive guidance and leadership other Young Mothers groups were started in several surrounding communities.

Bernice gave tireless amounts of her time, energy and dedication to Young Mothers. She supported monetarily and traveled to countless out-of-town meetings and luncheons in Colorado as well as out-of-state national conventions.

In 1970, Bernice received the coveted "Jaffe Award" at a National Convention in New York City. That same year she was nominated as Colorado Mother of the Year. In 1990 she received the May Lindsay Motherhood award from the American Mothers, Inc. She was so very proud of the Mother-Daughter statue that went with this award.

In July of 2003, The Young Mothers Group honored Bernice for her 38 years of dedication to young families in Burlington. She treasured the quilt, the scrapbooks, plaques, cards and letters and other forms of praises that she received throughout the years.

In addition to Bernice's work outside her home with Sunday School, Church Bible Study, Extension Homemakers, the Rose Garden at Old Town, Baby Bear Hugs, and activities too numerous to mention, Bernice loved her home. She fought with all her might to be as independent as possible so she could remain in her home until God called her home.

Bernice was a meticulous housekeeper/homemaker, ironed with gusto and perfection and chased dust even when there was none or almost none. Her windows were without streaks and spots. In fact, it was feared she might wash them out of the "socket."

Preceding her in death were her husband Ted; her parents; two brothers, Ken and Berl; and one grandson, Kyle.

Those celebrating the life of Bernice are son, Lon Eberhart and his wife, Kay of Dubuque, Iowa; grandson Lance Eberhart and his wife, Merrily of Denver, Colo.; great-granddaughter, Carly Eberhart; daughter, Connie Spencer and her husband, John "Spence" of Alamosa, Colo., and Mesa, Ariz.; one brother Melvin "Pete" Allen of Wray; two sisters, Gwen Shaver and her husband, Rex of Wray; Darlene "Dottie" Cutforth and her husband, Charles "Chuck" of Denver; and many nieces and nephews who dearly loved their Aunt "Bernie".

Bernice would be so pleased to know that Bob and Jan Churchwell, special friends, and John and Diana Mauch, special relatives, agreed to sing a medley of her favorite church songs at her memorial service. Bernice's greatest celebration was when she was able to leave this earth and go to be with God. She had prayed for sometime that she could "wake up dead" so she could get to "that home" on the other side. That wish was granted on Feb. 12, 2007, in a peaceful, dignified and loving way with her daughter at her side playing that special church music. It was a heavenly chorus.

Hallelujah for her and for all she has done for so many people for so many years. Her gain is our loss. We miss you and love you, still, Dear Bernie!

The memorial service was on Monday, Feb. 19, at the Burlington United Methodist Church, with Reverend Tom Peacock officiating.

Memorials may be designated to the Burlington United Methodist Church for Bernice Eberhart, and may be left at Bank of the West in Burlington, or mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 North Main, Goodland, KS 67735-1555.

William George Stenzel

May 10, 1942 - Jan. 28, 2007
William "Bill" George Stenzel, 64, of Fort Collins, Colo., died Jan. 28, 2007, at his home after a long battle with emphysema.

Bill is survived by his wife, Carol; two sons, Sgt. Jason Stenzel, United States Marine Corp, currently stationed in Ethiopia; and Ryan Stenzel of Fort Collins; daughter, Maryann Stenzel of Fort Collins; sister, Judith (Jim) Liebman of Champaign-Urbana, Ill.; brother, John (Jeannie) Stenzel of Red Feather Lakes, Colo.; and a wide circle of friends.

Bill was born on May 10, 1942, in Denver, Colo., to Raymond and Mary Stenzel. That summer they moved to Kansas city, Mo. He grew up in the Ward Parkway area on the city's south side attending Hale Cook (kindergarten through fifth), Border Star (sixth and seventh), Southwest High (eighth) and Pembroke County Day (ninth through 12th) schools.

In 1960, he enlisted in the Air Force, attended Russian Language training at Syracuse University, saw duty in West Germany and Turkey and was honorably discharged in 1964.

Bill then attended Colorado University and graduated with a double degree in applied mathematics (summa cum laude) and production management (magna cum laude).

He returned to Kansas City where he worked in the family business developing computer software for their wholesale distributorships (McPike, Inc., and Niles and Maser, Inc.).

He married Carol Hilt on Aug. 1, 1981, at Westwood Lutheran Church in Westwood. He and Carol moved to Gladstone, Mo. Later they moved to Parkville, Mo., where they were active members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Kansas City, Mo.

Starting in 1987, Bill developed the computer network for Fox Acres Country Club in the Red Feathers Lake area. In 1993, the family moved to Fort Collins.

Bill played tennis, racquetball and golf.

He enjoyed reading, playing bridge, chess or just about any sort of board or card game. Bill was proud of his cooking skills.

Henry Dean Weaver

Feb. 7, 1935 - Feb. 5, 2007
Henry Dean Weaver lost his battle with cancer on Feb. 5, 2007, in St. George, Utah. Henry, better known as Hank, was born Feb. 7, 1935, in Cheyenne County, Kan. He graduated from Bird City High School in 1954.

Hank was a member of the unbeaten, unscored on, football team of 1953. He was named to the High School All-Star Team in 1953 and 1954.

In 1958, Hank married Marcia Spears of Benkelman, Neb.

Hank farmed on the family farm for 30 years before changing his lifestyle and moving to Las Vegas, Nev., in 1990.

His hobby of oil painting was something he accomplished in Nevada having art pieces in a Mesquite, Nev., art gallery.

Hank served on the Cheylin School Board, Cheyenne County Fair Board and was a member of the Goodland Elks Lodge, Riverside Recreation Country Club, and Knights of Columbus while he lived in Cheyenne County.

Hank is survived by his wife, Carla, of Mesquite; his daughter, Jeanine Peter and Wade Krien of St. Francis; his son, Michael Weaver and wife, Cindy, of Larkspur, Colo.; three granddaughters, Chanell Peter of Goodland, Chauntell Peter of St. Francis and

Heather Weaver of Larkspur; his sister, Pauline Shahan and husband, Don of North Platte, Neb.; his three nieces, Traci and Tami of Denver and Teri of California, ex-wife, Marcia Weaver of Goodland, and a number of good friends in the Cheyenne County area.

Hank was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Mary Weaver.

Richard Maurice Wall

Jan. 25, 1920 - Feb. 19, 2007
Richard Maurice Wall was born on a ranch 15 miles north of Haigler, Neb., on Jan. 25, 1920, and died at Wray, Colo., on Feb. 19, 2007.

He was the second child born to Charles Russell Wall and Iva Violet (Sharp) Wall. He attended country school District 77 until 1929 when the family moved to a farm near Haigler. He completed the eighth grade at District South 67 and graduated from Haigler High School in 1937. Richard and Laura Pearl were proud that both they and all of their children were Haigler High School graduates.

He married Laura Pearl Woods on May 10, 1942. Six children were born to them: Carol Lee in 1943, Richard Duane in 1945, Jeannie Lynn in 1946, JoAnn Gayle in 1948, Maurice Dwight in 1949 and MerryLu in 1950. They were saddened by JoAnn's death in 1949.

Richard was a member of Haigler United Methodist Church. He served on several church committees and taught Sunday school classes. With the family involved in church, 4-H, school, music lessons, sports, gardening, farming and any community event, the Wall home was a welcome place for many activities.

Richard was a 4-H leader and member of the school board in District 67 and Haigler school. He loved sports all his life and was a booster of Nebraska Huskers football. His "down to earth" philosophy and sense of humor made him appreciated by family and friends.

Richard enjoyed going to sales and collecting antiques — especially horse-drawn farm machinery. He shared items with family, friends in the neighborhood and church. The oxen neckyoke on the altar and the Advent wreath made from an old buggy axle and drill wheels came from the Wall collection.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Violet Wyman, Adah Crabtree, Marjorie Chartier, Phyllis Tavenner; brothers, Duane and James; infant daughter, JoAnn and grandson, Brent Flaming.

Those mourning his death are his wife of 65 years of marriage, Laura Pearl; daughters, Carol and husband, Jay Flaming, Jeannie and husband, Alfred Zuege, MerryLu and husband, Robert Simmons; sons, Duane and wife, LuAnn, and Dwight; grandchildren, Kurt, Kimberly, Azure, Jessica, Caleb and wife, Sherrill, Lyndsay, Wendy, Dustin and wife, Christy, Heather and husband, Greg, Laurie and husband, Randy, Todd and Quentin and wife, Tonya; great-grandchildren, Zachary, Blaine, Amber, Logan, Sydney, Gracie, Laura, Madison, Spencer and Allison; sisters, Emogene Workman, Virginia Rathbun and Patricia Pickett.

Richard loved his family, he loved his church, he loved Haigler, he loved Nebraska and he will be missed by many.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, Feb. 22, at the Haigler United Methodist Church in Haigler with Lana Fong, CLM, officiating.

A private family interment was held in the Haigler Cemetery.

Spellman-Schmidt Funeral Home in Wray, Colo., was in charge of arrangements.



THE CITY CREW took advantage of the calm before the storm and took down the Christmas decorations across Main Street on Thursday. Herald staff photo by LeZlie McCormick

Seniors go to Topeka for annual Rally Day

An estimated 650 seniors gathered in Topeka on Tuesday, Feb. 20, for the annual AARP Rally Day at the capitol.

Seven members from the local chapter were among those attending to help support AARP Kansas issues. They were Clarence Iliff, ErvaGene DeAragon, Wilma Lampe, Willow Rose Cook, Annette Erskin, Bud Houtman and Gladys Cullum.

Some of the important state issues being supported were property tax relief, affordable health care and long-term care and home and community based services.

Local members visited the offices of Representative John Faber and Senator Ralph Ostmeyer of the 40th District.

A luncheon was provided by AARP at the Capitol Plaza Hotel Conference Center, where the keynote speaker was Jennie C. Hansen, AARP Board Member and president-elect. Her talk was entitled "Divided We Fall" and was very informative and interesting.

Groups were brought to the Capitol by chartered busses from all parts of the state and it was stated that St. Francis came the farthest. The local members went by cars to Hays where they joined others in busses on to Topeka and back.

All attending were given yellow T-shirts with black lettering to wear so the Capitol saw a sea of sunshiny yellow for the day! All felt it was an interesting and informative day.

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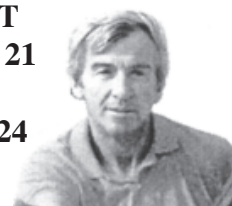
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