

Obituaries

James (Jim) Alvin Barnhart

Sept. 9, 1926 - April 24, 2014

James (Jim) Alvin Barnhart, 87, died April 24, 2014, at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis.

Jim was born Sept. 9, 1926, in Cheyenne County, to Harvey and Irene (Moore) Barnhart. He grew up on the farm established by his grandfather, John Barnhart.

He spent his early years on this farm located on the Hackberry Creek between St. Francis and Benkelman, Neb. It was here that Jim, at nine years of age, lost his mother in the Republican River flood of May 1935. The care and concern shown by the neighbors and friends during that difficult time greatly influenced the character of Jim and his brothers and sisters, not only during their childhood, but into their adulthood as well. The importance of being a good friend and neighbor was uppermost in their lives.

In 1945 his father married Lottie Davis McTaggart, who was a good stepmother for the Barnhart children.

Jim attended rural country schools in Cheyenne County for 11 1/2 years, and then dropped out of high school six weeks prior to graduation so he could join the United States Army. He later received his GED high school diploma while serving in the Army.

Carl Dean Finkbiner

Jan. 7, 1937 - Jan. 11, 2014

Carl Dean Finkbiner, 77, of Clifton, Kansas died Jan. 11, 2014 at Medicalodge, Clay Center. He was born Jan. 7, 1937 to Elmer and Margaret (Long) Finkbiner in rural Clifton. He was a construction worker.

Leaving to mourn is his wife, Esther (Miller) Finkbiner. Children: Scott (Betty) Finkbiner, Terri (William) Bloomfield, Charles (Angie) Finkbiner, Curtis Finkbiner and Christian Finkbiner; 10 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Carl also leaves behind a brother Elmer Junior (Tanis) Finkbiner and a sister Marjorie (Steve) Pfister.

As the body was cremated, a graveside memorial service was held at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, rural Clifton on April 21.

Esther is the daughter of Elsie Cook and a graduate from the St. Francis High School Class of 1965. Cards of condolences may be sent to her at 205 Courtland Dr., Clifton, KS 66937-9641.

Alice Ella Monroe

Sept. 10, 1916 - April 23, 2014

Alice Ella Monroe, Anacortes, Wash., died Wednesday, April 23, 2014, at her home with caretakers at her side.

She was born Sept. 10, 1916, at the home of her parents, Jacob and Christine (Lauer) Schlepp, in Cheyenne County, Kan. She attended Smith Country School and Salem Evangelical Church, west of St. Francis.

On Dec. 21, 1948, she married Paul Monroe in Boyer, Texas and four years later, they moved to Washington. They bought the Holiday Motel and operated it until 1985. Paul died in 1989.

She was the last surviving member of the Jacob Schlepp children. Sisters were Christina Zimbelman, Lena Miller, Esther Haar and Catherine Woerpel. Five brothers were Jacob Junior, John, Rudolph, Harry and Leonard A. In

Jim was a World War II veteran; he was inducted into the U.S. Army on Nov. 14, 1944, and served overseas in the European Theater in Germany. He was honorably discharged from military service on July 22, 1946, with the rank of Private 1st Class. Later, he joined the Army Reserves on Jan. 12, 1950, and was honorably discharged July 3, 1953, with the rank of S.F.C.

After his military service, Jim returned to the St. Francis community and on May 24, 1953, he was united in marriage to Mildred Ruth Schlepp in the Evangelical United Brethren Church. To this union three children were born, Harvey James, Darla Jean, and Cheryl Ann.

Jim and Mildred lived in St. Francis during the early years of their marriage, where Jim worked for the Mobile Oil Company and drove a school bus for the St. Francis school district. In 1962, they bought the Harrison farm in the South Fork Community, 15 miles northeast of St. Francis. They enjoyed working together on the farm, raising not only their family, but also wheat, corn, cattle, hogs, chickens, and more. It was a good life for them, and after 30 years on the farm they retired in 1992 and moved back to town.

Jim was a member of the First Christian Church, a member of the St. Francis Masonic Chapter 404, a member of the Isis Shriners, Salina, and a 32 degree, lifetime member of the A & A Scottish Rite of Free Masonry. In addition, he was a charter member, as well as a lifetime member of the VFW Post 1528.

During retirement, some of Jim and Mildred's favorite times together were their many walks around the neighborhood, visiting with friends and neighbors, and relaxing on their front porch swing. Jim also enjoyed going to various coffee groups around town.

After suffering from a stroke in June 2012, Jim moved to the Good Samaritan Village, where the staff helped him walk a more fragile path as he "eased on" to the heavenly garden where he could walk the streets of gold, stand tall, healed and whole, and be reunited with Mildred.

Preceding Jim in death were his wife Mildred, who was the love of his life for 59 1/2 years; his father, Harvey Barnhart; mother, Irene Barnhart; step-mother, Lottie Barnhart; brothers John, Jerdene,

1905, a baby brother, Jacob, was buried in Russia.

Alice Ella attended Schlepp family reunions. She remembered her place of birth and made generous donations to the Cheyenne County Hospital, St. Francis Senior Center and cemetery board.

Nieces and nephews remembered Aunt Ella with letters and telephone calls to sustain her during her many years of blindness.

Her daughter, Gwendolyn Chris, was born and buried on July 11, 1949, and a son, Leonard Les, was born and buried on Nov. 14, 1951. Their tombstones are located in the Monroe family plot at Liberal.

According to her wishes, Alice Ella will have her ashes placed in the Monroe family plot where her husband, Paul will also have his ashes transferred from Anacortes to the landscaped cemetery at Liberal.

and Maurice Barnhart, and granddaughter Kristina Barnhart.

He is survived by his three children; his son Harvey and Janet Barnhart of Canon City, Colo.; his daughter Darla and David Daniels of Garden City, and daughter Cheryl and Stan Edmundson of Colby; four grandchildren, Brandon Barnhart of Atwood, Heather Edmundson Scott (Aaron) of Topeka, Lindsay Daniels of Sharon Springs, and Jill Daniels of Garden City; and two great-grandchildren, Brynley and Kye Scott of Topeka.

Other survivors are his four sisters: Manota Daniels of Trenton, Neb.; Macalene Olson (Hank) of McDonald; Wilma Petsch of Guide Rock, Neb.; and Willa Scott (Pete) of Gonzales, La.; sisters-in-law Barbara Barnhart of St. Francis, and Janice Barnhart of Colby.

Additional survivors include his in-laws: Louise Schlepp of St. Francis; Gladys Cook of Sabetha; Betty Millan of Aurora, Colo.; Delphine Geter of Hurricane, W.V.; and Keith Bracelin of St. Francis; along with numerous nieces and nephews, as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held on Monday, April 28, at the First Christian Church in St. Francis. Interment followed in the St. Francis Cemetery with Masonic and military honors. Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis, was in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be given to the Good Samaritan Village and the Cheyenne County Amusement Authority or to an organization of the donor's choice.

Northwest Kansas responders graduate in multi-county effort

On Saturday Cheyenne County hosted the final training, disaster drill, and graduation for Northwest Kansas Community Emergency Responder Training. Fifteen volunteers participated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency 20 hour basic training course.

Cheyenne County Emergency Management received a grant to help fund the initial training and pilot project of a multi-county Community Emergency

Della Louise Oakley, eldest child of Kenneth and Fern (Littlefield) Oakley was born June 16, 1929, in Burlington, Okla., and died on April 30, 2014, in Englewood, Colo.

She attended Benkelman schools and met her sweetheart while roller skating at the Benkelman rink. On Oct. 2, 1949, George Michael Morris and Della Louise Oakley were united in holy matrimony. They honeymooned on the west coast and their first home was a tenant house on a Magley Farm southwest of Bird City, as George had worked for Arnold from the time he left home.

Della was a professional seamstress and constructed countless wedding garments, continuing to do so for several years even after her marriage.

George and Della purchased their home place in 1951, but lived in a basement house 4 miles north and one west of Wheeler. Gary, Ricky, and Ronny were born while living there. Kelly was born after they moved to the soddy homeplace in the Spring of 1957. Eventually a good sized house was built-on to the north of the Soddy giving the growing family some elbow room plus washer, dryer and bathroom all under one roof. Della and George enjoyed playing cards with the Wes Donahue, Gus Shoemaker, Herb Weed, Calvert McCurry and Glenn Schnieder families.

Della was a cook. Delicious,



Morris

nutritious food in abundance came from her kitchen, many times to the harvest field, always to friends and neighbors in times of sadness or need as well as on her own oblong dining room table.

Della's sewing, genealogy, and quilting interests were always there. As a project leader while the boys were in 4-H, she instructed sewing and recreation. This led to the construction of many square dance costumes, boys' snap button, fancy yoked western shirts as well as the girls' blouses and very full circular skirts that whirled over their canons. This was for two squares of 4-H dancers and for this undertaking she did have the help of another 4-H leader, Mrs. Ruben Landenberger.

It was Della's great delight that these dancers got to go to the state fair in Hutchinson in 1969. Of course she and her helper were there cheering them on.

She also sewed outfits for herself and George as they had learned modern western square dancing, in order to teach the 4-H'ers. She and George enjoyed going square dancing in eastern Colorado, southwest Nebraska as well as northwest Kansas.

Della was a member of the First Christian Church, St. Francis, and the family was very active there, in the boy's growing up years. After George was gone, and she had been at the Prairie Living Center in Colby, Della stayed with Ronny and Marcella in their Colorado home and would frequently ride a senior bus to the center for the day. When she no longer sewed, Della enjoyed playing bingo and visits from her family. Of late she was a resident of a Hospice facility in Englewood.

She made sunbonnets, lady size and pincushion size, many quilts for grandkids, countless quilts for the needy, from Peace Lutheran Church Sewing Days and Della's, consistently contained an American flag motif in one corner, since they were being sent to foreign countries.

After Kelly graduated high school, he accompanied his folks as they flew to Frankfort, Germany where Gary was stationed, then took a motor trip to Scotland, to look up long-lost relatives. They ferried from France to England, visited the White Cliffs of Dover and viewed the ruins of World War II. Della and George made a return trip to Scotland to complete their genealogy studies and visit relatives.

Preceding her in death was her beloved husband, George, her parents, Kenneth and Fern Oakley, sister, Ila Jane Caster, and her brother Darrel Oakley.

Surviving is her sister, Lelia Fortkamp, Santa Rosa, Calif., sister-in-law, Carol Oakley, Rapid City, S.D.; sons, Gary (Patty) of St. Francis, Rick (Linda), Haigler, Neb., Ronny (Marcella), Colorado Springs, and Kelly (Connie), Inman, S.C.; grandchildren: Shane Morris, Tiffany Hamilton, and JJ Morris, Shauna Dolf and Travis Morris, Sara Limper, Veronica Morris, and Lisa and David Morris. Jessica DiMaggio, and Lacy Morris; great-grandchildren: Nariah, Kate, Jake, Chandler, Logan, Piper, and Oakley Hamilton, Montana, Atticus and Elliot Limper.

A celebration for the life of Della Morris was held Saturday, May 2, at the First Christian Church, with burial in St. Francis Cemetery.



KAREN FLEMMING (left) and Robin Burr participate in discussion during the Federal Emergency Management Agency training for local volunteer responders

these volunteers have shown to better prepare and serve their communities in times of emergency or disaster. I would also like to thank the instructors and organizers from Cheyenne, Rawlins, Sherman and Thomas counties, who helped make this pilot project a success," said Ryan Murray, Emergency Management Director for Cheyenne, Rawlins, and

Sherman counties. There are plans to host the 20 hour Community Emergency Responder Training course again in the fall of 2014. If anyone is interested in volunteering on Northwest Kansas Community Emergency Responder Training they can contact Stacy Kaup, Cheyenne County Emergency Services Assistant at 785-332-2560.



RANDY NELSON, county emergency services safety officer, listens intently during the basic training course.

Partnering To Bring Medical Specialists To St. Francis

St. Francis Outreach Clinic Schedule

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210 W. 1st Street - St. Francis

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Every Four Weeks
(785) 332-2104

Cardiology

Monthly

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Thank you

I don't know how to thank everyone that has been so supportive of me during my recent surgery.

When the surgeon told my son that I would need 3 weeks of constant care-Geoffrey took off 3 weeks work from Sprint in Dallas, Texas, to be home with his mother - A great son that I love so much.

To our dismay, Denver sent me home way too early and I spent the next 3 weeks at the Cheyenne County Hospital. I cannot praise this facility, the doctors, nurses and staff enough. Everyone worked together to make me comfortable and get me on the way to recovery - Thanks to all of you! I owe my life to you.

Thanks to my family, great cousins, Aunt Valjean, that sent their love with cards, visits and phone calls. And great friends that did the same thing.

A special thanks to Iva Krien that kept The Classic Rose in business. That is called dedication! She would work from 5 p.m. to when ever to get the orders filled.

To the gals that would come to the house after I was released from the hospital so I did not have to have Home Health. A big thanks to you.

Nancy Schultz, that has become my driver and companion, whatever my needs be - Thanks.

Connie Williams - Thanks for feeding Jake, the cat.

I know I'm leaving others out, and I give you a big thanks, too.

-Rose Mary Bierig

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