

Obituaries

Marion E. Oliver

June 12, 1929 - Feb. 11, 2005

Marion E. Oliver was born on June 12, 1929, in Iola, Kan. After completing two semesters of college, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, served from 1948 to 1952, and attained the rank of Aviation Electronics Technician First Class. Subsequent to his honorable discharge, he was employed as an electronics specialist with the Bendix Corporation in Kansas City, Mo., from 1952 to 1953. He resumed his academic studies at Kansas State University, and was awarded his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering.

In June 1956, he accepted employment with The John Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md., and was engaged in defense-related work throughout his career, principally with the Navy, and jointly with the Missile Defense Agency in the past few years. He continued to pursue full-time work with the laboratory until very recently. He died Feb. 11, 2005, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

He married Jane Mills Oliver in 1958, and they resided in Silver Springs, Md., where she taught school in the Montgomery County school system during most of his career with The Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory.

Mr. Oliver had a wide variety of assignments at the laboratory as a recognized specialist in systems engineering, with sub-specialties in servo-mechanics, radar, guided missiles, and weapon control systems. He made notable contributions to the Terrier Guided Missile System, the Aegis Shipbuilding Project, and the Tomahawk Cruise Missile System Program. He was a principal technical advisor to the highest levels of the Navy from 1992 to 2000, and served with the Defense Science Board through many of those years.

In September 2002, he was assigned to the Ballistic Missile Defense Program as The Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory representative to the Department of Defense Missile Defense Agency's Joint National Integration Center at Colorado Springs.

He was a member of the American Society of Naval Engineers, the National Defense Industry Association, the Surface Navy Association, the Precision Strike Association, and was selected as a member of the Principal Professional Staff at the Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory in 1970. He received the U.S. Navy Distinguished Public Service Award in 1981 and the Kansas State University Engineer of the Year Award in 1987. He was an avid reader, golfer and traveler, devoted father and grandfather, and was always most comfortable on the family's Colorado cattle ranch. He enjoyed his work and was honored with a certificate of appreciation for his service to Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory and our country.

His daughter, Traci, parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Oliver and a brother, Marvin, preceded him in death.

He is survived by his wife Jane, his son Scott, and three grandchildren, Samantha Oliver and Cori and Colton Durham.

A private family service was held.

In his memory, memorials may be made in Marion's name to the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, Development Office, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building, 401 N. Broadway, Suite 1100, Baltimore, MD 21231.

Bertha Duell

Bertha Duell, 85, Cheney, Kan., was the center of a strong family that loved her very much.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lowell Duell, her parents, Carl and Ella Moore and brother, Floyd Moore.

She is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Leon Stranathan, Winfield, son and daughter-in-law, Roger and Margy Duell, Salina; son, Bryan Duell, Wichita; son and daughter-in-law, Randy and Cindy Duell, Omaha, Neb., 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Bertha, a Cheney resident for 40 years, had a passion for serving God, her family and community.

As a member of the United Methodist Church, she served as organist, secretary and Sunday school teacher and was a member of United Methodist Women.

Bertha was member and past president of the GV Chapter of PEO, and was a pioneer in establishing civic recycling.

In 2002, she received the Diana Award for Exceptional Service to Humanity from ESA International.

Funeral services were held Friday, Feb. 18, at the Cheney United Methodist Church with interment at Resthaven Cemetery, Wichita.

Memorials may be made to Cheney United Methodist Church, 406 W. 3rd Ave, Cheney, KS 67025.

Russell Lowell Childers

June 10, 1916 - Feb. 23, 2005

Russell Lowell Childers was the third of six children born to Lester and Maude Fiechter Childers on June 10, 1916, at the family's home at Tamora, Neb., He died at the age of 88 on Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2005, at Citizens Medical Center, Colby, Kan.

Russell was baptized March 21, 1920, at Uita, Neb., in the Methodist Church by Reverend Roe and was confirmed in St. John Lutheran Church at Bird City in 1949.

In 1924, Russell's family moved from Beaver Crossing, Neb., to a farm 7 miles northeast of Bird City, where he attended the Tucker country school and graduated from Bird City High School in 1933.

On Jan. 8, 1937, Russell and his friend Roy Trout enlisted in the United States Navy. He took his training at San Diego, Calif., and was later transferred to a heavy cruiser, the USS Astoria, where he served the next four years. He served on the deck force at various jobs and was a member of an 8-inch Turret Gun Crew, serving as a powder man.

He was later transferred to the Supply Division where he worked in the pay office taking care of 600 pay accounts for the officers and enlisted men. In 1940, he requested permission and was transferred to the Aviation Department, where as a plane captain, he flew as a gunner in the ship's seaplanes. In December 1940, he and shipmate Roy Trout were transferred to an oil tanker for transportation on Pearl Harbor to San Diego for discharge.

Rather than be drafted into the Army, Russell re-enlisted in the Navy four months later at Denver on April 10, 1941, and was sent to the new Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi, Texas. While serving with Training Squadron 12A at Cuddihy Field, he was united in marriage to Martha Anna Linin at the Lutheran Church on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1942, by the Reverend C.H. Bohls. To this union their daughter, Linda Kay was born Feb. 10, 1943.

On April 16, 1944, Russell was transferred to Quonset Point Naval Air Base, located near Providence, R.I. There he served in the Engineering Department.

In October 1944, he was transferred to the newly formed Air Group Ten where he served as Leading Chief of Torpedo Squadron Ten. In February of 1945, the air group flew their planes to the west coast and went aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Intrepid at San Francisco, where the ship soon departed for duty in the west Pacific.

On April 16, 1945, a Japanese suicide plane, called a Kamikaze hit the ship. The ship received extensive damage and loss of lives. The ship returned to San Francisco for repairs and new airplanes. The ship returned to active duty off the coast of Japan in June. On Sept. 2, 1945, the ship saw the surrender of the Japanese at Tokyo Bay. After duty in the Yellow Sea and a stopover at the Island of Siapan, the USS Intrepid arrived in San Francisco in December 1945. Russell was granted a 60-day leave and he spent the holidays with his family at Bird City.

In February 1946, Russell reported to San Diego for further assignment. There he was transferred to Philadelphia for training on carrier catapults. Later he was transferred to Jacksonville Naval Air Base, where he spent the next two years as Leading Chief of the Aviation Fundamental School. In November 1947, he was transferred to the Naval Air Station at Olathe. From there he was sent to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station for discharge. On Feb. 6, 1948, after 11 years of naval service, Russell received an honorable discharge from the United States Navy with the rate of Aviation Chief Machinist Mate.

Although Russell was very proud to be part of the United States Navy and serve his country during World War II, he wanted to settle down in one place so that his young daughter wouldn't have to transfer from school to school. Linda celebrated her fifth birthday at her Grandma Linin's home in Bird City. The following month, Russell, Martha and daughter Linda moved to a farm 5 1/2 miles southeast of Bird City

where they lived and farmed for the next 40 years. Russell lost his devoted wife on July 28, 1987, due to cancer and he sold his farm and farming equipment the next year and moved to a new home in Bird City.

In February 2003, Russell sold his home in Bird City and moved to a new apartment at the Retirement Village in Colby. He spent a great deal of his time driving back to visit his friends and family and taking short vacations to eastern Kansas and Nebraska. He also looked forward to attending his Navy reunions in various cities. He and Irene Kehlbeck made many trips back to Bird City to attend the Lutheran Church on Sunday mornings. It was their "home," he said.

While he lived on the farm, Russell served on the Bird City Cop Board for 12 years, served on the Equity Union Grain Board of Lincoln and also on the Far-mar Company Grain Board of Hutchinson.

Russell was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign War Post 1528 of St. Francis and Past Post Commander of Post 1528. He was a member of the American Legion Post 352 of Bird City and a life member of the Elks in Goodland.

On April 10, 1949, Russell was confirmed in St. John Lutheran Church at Bird City by the Reverend C.N. Anderson and he remained a faithful and active member of the church until his death. He served as a church treasurer for several years.

No one was more honest and conscientious than Russell was and he was admired and trusted by those that did business with him. As quoted from a card mailed to him, "Russell, we have certainly enjoyed having you farm our land. We know you have been honest and you are a very good farmer!" He was a loving, thoughtful and generous man and was always there to help his family and friends in any way that he could. He was a good neighbor and active in his community. In 1992, PRIDE awarded him the "Good Neighbor" Award.

During Russell's naval career, he traveled by sea to many foreign countries and visited many islands in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. With his wife Martha, he traveled to Europe, old Mexico, the Hawaiian Islands and went on ocean cruises into the Atlantic Ocean, visiting many islands and South America. His travels took him to 35 islands and foreign countries and 49 states.

His wife Martha; his parents; one sister and three brothers, Hallie Lamb, Bertram, Barrell and Keith Childers, preceded him in death.

He is survived by his daughter Linda and husband, Larry Williams, Parks, Neb.; one granddaughter Courtney and husband, Brad Williams, one great-granddaughter, Lexis and one great-grandson Krayten, all of McCook; his sister, Lila Lee and husband, Lee Gotchall, Goodland; three sisters-in-law, Betty Childers and Roberta Linin of Bird City and Esther Linin of Goodland; many nieces and nephews and Irene Kehlbeck, whose devotion, friendship and companionship he has cherished.

Funeral services were held Monday, Feb. 28, at St. John Lutheran Church at Bird City with Reverend Ron Roberts officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were Jerry Carmichael, Gary Lamb, Stanley Lamb, Rex Linin.

Pallbearers were Trent Blythe, Wade Carmichael, Brent Linin and Max Linin, nephews of the deceased, Royce Kehlbeck, Tim Raile.

Interment was in the Bird City Cemetery with military honors given by the American Legion Post 352.

Vera A. Frisbie

Sept. 13, 1914 - Feb. 7, 2005

Vera A. Frisbie of Benkelman, Neb., died Monday, Feb. 7, 2005, at the Dundy County Hospital, Benkelman, Neb.

Mrs. Frisbie was born Sept. 13, 1914, in Cowley County, Kan. She was the wife of Ray E. Frisbie, de-

ceased, a mother and homemaker.

Survivors include two sisters, Ovella Snyder of Dove Creek, Colo., and Alice Reising of Gering, Neb., and a step-brother, James Bosley of Denver, Colo.

She was the mother of Gilbert Frisbie of McDonald, Larry Frisbie of Payson, Ariz., Linda Beck of Benkelman, and Jerry Frisbie of Winston, Ore. She had eight grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson.

Vera was always supportive of Ray's endeavors in Farm Bureau and the Kansas Livestock Association. She was also president of the Cowbells, the ladies' side of the Livestock Association, the same year Ray was president of the Livestock Association.

"You can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl." Vera loved going out and checking the cows and calves and had an interest in what was going on at the farm, right to the end.

She enjoyed being around the grandkids and told them stories about how she made bread every week, milked cows and had chickens for eggs. She let them know you didn't get everything from the grocery store in her day. She had a five generation picture taken with her new great-great-grandson just last summer.

She will be missed by all her family.

A memorial and graveside service will be held at a later date at the McDonald, Kan., cemetery. The body was cremated.

Memorials can be made to the Dundy County Senior Center or to the charity of choice.

Alma Lillian Christensen

July 18, 1918 - Feb. 21, 2005

Alma Lillian Franklin was born July 18, 1918, in Hutchinson, Kan. She was the daughter of David and Josie Riggs Franklin. She had an older brother, Waldren Elmo Franklin, who preceded her in death. Alma attended school in Hutchinson and was graduated from the University of Kansas in 1940. She was an honor student throughout her schooling and went on to teach for 22 years and substituted in several school systems for 17 years.

She was married to Peter Christensen in 1945. They were the parents of two children, David Royce and Andersine Lee.

Alma was a long-time member of the United Methodist Church. She belonged to the American Association of University Women, Ramblers and Sorosis. She served as an officer for these organizations and was especially appreciated for her secretarial work. Alma was an active volunteer in the community; her work with the St. Francis Senior Center brought her much pleasure.

Alma and Peter were particularly fond of travel in their retirement years. After the family's visit to Peter's home in Denmark, Alma and Peter returned a number of times. They also enjoyed travel to many interesting places with the Flying Jayhawks and the Shrine organization., Alma's daughter Annie and son-in-law Bob, fulfilled her life-long dream of visiting Egypt when they took her there in 1994.

Alma is survived by her son David Royce, his wife, Beth; grandson, Sean David, his wife Nikolina and granddaughter Courtney Kristine, all of Vancouver, Wash.; daughter Andersine and son-in-law Bob Klescewski of Rapid City, S.D., many beloved nieces and nephews, friends and neighbors.

The funeral service was held Feb. 26 at the United Methodist Church, St. Francis, with Reverend Morita Truman officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were Merle Mills, Tom Keller, Jeff Raile.

Casket bearers were Mickey Graves, Gene Voeller, Danny Schlittenhardt, Alan rose, Keith Dankenbring, Rod Ritchey.

Interment was in he St. Francis Cemetery.

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home.



WYATT LANDEBERGER (shooting) and J.T. Woodcox, were members of "The All-Stars," a St. Francis third and fourth grade team that participated in the Cheylin 3-on-3 basketball tournament held Saturday. Also on the team were Scott Warren and Katie McDanel. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Student News

University of Nebraska - Kearney

The University of Nebraska at Kearney has announced the names of students who have earned a place on the deans' list for the fall semester.

To earn a place on the list, university students must complete 12 credit hours, or more, with a 3.5 or better overall average. At least 12 of the hours must be for quality points. Courses taken on a credit/no credit basis do not earn quality point and cannot be included among the necessary 12 credit hours.

Deans' list students will receive a certificate from their respective deans.

Meredit Knodel of St. Francis, the daughter of John and Natalie Knodel, is among those named to the list.

Cleveland Chiropractic College
RW Stuart of St. Francis has been named to the Fall 2004 Dean's List at Cleveland Chiropractic College in Kansas City.

Students are recognized for this academic honor while carrying a minimum of 12 new semester hours and earning a trimester grade point average of 3.4 or higher. The college noted that this is not the first time that Stuart has achieved this honor and it is a tribute to his hard work and pursuit of excellence.

He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Patrick Stuart.

Fort Hays State University

Four Fort Hays State University

faculty and two graduate students from the Department of Special Education/English for Speakers of Other Languages presented sessions at the 42nd annual conference of the Kansas Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children in Manhattan on Oct. 14 and 15.

Kerry Dorsch Hammeke, St. Francis graduate student, was one of the two graduate students. She presented "ESL and Special Education Testing" on non-biased assessment and the writing of accessible test items.

The Kansas Federation of the Council for Exception Children was co-sponsored by the Kansas Association of School Social Workers and the Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators.

Hammeke completed her master's degree in special education with dual certification in Learning Disabilities and Mental Retardation in July. Her dissertation was "ESL and Special Education Testing" which was her topic at the Manhattan conference.

She is currently an elementary teacher for the Hays area.



Hammeke

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