

Obituaries

Earnest Earl Amsberry

April 24, 1922 - Feb. 14, 2008

Earnest Earl Amsberry, 85, longtime resident of Snyder, Colo., died Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008, at the Colorado Plains Medical Center in Fort Morgan, Colo.



Amsberry

Mr. Amsberry was born April, 24, 1922, in St. Francis, Kan., to Alfred and Susanna (Talmon) Amsberry. He served his country in the U.S. Marines during World War II.

He married Betty Billington on Dec. 20, 1945, in St. Francis. The Amsberrys moved from Bird City to Snyder in 1950.

In 1964, he started his own hay business in Snyder. He attended the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brush, was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and was involved with the Young Farmers.

Through the years, he and his wife sponsored children through the Christian Children's Fund.

He enjoyed tinkering with and working on his haying equipment. He invented and implemented ways to make the haying equipment work better.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Amsberry of Snyder; one son, Alden Amsberry of Littleton, Colo.; two daughters, Linda Shelton of Thornton, Colo., and Susanne Brown of Thermoplois, Wyo.; two brothers, Leonard Amsberry of Goodland and Lee Amsberry of Bird City; three sisters, Vera Sumner of Brush, Colo., Dorothy Hammers of Englewood, Colo., and Darlene Brubaker of Bird City; 10 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandchildren, James Patrick Brown, Sean Shelton and Wendy Shelton and a great-grandchild, Jessica Stone.

Two funeral services were held. The first service was on Feb. 19, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brush. The second service was on Feb. 20 at the Forch Funeral Home Chapel in Benkelman, Neb.

Interment followed in the Benkelman Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Dwight Ewing Vallin

Dec. 25, 1946 - Feb. 13, 2008

Dwight Vallin, 61, Long Island, died Feb. 13, 2008.

He was born on Christmas day in 1946 in Goodland, Kan., to Don and Inis Vallin. He married his high school sweetheart Emily Eggers on Sept. 3, 1966.

Dwight attended Dodge City Community College and Bethany College on football scholarships and then completed his teaching degree in history in 1969 from Fort Hays State University. He taught and coached in Ellis for one year and Cambridge, Neb., for five years. He earned his master's degree in administration in 1977 from Fort Hays State University. Dwight became the kindergarten through eighth grade principal at Northern Valley Schools in Long Island, and fulfilled this position with joy and laughter for 29 years before retiring in May of 2006.

Dwight started his new career as a crop adjuster and enjoyed the last two years working with Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance. He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Long Island for 31 years.

Dwight had a way of making friends and acquaintances. He loved telling stories and playing practical jokes. He enjoyed all types of sports, coaching football, wrestling and volleyball and giving unsolicited football advice to any head coach that would listen. His hobbies included fishing, golfing, playing cards, reading, visiting, watching old western movies and calling friends at all hours of the day or night.

Dwight is survived by his wife, Emily, of Long Island, one son Travis Vallin and two grandchildren, Tyler Don and Kayla Marilyn all of Watkins, Colo.; one daughter and son-in-law Tonja and Douglas Pfannenstiel of Las Vegas, Nev., and many close friends and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his sister Sue Carpenter and parents, Don & Inis Vallin.

He will be buried at Bird City. A celebration of his life will be held at 2 p.m. in the Long Island Middle School on Saturday, Feb. 23.

Wilma May Wilson

Dec. 30, 1916 - Feb. 7, 2008

Wilma May Wilson, 91, of Sheridan, Wyo., died Feb. 7, 2008.

She was born Dec. 30, 1916, in St. Francis, Kan., to James and Sarah (Sawyer) Rowand. Wilma grew up and attended schools in St. Francis. It was a hard life on a depression era dirt farm in the middle of the "dust bowl." Wilma had only one dress and when she out grew it, it was passed down to her younger sisters. She had a pair of shoes, but was allowed to only wear them to school, church, or during trips to town.

After she graduated from high school she did cleaning and other odd jobs to get enough money to go to Kansas City where she was given a scholarship to attend nursing school. The day she graduated as a registered nurse was one of the happiest of her life.

Following her graduation, she followed her family who had moved on to Colorado, and took a job nursing in Fort Collins. In 1941, she met John Wilson, a student of Colorado Aggies. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he joined the U.S. Army artillery as a newly commissioned lieutenant. In January 1942, before he left for training, they were married. Over the next 10 years they had three sons, John Jr., James and Charles, and then twins Mary and Robert.

During the war, Wilma lived with her sister-in-law in Wichita and worked as a nurse and at an aircraft plant manufacturing bombers. After the war, she and John returned to Fort Collins and he completed his education as a veterinarian. After graduation, they moved to a ranch near Cheyenne where John worked as a ranch vet and Wilma cooked and cleaned for the ranch hands. Subsequently, in 1948, they moved on to Sheridan.

In Sheridan, John and Pete Madsen formed the Madsen-Wilson Animal Hospital, one of the

first modern veterinary hospitals in the state of Wyoming. In the late 60s the partnership was dissolved and the practice became the Wilson Animal Hospital. In 1975, John died. His veterinary practice was assumed by Wilma's eldest son, John, Jr.

During those years of building the veterinary practice, Wilma often worked with her husband, up late at night or rising early in the morning to assist in emergencies. Meanwhile, she raised five children, taught them to love reading, and to believe in themselves. In her spare time she worked as a nurse at the Sheridan County Memorial Hospital and at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. She was also a member of the Daughters of the Nile, Order of Eastern Star, American Legion Auxiliary and the Parent Teachers Association.

After the loss of her husband and the graduation of her youngest child, Wilma joined the travel industry as a tour nurse. She saw it as a delightful opportunity to see the world and get paid in the bargain. Eventually, she settled down in Albany, N. Y., working as a private nurse caring for an Alzheimer patient.

At about the age of 80 she decided to retire. She returned home to Sheridan and took a room on the fifth floor of Heritage Towers which allowed her to oversee the land, buildings and veterinary practice that had been such a large part of her life. By then all her children had returned to live in Sheridan and the holiday gatherings gave her great joy.

Wilma was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her brother Ernest, and her sisters Ruth and Ruby.

She is survived by her daughter Mary, her sons and their wives John (Jane), James (Janet), Charles (Donna) and Robert (Patti), her grandchildren and step-grandchildren, Stan, Greg, Maura, Catherine, Teresa, Holly, Tyler, and Kyle; and her 10 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

She was a member of what some now call the greatest generation, but her children always knew she could do anything. She was their mother.

Funeral services were held Feb. 13 at the Champion-Ferries Funeral Home with Fr. Ron Stolic officiating. Interment was in the Masonic No. 8 Section of the Sheridan Municipal Cemetery.

Memorials may benefit the Wilma Wilson Nursing scholarship in care of the Sheridan College Foundation, PO Box 6328, Sheridan, WY 82801.



PLEASANT HILL 4-H CLUB received last minute instructions before the Model Meeting contest held Monday. A Regional Blue went to Pleasant Hill. Lawn Ridge 4-H Club received an Alternate Blue and Plum Creek 4-H Club received a red.

Photo courtesy of the Extension office.

Idalia News

By **Angela DeLeon**



The Cub's Den Community Childcare Center is looking for volunteers and substitutes. An orientation will be held Monday, March 3, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Cub's Den. Attendees will have an opportunity to become familiar with the center and be advised of the procedures necessary to be with the children. Please acquaint yourself with the Cub's Den and be a volunteer or substitute. If you cannot attend the meeting, please call the Cub's Den at 354-7587 and speak with Sue for information.

Community notices

Thursday, Feb. 21 FCE meeting, 7 p.m. and a basketball game at Bethune at 4 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 22, basketball game vs Woodlin, 4 p.m. Parents night; Saturday, Feb. 23: FFA member Sale 6 p.m. Diner; 7p.m. sale the Idalia School cafeteria/ gym. Monday Feb 25 Bookmobile in Idalia. Lions meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, basketball districts at Burlington Feb 27 through March 1. Choir practice at 5:30 p.m.

St. John Church of Christ

Young adults meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the church on Thursday, Feb. 28.

New Member Sunday is March 9. If you are ready to become a member of the church, or would like to explore the meaning of membership at St. John, please

contact Pastor Wright to arrange a pastoral visit. Anyone interested in becoming a member is also invited to attend the Wednesday evening Soup Suppers held from Feb 3 through March 12.

Marlene Miller and Denice Baucke will be back on Wednesday, Feb 27, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Prairie Vista Cafe! Hope to see you there. This is a free service so please stop in!

Birthdays/anniversaries

Birthdays: Feb. 22: Kasey Richards, Jim Soehner, Dustyn Merg-

erlman, Washington's birthday; Feb. 23: Kelyn Brueggeman, Creighton Farness, Casey Garton; Feb. 24: Brian Andrews; Feb. 25: Katie Weiser, Barbara Like; Feb. 26: Paula Wingfield, Darrell Shanks, Bill Carpenter Sr.; Feb. 27: Jay Zimelman; Feb. 28: Savannah Gillet.

Anniversary: Saturday Feb. 23 Travis and Krstal Crites



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