

Obituaries

Gilbert F. Staender

February 25, 1930 –August 27, 2016

Gil Staender, longtime resident of Camp Sherman and the Sisters area, passed away at Hospice House on August 27.

Gil was born February 25, 1930, in Chicago, Illinois. He was a first-generation American. His parents emigrated from Germany and became U.S. citizens. When his parents divorced, he returned to Germany with his mother. She died when he was 6, and he spent several years in an orphanage. While in the orphanage, he was issued a set of silverware, which the children used at each meal. He carried that set of silverware his whole life.

In 1940, during World War II, Gil’s uncle put him on a ship from Germany to the U.S., to be reunited with his father. Gil turned 10 while on the ship. When he reached the U.S., he couldn’t find his passport, and they wouldn’t let him off the ship without it. He recalled leaning over the railing to speak to his father, waiting for him on the dock. His father told him to look in his lederhosen, and there, he found his passport in his pocket.

Gil remained fluent in German and English.

Gil’s father remarried, and the family moved to the Portland area, where Gil grew up. He became a guide on Mt. Hood, and summited more than 50 times. He was active in the Mazamas, the Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society, Greenpeace, Utah Wilderness Coalition, and other Conservation Societies.

He was a photographer, and conservationist. He and his wife, Vivian Staender, spent a year in the Arctic, in the wilds of the Brooks Range of Alaska in 1965. They authored several books about the experience. They sold their house in Lake Oswego and moved to



Sisters in the 1960s, where they purchased a section of land North of town. They built a stone house “off the grid,” before being off the grid was popular, and named the place “Wildhaven,” which has been donated to the Nature Conservancy. Gil taught school in Sisters, and the couple helped legislate for the very first bottle bill in the U.S., passed in 1971. He donated several pieces of art to the Sisters Library.

Gil moved back to the Portland area and worked for REI. He loved art, music and the outdoors, and to travel. When he retired, he traveled in his motorhome with his beloved dogs. He purchased a home in Camp Sherman, where he spent his summers. He was a fabulous cook, his specialty was homemade carrot cake. He loved to tell stories, go dancing, walk his dog, spend time with friends, and travel.

He will be greatly missed.

Salon Renaissance

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Tim Westcott
Ronnica Westcott
Jenny Duey
Mary Morgan

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Don Frederick Grabe

October 19, 1925 – July 26, 2016

Don Frederick Grabe of Sisters died July 26 at age 90.

He was born in the small western-Iowa town of Pierson and grew up on a farm. While at Iowa State University he met Lorna Dohrer. The couple was married in 1950. Don served in the Korean War, then went on to teach agronomy as a professor at Iowa State University, Mississippi State University, and Oregon State University.

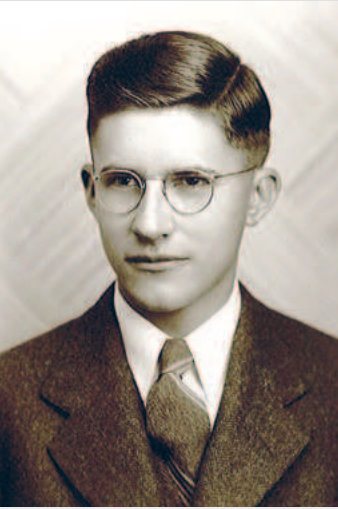
While on foreign university assignments, he

enjoyed teaching farmers and university personnel about agricultural techniques in developing countries such as Taiwan, India, Columbia, Mexico, and Guatemala.

He was an active member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Sisters.

He enjoyed photography, walks in nature, and hobbies such as gardening, reading, driving a tractor, and helping Lorna with the horses.

He is survived by his wife, Lorna Grabe; sons Ted



and Tim; daughter Ann; and several grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to Deschutes Land Trust.

Susan G. Sprang

February 16, 1923 – August 10, 2016

Susan G. Sprang of Black Butte Ranch died August 10, surrounded by her loving family.

She was the widow of Dr. Harry E. Sprang. She is survived by her sister Ruth Ingham and her daughters Debby Miller, Rebecca Stanley and Barb Franklin.

She was born February 16, 1923 in Canton, Ohio. She was always active in the community. Her background in archaeology enabled her to survey sites for primitive

habitation for the U.S. Forest Service. She also worked as a lookout on fire towers and was a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity as well as singing in her church choir. She studied genealogy and was proud of her Scottish heritage.

A memorial for Susan G. Sprang will be held Thursday, September 29, at 1 p.m. at Sisters Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. Reception following in the church hall.



In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested for Sisters Habitat for Humanity or Hospice of Sisters/Redmond.

Obituaries Policy: The Nugget Newspaper does not charge a fee to publish obituaries. Obituaries may be up to 400 words and include one photo. Obituaries outside these guidelines are handled by The Nugget Newspaper advertising department. Obituary submissions must be received by noon on Monday. Obituaries may be submitted to The Nugget by email or hand delivery to our office located at 442 E. Main Ave., Sisters.



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