

# Obituaries

## Victor Carl Oelke

Aug. 29, 1935 - June 29, 2003

Victor Carl Oelke was born on Aug. 29, 1935, on a farm northwest of Hoxie, Kan., to John and Esther Oelke. He died on June 29, 2003, in Colby at the age of 67.

Victor was baptized on Sept. 8, 1935, at rural Immanuel Lutheran Church northwest of Hoxie, and was confirmed there on April 10, 1949.

He graduated from Sheridan County High School in 1953, received a bachelor's degree from Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Neb., in 1957 and later a master's degree in education from Fort Hays State University.

Victor married Alice Irene Hermes of Arapahoe, Neb., on Aug. 18, 1957. They had three children, Carla Sue (Lampe), Gregory John Oelke and Jeffrey Jay Oelke. After Victor's graduation from Concordia, he and Alice taught grade school at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lincoln. They then moved to Hoxie where Victor taught and coached from 1959 until 1967. Victor, Alice and the children later moved to Colby where Victor was a teacher and, at times, a coach and athletic director at Colby Community College from 1967 until he retired in 2000. In summers, Victor enjoyed working on his farm in rural Sheridan County.

Victor was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby, where he served in positions and was also an organist and member of the choir. He was a long-time volunteer and area coordinator for Special Olympics in northwest Kansas.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Victor is survived by his wife, Alice; his daughter, Carla and husband, Rod Lampe and grandchildren, Tyler, Allyse and Brett of St. Francis; his son Greg and wife, Lisa and grandchildren, Alexa and Landon of Dalhart, Texas, and his son Jeff of Pompton Lakes, N.J. He is also survived by brothers, Harlan of Washington, D.C., Edward, Paul and Johnnie, each of Hoxie; and sisters, Dolora Stohs of Hoxie, Clarice Hyde of Sacramento, Calif., Carlotta Tweed of Red River, N.M., and Carol Junge of Sun City West, Ariz.

A private family graveside service was held July 3 at Beulah Cemetery in Colby with a memorial service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby with Reverend David Hall officiating.

Memorials can be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

## Pastor Perry Blanchard

Nov. 27, 1942 - June 30, 2003

Pastor Perry Blanchard died on Monday, June 30, 2003, at 2:25 p.m. Perry had battled cancer for over two years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one grandson.

His surviving family includes his wife, Mary; his children, Celeste Stevens and her husband, Kevin of Brush, Colo.; Aaron and his fiancée, Leanne Gallion of Grand Island, Neb.; Gilbert and his wife, Merrie of Cheyenne, Wyo.; Briar Carpenter and her husband, E.J., of Burlington, Colo.; Greg Vaughn and his wife, Missy of McCook, Neb., as well as 14 grandchildren. His siblings include Betsy Stone and her husband, Richard of Las Vegas, Nev.; Bruce and his wife, Fran of Mullen, Neb., and Becky Houck

and her husband, Rick of Lincoln, Neb.

Perry was born on Nov. 27, 1942, to Gilbert and Carrine Blanchard in Friend, Neb. Mary and Perry were married in Scottsbluff, Neb., on May 27, 1964. They were married 39 years.

Perry felt called to God at a very early age and he followed wherever he felt God needed him. Pastor Perry's first church was the Zion United Church of Christ in Falls City, Neb., in November of 1969. His second calling was to a three-point parish in Nebraska. These included the First Congregational Church in Albion, the First Presbyterian in Spalding and the Akron Presbyterian in Akron. During his 13 years of service at these Nebraska churches, Perry received the prestigious "Burning Bush" Award. This award was given to Perry as "an acclimation of his untiring sense of mission and commitment to peace and justice during the farm crisis in Nebraska."

Perry felt a calling to move again. He then became the pastor of the Union Congregational Church in Hayes Center, Neb. This was Perry's shortest ministry but it was a good one. A new parsonage was built and the church's congregation grew from 90 to 150 in the two and a half years of Perry's service.

Perry and his family then moved to a small community in eastern Colorado, Idalia, for the next seven years. There he served as pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ. Among many things, Perry helped add an educational wing and a youth center to the church.

Pastor Perry's final church was the People's Congregational United Church of Christ in Sidney, Mont. Perry served the word in Montana for eight years, until he could no longer perform services due to illness.

Perry placed more value in family and religion than monetary things, and in doing so, Perry has left not only his paternal family of friends, but parishioners and acquaintances. Perry's willingness to extend a helping hand or supporting words has touched many lives.

Pastor Perry was a very loving man who shared his love of God with many people through his wisdom, his humor and his never-ending faith.

Funeral services were held Friday, July 4, at St. John United Church of Christ with Reverend Ralph Datema officiating.

Casket bearers were Greg Huerta, Tim Huerta, Jeff Huerta, Andy Huerta, Bill Simpson, Lauren Stone.

Honorary bearers were Conrad Huerta, Pascual Huerta, John Vickers, Patrick Huerta, Sal Huerta, Phil Huerta, Stephen Huerta, Rick Hopuck, Richard Stone.

Interment was at St. John's Cemetery, Idalia.

## James Marion Hallagin

May 8, 1915 - July 3, 2003

James Marion Hallagin was born May 8, 1915, to Lee and Bertha Mae (Banister) Hallagin at their home in rural southern Cheyenne County, Kan. Marion died at the Good Samaritan Center in Atwood on July 3, 2003, at the age of 88 years.

Marion's early school years were spent in one-room schools located in and around Cheyenne County. Later, he attended school in

McDonald.

His interests were many and he was well known for his community services throughout the year. His years spent in C-C Camp were honorable and productive. He was very active and dedicated to the McDonald Lions Club and held several offices in his years of service. His efforts in this Club brought him high acknowledgment and praise from his fellow Lions club members.

Marion enjoyed the Tri-State Antique Engine and Threshers Association of Bird City and was well known for his expertise when monitoring the "Sod House." He shared the experiences of his brothers and sisters and the living style it created in the early years. He will always be remembered for playing his harmonica and his humor and fun-filled antics, not to mention his ability to play a great game of competitive pool.

Marion was united in marriage to Marie A. Anderson on July 24, 1937, in Bird City. To this union his son, James Arnold, and two daughters, Jann Aldes and Jo Ardis, were born. McDonald was always his home...and he didn't mind telling you so!

Over the years, Marion worked as an irrigation driller, school bus driver, farmers, harvester and retired after many years as a heavy equipment operator for Rawlins County.

Marion was preceded in death by his parents; son, Arnold; brothers, Walter, Everett, Roy, Elmer, Clarence and Chet; sisters, Opal and Pearl. Included is the passing of tiny Nicolaus Chance Cheney on July 3, 2003.

He is survived by his wife of the home for 66 years, Marie; sisters, Ruby Waddell, Englewood, Colo., and Goldie Nyggard, Sterling, Colo.; daughters, Jo Jones, Brush, Colo., and Jann Gillespie and husband, Jerry, Goodland; daughter-in-law, Joyce Hallagin, Guymon, Okla.; grandsons, Kelly R. Jones and family, Holyrood, Lt. James Dale Hallagin and wife, Amy, of the United States Air Force, James C. Gillespie of Goodland; granddaughters, Johnene Cheney, Fruita, Colo., Janette Black and husband, Mike, Arvada, Colo.; Jeanna Sills, Lee's Summit, Mo.; Charlene Slane and husband, Dana, Guymon.; Colleen Michaels and husband, Charles, Guymon. Included also are many great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, plus other relatives and friends.

Marion, as husband, father, grandfather and mentor to many will be sadly missed.

The funeral service was held Sunday, July 6, at the Williams Funeral Home in Atwood with Dr. Dustin S. Cheney and Tom Albright, D.D. officiating. Interment was in Grace Cemetery in McDonald.

Memorials may be to the McDonald Lions Club

## Lona Mildred (Warren) Hansen

Aug. 30, 1919 - July 6, 2003

Lona Mildred (Warren) Hansen died Sunday, July 6, 2003, at the Tabitha Nursing Home in Lincoln, Neb. She was born Aug. 30, 1919, in rural Cheyenne County, Kan.

Lona was born the second of nine children to Arthur Leslie and Dora

(Patten) Warren. She was raised on the family farm in Cheyenne County and then graduated from high school in Red Cloud, Neb., in 1939. On Dec. 2, 1939, she married Francis Earl Hansen of Culbertson, Neb. They had nine children.

Residences included Bird City and McCook, Denton, Kearney and Lincoln, Neb.

She and her husband converted to the Catholic faith. As they relocated, she was a member of St. Patrick's parish in McCook, St. Mary's parish in Lincoln, St. Mary's parish in Denton, St. Joseph's parish in Bird City and Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln.

In August 1981, she was widowed. In July 1982, she married James Herbert Elrod of Denton.

Lona loved her family, cooking, gardening and fishing.

She was preceded in death by her parents, five siblings, and husband Francis Hansen.

Lona is survived by her brothers, Guy Warren of Prospect, Ore., and Gene Warren of Roswell, N.M.; and sister Verna Mueller of Bird City.

She is further survived by her nine children: Judy Schiltz and husband, Eugene of Broken Bow, Neb.; Evelyn Chinick and husband, Edward of Riverdale, Neb.; Mary Betz and husband, Ken of Bellevue, Mich.; Bernard Hansen of Kearney, Neb.; John Hansen and wife, Mary of Lincoln; Jeanie Killion and husband, Phil of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Arthur Hansen and wife, Betty Jane of Kearney; Rita Hansen and husband, Fred of Sand Springs, Okla.; and Teresa Worster and husband, Steve of Lincoln. She is also survived by 33 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren.

A rosary was held July 8 at Butherus, Maser and Love Funeral Home in Lincoln. A Mass of Christian burial was held on Wednesday, July 9, at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ, Lincoln, with interment at Calvary Cemetery in Lincoln.

Memorials are suggested to St. Mary's Catholic School in Lincoln.

## Fred G. Krien

Nov. 6, 1910 - June 30, 2003

Fred G. Krien died Monday, June 30, 2003, at Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis, Kan., following a brief illness. Fred was born on Nov. 6, 1910, to George Krien and Carolina Walz in Cheyenne County; and 23 years later, Fred and Arlene Helen Raile were married in 1933.

Fred was a farmer, an athlete, a musician, a dedicated family man, and a friend to many, for he gave joy to all. He was a man who undertook every endeavor with fervor and

pluck and vigor and joy, whether he was shucking corn or swinging a baseball bat for the River Pirates or pitching shocks up onto a hay rack or throwing horseshoes with uncanny accuracy to the dismay of his competitors or pumping an accordion in the family dance band or dancing polkas and teasing his wife into another hour of vigorous dancing.

He did it all his style: *Mach spas*, he loved to say. Have fun. Give joy.

Many can share their memories of Fred, the athlete, and would probably refer to him as "Black Jack" and share a version of how he obtained that name in a heated baseball game between the River Pirate farmers and townies. He could throw a horse shoe to dislodge your dead ringer and swing a golf club to the envy of his juniors. His natural athletic ability led him from baseball and golf and horseshoes to learning to use the bow and arrow to hunt turkeys on the river, where in this 80s he built a tree-house blind in which he patiently spent hours upon hours calling turkeys or hunting deer. He was strong and proud of his large powerful hands. and grip.

Fred was a musician who profoundly enjoyed bringing joy to others who heard his music and his innate music ability enabled him to play a tune on the piano after hearing it once or twice on the radio. Fred's brothers and sisters shared his gift for music and formed a band that played dances, box suppers and other events throughout the community. His sister, Nettie Hamala, played piano in the band; brother Ferdinand played guitar; brother Phillip played the fiddle, John played the harmonica and Fred shifted from instrument to instrument, including the drums. Not bad for a man who, as a lad, had to drop out of school in the fifth grade to work on the family farm.

Indeed, it is no paradox that just as he achieved high levels of happiness, so he also suffered terrible levels of despair, for when daughter Carol died in childhood from an accident, Fred mourned and blamed himself for her death to such a depth that many became concerned for his health. Likewise, when his wife Arlene died he mourned the loss of her devoted and constant companionship; and he paid dearly with the deaths of his grandson and great-grandson Brett Henderson and Jacob Umland, respectively.

Survivors include son Don and wife, Jennifer of St. Francis; daughter Bonnie and husband, Delbert Henderson of Dodge City; grandchildren: Donnel Pagels and husband, Joe of Breckenridge, Colo.;

Kristen Krien of Springfield, Colo.; Gina Umland and husband, Chuck of Lolo, Mont.; Angela Diskin and husband, Mark of Wichita; Fred Henderson of Lawrence; two great-grandsons: James and Mitchell Umland; one sister, Nettie Hamala of St. Francis; two brothers, Ferdinand of St. Francis and Phillip of Parker, Colo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Arlene, daughter Carol Joan, grandson Brett Michael Henderson; great-grandson, Jacob Umland; brothers Louie Krien and John Krien; sisters Christina and Emma.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church and life member of Benevolent Order of the Elks, from which he had just received his 60-year membership pin.

Fred devoted his life to his family and wherever Fred or Arlene went the other was sure to go: to family gatherings, dances, musical events, baseball games.

Fred had the good fortune to maintain his health, vigor and mental acuity up until his recent illness that lasted for only a very short time. As daughter Bonnie and son Don characterized their father's life: "he worked hard, he played hard and he mastered the pursuit of happiness."

Funeral services were held July 3 at the United Methodist Church.

Casket bearers were Sam Goodale, Pete Kinen, Kody Krien, Wade Krien, Matt Smull, and Mark Zimelman.

Burial in the St. Francis Cemetery.

## Pearl M. Denison

June 24, 2003 - June 24, 2003

Pearl M. Denison died June 24, 2003, at the age of 82, in Duncan, Okla. She was born Oct. 7, 1920, in Seminole, Okla., to Bill McDaniel and Velma McDaniel.

She was married to Joe G. Denison on May 4, 1946, in Las Vegas, Nev.

She was a homemaker and a member of the First Christian Church and the Seminole Home Demonstration Club.

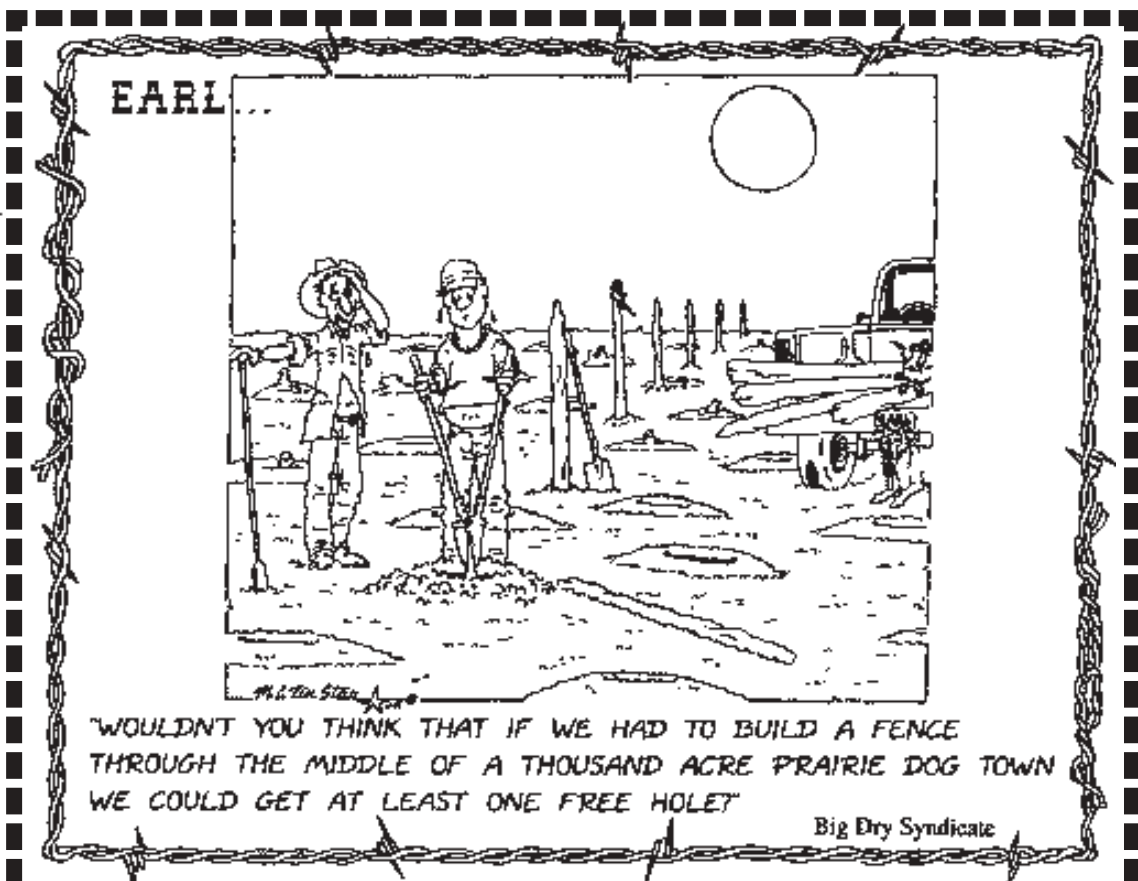
Pearl was preceded in death by her parents; her husband in March, 2003; one brother, Orben Ray McDaniel and one sister, Wilma J. Watson.

She is survived by one daughter, Kay Hale of Duncan; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held June 28 at Swearingin Funeral Chapel, Seminole. Officiating were Russell Tunk and Tracy Wilson.

Interment followed at Maple Grove Cemetery, Seminole.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to your favorite charity.



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