

Obituaries

Leah Marie Woods

Jan. 15, 1912 - July 28, 2005

Leah Marie Woods was born at Bird City, Kan., on Jan. 15, 1912, to Emmanuel and Lizzie Ruth Poulignot. She lived in the Bird City area until she married Raymond Woods. To this union five children were born: Larry, Alva, Helen, Linda and Susan.

Leah lived in the Smoky Hill area south of Burlington, Colo., for 44 years. She was a cook for the Smoky Hill School for several years.

Leah became a certified nurse's aide and worked at the Kit Carson County Hospital in Burlington, until her retirement.

After retirement, she moved to Beloit to care for family members. In 1985 she moved back to Burlington where she and Raymond became caretakers at Old Town.

In 1989 she and Raymond moved to Yuma, Colo., to be next to family.

Raymond died in 1998, and the last few years of her life she lived at Victory House Assisted Living in Akron, Colo. She died on Thursday, July 28, 2005, at the nursing home in Akron.

Leah was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and her six brothers.

She will be greatly missed by her five children: Larry Woods and wife, Shirley of Greeley, Colo.; Alva Woods and wife, Velma of Cheyenne, Wyo.; Helen Newbury and husband, Edwin of Burlington, Colo.; Linda Meents and husband, Dennis of Broomfield; Susan Price and husband, Steve of Otis, Colo.; a host of grandchildren; great-grandchildren; relatives and friends.

Funeral service was held on Monday, Aug. 1, at Baucke Funeral Chapel in Yuma with Leslie White, John Hartig, Olan Morrison and Joyce Tuttle officiating.

Interment followed at the Yuma Cemetery in Yuma.

Berl Allen

Dec. 24, 1911 - Aug. 2, 2005

Byron Berl Allen, the second son of Glen Leslie and Anna Lenora "Nord" Busby Allen, was born Dec. 24, 1911, in the family dug-out home, at Beecher Island, Colo., across the highway from where the Beecher Island Sunday school now stands. He died Aug. 2, 2005, at Hillcrest Care Center, Wray, Colo.

The year after Berl was born, the family moved to a sod house 1 1/2 miles away, on the place where Phil Heath now resides. As the years

passed and four more children were born, Glen and Nora built a frame house.

Berl started school in 1917 in the one-room schoolhouse of West Beecher. His classmates made fun of his name, calling him "Barn" instead of "Byron." The following year he attended the East Beecher School located where the Beecher Island Sunday school is. With a new teacher, Berl told her his name was "Berl" and he has been known as "Berl" ever since. He chose not to go to high school because it was too expensive. Instead, he went to work helping his Dad and others. Soon he was renting and buying his own ground to farm.

Berl's sister, Bernice, had become friends with another school teacher, Hattie Louise Anna Lidke. That friendship and the barn dances, which were a favorite social activity of the times, introduced Berl to Hattie. On June 3, 1936, Berl and Hattie were married in a double ceremony in St. Francis, Kan., with Ted Eberhart and Bernice Allen.

Berl and Hattie began their married life ranching and farming on a farm southwest of Beecher Island where Greg Allen now resides. Times were difficult those first years, but they managed to survive and prosper by growing dry-land corn, milking cows, selling cream, feeding pigs, raising chickens, selling eggs, and raising vegetables. Berl even trapped and skinned skunks and rabbits. Times must have really been bad! Their "conveniences" were three rooms and a "path", a pitcher pump, a wash tub for baths, and a range for heating, cooking and baking that burned corn cobs, coal or wood.

In 1946 they purchased the Silas Moore farm, where Perry Allen now resides. They remodeled it and moved in on Thanksgiving Day. They now had modern plumbing and a light plant. They really thought they were living! Later, they added additional farmland and pasture. Berl and Hattie lived there farming and ranching, while raising their four children, until they relocated to Hillcrest Care Center in October, 2002. Berl was a long-time member and actively involved in the Beecher Island Sunday school and the Beecher Island Battle Memorial Association. He was also on the school board for several years.

A favorite love of Berl's was baseball. As a youngster, Berl played baseball in the summer with boys and girls that lived in the area. Later, he coached ball teams for 12 years with Hattie by his side keeping score.

Berl grew up farming with "real horsepower" using his father's teams of horses, then later his own.

A "well-broke team of matched horses" was a prized possession. He admired and respected them for their abilities and individuality, in addition to their value. He shared that love and respect for horses with his children and grandchildren, and with visitors to his farm. Berl was also known for his patience when it came to training work horses and found himself training horses for people in the area.

Berl was preceded in death by his wife, Hattie; his parents, Glen and Nora; one brother, Ken; three sisters-in-law, Elsie Moellenberg, Mona Carpenter and Maxine Lidke; and three brothers-in-law, August Moellenberg, Ted Eberhart and Hubert Cranmer.

He is survived by daughter, Patricia Lohoff, San Jose, Calif.; son, Harvey and Mary E. Allen of Idalia, Colo.; daughter, (Wilma) Kay and Jim Norwood, Weston, Mo.; and daughter, Sharon and Don Oestman, Wray; 13 grandchildren, Vance Lohoff, Janeen and Ed Bezona, Kristy and Jeff Hurlburt, Ryan and Shaylynn Allen, Justin and Michelle Allen, Travis and Tiffany Allen, Cheryl Allen, Perry Allen, Greg and Tami Norwood, Paige and Peter Hancy, Teresa and Shannon Malmkar, Kevin Oestman and Kyle Oestman; 14 great-grandchildren, Jessica and Breanna Bezona, Ashley, Tevor and Garrett Hurlburt; Joseph, Caleb, and Grace Allen, Tatum and Braden Norwood, Gavin Hancy, Zachary, Joshua and Alyssa Malmkar; one brother, Melvin E. Allen and Fern, Wray; three sisters, Bernice Eberhart, Burlington, Colo.; Gwen and Rex Shaver, Wray; and Darlene and Charles Cutforth, Denver, Colo.; brothers-in-law, George Lidke, Lakewood, Colo., and Clarence Lidke, Burlington; sister-in-law, Anne Poska, Seattle, Wash.; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Memorials may be given to the Berl Allen Memorial in care of First Pioneer National bank, Wray.

Funeral services were held at the Beecher Island Sunday school on Aug. 5, with Daniel Prentice officiating. Special music was provided by family members, Jeff Hurlburt and Bill Carpenter, accompanied by Judy Shively, Mary Ann Harwood and Larry Allen.

Pallbearers were his grandsons, Ryan Allen, Justin Allen, Greg Norwood, Kevin Oestman, Travis Allen, Perry Allen and Kyle Oestman. Grandson Vance Lohoff was an honorary pallbearer.

Interment was at the Armel Cemetery, Armel, Colo.

Arrangements were handled by Spellman-Schmidt Funeral Home, Wray.



WITH FLAGS WAVING, a group of Red Hatters follow the pickup carrying two retired St. Francis service men. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Ladies honor servicemen

The St. Francis Red Hatters met Wednesday afternoon at the home of Shirley Sherlock for an afternoon get-together.

Those enjoying coffee, tea and snacks were Jackie Martin and Darlene Ochsner, Benkelman; Bonnie McQuillen, Nancy McCumber, Laura Pugh, Lorraine Seaman, Tommie Peter, Mary Lou Munn, Dorine Zimbelman, Dolores Wiley, Neva DeGood, Madeleine Roberson, Charlsie Rogers, Liz Weber, Lois Leydig, Valjean Schultz, Rose Mary Bierig, Donna Zimbelman and Raedell Winston.

Classy Classic Red Hatters
With hammers, screwdrivers, staplers and the always indispensable duct tape, 13 members of the Red Hatters met at the Diamond R for hamburgers on Friday, Aug. 5, before tackling the big project of the float for the Cheyenne County Parade.

Madeleine Roberson introduced her Red Hat friend (doll), Miss Sophia, to the ladies. Miss Sophia was dressed in her finest purple outfit, curlers in her hair and talking on her cell phone. She is one of several Red Hat dolls belonging to members.

Friday night was the monthly meeting of the Red Hatters with Mary Lou Munn, Shirley Sherlock, Carol Larson and Betty Jean Winston having August birthdays.

With everyone brimming with energy, the ladies reassembled for the job of building the Red Hatter's float at Jensen's Garage. Ideas presented by the Parade Committee (consisting of Raedell Winston, Laura Pugh, Valjean Schultz and Bonnie McQuillen) were implemented. Merlin Sherlock was called in for assistance. It is always good to have a husband at hand that will drop what he is doing to help out.

With the banner in place, the poster's all attached and the decorations completed, the ladies adjourned to regroup Saturday morn-



RETIREED servicemen Neil McCumber (left) and Marvin Zimbelman are shown respect as they move down Main Street on the Red Hat float. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

ing in front of the high school.

Two Red Hat dolls besides Miss Sophia joined Red Hat members, Mary Lou Munn, Bonnie McQuillen, Rose Mary Bierig, Donna Zimbelman, Liz Weber, Valjean Schultz, Raedell Winston, Marge Fossett, Ruth Reynolds, Dolores Wiley, Barbara Ewing, Nancy McCumber, Laura Pugh and Betty Jean Winston, in the parade. They were Miss Suzy, friend of Rose Mary Bierig and Miss Star, friend of Dolores Wiley.

The Classy Classic ladies would like to show their appreciation to the two servicemen, Marvin Zimbelman and Neil McCumber for representing the U.S. Armed Forces in the parade. Zimbelman retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after having served his country for 24 years, six in active duty and the remainder in the Reserves. He had

two tours in Vietnam, three years in Germany and the remainder of his time was at Fort Carson, Colo., and Fort Campbell, Ky. A member of the U.S. Air Force, McCumber retired after 20 years as a Master Sergeant. He was stationed in Salina and Topeka with the Strategic Air Command as a B47 Crew Chief.

A special acknowledgment to all who honored these two service men and the flag by placing their hands over their hearts when the Red Hat float passed down Main Street.

Additional volunteers (husbands) made dismantling the float go smoothly when the parade was finished. Red Hat ladies are meeting each week at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday for a cup of coffee. Check with another Red Hat member if you do not know the location of Wednesday coffee on any given week.

St. Francis News

While Norman and Donna Zwegardt of Peoria, Ariz., were visiting in St. Francis in July, they were breakfast guests at the Windmill Restaurant of Jerry and Susan Pierce of El Cajon, Calif. Other guests were Thelma Raile and Victor and Darlene Zwegardt.

Debbie Grizzell of Macksville was a guest of her parents, Milton and Betty Lampe, from Monday through Sunday, Aug. 1 through Aug. 7. They enjoyed the fair and a family potluck dinner at the home of Elmer and Dorothy Kellner.

Leigh Legere, Chase and Miles of Overland Park arrived Tuesday night and were house guests until Friday morning of Betty Jean Winston. They attended the Cheyenne County Fair and enjoyed playing cards and board games.

Guests of La Vera Beringer were Pastor Chris Farmer, Sylvia Queen and Derek and Gertie Zwegardt.

Don and Carol Deepe of Deshler, Neb., and Willard Peter visited with Helen Peter Sunday afternoon.

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