

Donna Mae Kelley Bording Curts

June 1922 – Dec. 2014

Donna Mae Kelley Bording Curts, 92, of Baker City, died Dec. 26, 2014, at her home, with her son and daughter-in-law at her side. Her funeral was at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015, at Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. Bishop Parker Ussery, of the L.D.S. church officiated. There was a viewing at Gray's West & Co. the day before, Friday, Jan. 2, 2015 from 2-7 p.m.

Donna was born June 2, 1922, at Elko, Nev., to Otto John Kelley and Pearl McBride Kelley. Being the daughter of a Union Pacific railroad engineer, Donna grew up near Union Pacific's rail line, completing grammar school in Elko, Nev., High School in Winnemucca, Nev., and Nursing School in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Donna married LeRoy Bording, the love of her life, June 1942, in Winnemucca. Roy died one year later in a plane crash during WWII. Donna supported the war effort, first while in Chicago manufacturing K rations, and later in Salt Lake City as a member of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps.

After completion of Nursing School in Salt Lake City, in 1946, she worked as a Registered Nurse at Salt Lake City General Hospital.



Donna married Paul Curts, May 1948, in Winnemucca then moved to Baker, Ore., where she worked at both (old and new) St. Elizabeth Hospitals. Their marriage produced four children, Bruce, Diane, Gail and Keith. Donna and Paul divorced in 1993.

Through the years, Donna worked as a Medical, Surgical and ER nurse, but her passion was delivering babies. Many times through the years she, or her family, were stopped on the street by mothers she helped through delivery, always thanking her for the extra care, compassion and advice she offered them.

Donna volunteered for Red Cross blood drives for many years and served a stint as President of Baker County's Oregon Nurses Association.

Donna was active in the L.D.S. church, active in genealogy, and loved to help at the Family History Center in Baker City.

Survivors include her son, Keith Curts, and his wife, Pim, of Baker City; daughter, Diane Robeck, and her husband, Steve, of Tonasket, Wash.; daughter, Gail Worthen of Taylorsville, Utah; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by both husbands, a son, Bruce Curts; her parents; a granddaughter, Kirsten Robeck; her brother, Terrence Kelley; and sister, Darlene Kelley.

Memorial contributions may be made to May-Day, Inc. of Baker City, through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave, Baker City, Ore. 97814.

David Peter Anderson

June 1937 – Dec. 2014

David Peter Anderson peacefully passed away Dec. 24, 2014 in the presence of his daughter, his daughter-in-law, and his faithful dog Beau.

Dave was born on June 21, 1937 in Clinton, Iowa to Harry Edward Anderson and Pauline Ann Dilerang. He was their only child.

Dave grew up learning the merits of hard work on the farm and learned to drive tractor and truck at a young age. He was taught by his father how to hunt and fish and had many fond memories of being in the woods with a gun or on the big rivers with a fishing pole in hand, enjoying the great outdoors and all it has to offer.

Dave graduated from Iowa State University in Forestry and went to work for the Forest Service, working in the states of Alaska, Washington, and Oregon. His career took him and his family to many beautiful parts of the Pacific northwest,



including the north central Cascade Mountains, Mount Hood, the Elkhorn Mountains, the Wallowa Mountains, and the Snake River drainage around Boise, Idaho.

As a manager of fire and aviation programs within the forest he was able to spend many years in both helicopters and airplanes making decisions on how to fight forest fires.

He loved to spend time hunting, fishing, backpacking into the high lakes, riding horses, being with friends, and doing things with his family. He instilled a love for the great outdoors, hunting, fishing, and a love of animals to all who knew him.

Dave is survived by his son Erin (Brenda) Anderson of Brigham City, Utah, his daughter Kristine (Rick) Dahms of Vashon, Wash., his grandsons Tom (Shay) Anderson of Willard, Utah, Neal (Kassie) Anderson of Brigham City, Utah, and granddaughter Jane (Darin) Toone of Brigham City, Utah, and of course, his favorite dog Beau.

By his request no funeral services will be held. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.myersmortuary.com.

Betty Jo Gray

Feb. 1930 – Jan. 2015

Betty Jo Gray, 84, died on Jan. 1, 2015 in her forever home, at Elsie's House-Adult Foster Care in Baker City. A Memorial Celebration of Betty's Life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015 at 2 p.m. at the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Pochontas Road in Baker City.

Betty Jo was born on Feb. 22, 1930 in Castleford, Idaho to Clarence and Beatrice (Short) Niccum. She was one of eight children. The family moved to Nyssa, Ore., when she was 6 or 7 years old.

Betty went to school in Nyssa, but began having health problems, so she quit school in her sophomore year. Betty went back later, after her kids were born and took the GED and passed, never even studying for it.

When she was 17 or 18, Betty came to Baker to attend Baker Business College for a couple of years. She learned to be a secretary and did bookkeeping and typing.

Betty married Fred Earl Gray in April of 1950. They made their home in Baker City. Fred was a radio/television repair man in Baker. They had their first daughter, Nancy, in their seventh year of marriage, then three years later, had Susan. The two girls shared the same birthdate only years apart. Betty worked mostly alongside of



her husband.

Later she went back to school to get her teaching degree. She worked for a year for the Seventh-day Adventist School after her children were pretty much grown.

Daughter Susan, developed a brain tumor and she lived 20 years, dying in 1988. Fred and Betty later divorced after 26 years; her oldest daughter was 16 at the time.

Betty then met Jack Darrah. They lived in Hermiston for five years and then moved to Baker City. When Jack and Betty needed extra care, they moved to "Reasoner's Retreat" assisted living, in Richland, Ore.

Jack later died in 2007. He and Betty had been together for 16 years. Betty then moved back to Baker City.

Betty enjoyed fishing, camping and "just raising her family." She was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Betty was preceded in death by Jack, daughter Susan C. Gray, and six of her siblings. She is survived by her children, Nancy Nelson of Baker City, grandchildren Kristy Watson and Ron Nelson; 13 great grandchildren; brother John Niccum and his wife of Pasco, Wash., several nieces and nephews.

Those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Betty, may do so to the Seventh-day Adventist Church through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Ore. 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

William H. "Buck" Alderson

Aug. 1930 – Dec. 2014

William H. "Buck" Alderson 84, a resident of Baker City died Dec. 18, 2014 at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center, Baker City.

Memorial services for Buck will be held Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015 at 2 p.m. in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 42171 Chico Rd. Baker City. Pastor Tony Brandon will officiate. A private family burial was held at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Buck was born Aug. 12, 1930 in Arapaho, Okla., a son of Moses H. & Fay Lucille (Harris) Alderson. He graduated from Baker High School and attended college for a time. He served in the U.S. Army for two years and held the rank of Corporal (acting Sergeant).

During his tour of duty in Korea, one special event stood out. That was when Buck was selected for special guard duty for Generals Mark Clark & Matthew Taylor, the supreme commander and adjutant of the entire Korean campaign at that time.

Buck married Doris "Dimp" Ridenour in 1955

in Baker City. Before beginning his career as a mechanic, "Buck" worked as a bookkeeper and a telephone company lineman. He attended many John Deere Service Schools working as an Ag and heavy equipment mechanic working for Jones & Son, Baker-Union Tractor, US Forest Service and Baker Sanitary Service.

Buck was a dedicated husband, father and friend who never turned his back on anyone's needs. All anyone had to do was call. He will be greatly missed by all.

Buck was an active member of the Baker Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Buck is survived by his wife, Doris Alderson, Baker City; Shane Alderson, Baker City; son & daughter-in-law, Mark & Diane Alderson, Baker City, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Moses & Fay Alderson.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions in his memory may direct them to the Baker Valley SDA Church or Wounded Warrior Project, which may be done through the Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, Ore. 97814.

Death Notice

Leland "Link" Millman, 86, of Richland, Ore., died at his home on Monday, Jan. 5, 2015. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Mary P. Cross, 75, a resident of Baker City died Jan. 6, 2015 at Saint Alphonsus Hospital in Baker City. Services are under the direction of Coles Tribute Center.

Leona (Onie) Iris Blank Speelman

Feb. 1918 – Jan. 2015

Leona (Onie) Iris Blank Speelman, 97, died on Jan. 2, 2015 at Meadowbrook Place in Baker City. A traditional funeral service was to be held on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015 at 11 a.m. at the Richland Christian Church in Richland, Ore. Interment followed at Eagle Valley Cemetery. Friends joined the family for a potluck reception to be held immediately following the interment.

Leona was born Feb. 9, 1918 at Long Hollow (Richland to Huntington Road) in Eagle Valley Ore. Her parents were George Washington Blank and Lottie Gordon Blank.

She had fourteen brothers and sisters: Miskel, Nathan (who died as an infant), Melvin, Marvin, Emmett, Myrtle, Elmer, Opal, Bernadine (Pete), Earl, Jack, Harland, Duane, and Dale.

Leona was the eleventh child of the 15 children. Leona and her brothers and sisters grew up in Eagle Valley, and all but four lived their lives there.

She was preceded in death by her parents, 14 brothers and sisters and her husband Jack. Leona was the last surviving member of the original Blank Family, and lived all but a few years of her life in Eagle Valley.

Leona attended New Bridge Grade School and the Pleasant Ridge Grade School in Eagle Valley, and the Eagle Valley High School.

She married Jack Speelman, the love of her life, on Sept. 22, 1938, in Weiser, Idaho.

She is survived by three children: Larry and Sharon Speelman of Richland, Ore; Terry and Lorri Speelman of Baker City, Ore; Janice and Michael McCann of Emmigrant, Mont; 12 grandkids; 13 great grandkids; 13 great-great Grandkids; and



many nieces and nephews.

Leaving High School Leona moved to Baker and worked in a soda fountain in the old Cochran's drug store on Broadway in Baker, and also worked as a nanny.

Leona and Jack lived in the Haines and Baker area during the early years of their marriage. Then they moved to Vancouver, Wash., during WWII where Jack worked in the shipyards. They moved to Eagle Valley in 1946 where they farmed and Jack worked out as a logger, carpenter, and welder.

Leona was devoted to her family and always busy doing something for them. Being a housewife and mother without all the modern day appliances was hard work (ringer washing machine, wood cook stove, hand crank cream separator), but she never complained. Her pantry was always full every fall with fruit and vegetables she had canned during summer.

Leona was always very active in the New Bridge Grange and was one of the senior members upon her death. She and Jack belonged to the local Square Dance Club. They were involved with Boy Scout activities. She was a Den Mother for Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts and an avid fan of High School sports. She was also active in the Dry Gulch Sewing Club (often referred to as the hen setten-spit and whittle club).

Those who would like to make a donation in Leona's memory may do so to either the Richland Christian Church or the Eagle Valley EMT Training Fund through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & CS, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Ore. 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Joaquin G. "Moose" Stephens

April 1926 – Jan. 2015

Joaquin G. "Moose" Stephens, 88, of Baker City died Jan. 3, 2015 at his residence. His rosary was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel and the Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8, at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. Vault Interment will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery and a reception will take place afterwards at the St. Francis Parish Hall.

Moose was born April 30, 1926 in El Paso, Tex., to Joseph Gunter and Tomasa Maria (Serano) Stephens. He attended Cathedral High School in El Paso, and went into the U.S. Army in 1944, serving in the Pacific and earning two Purple Hearts. In 1950 Moose graduated from New Mexico A&M and later took graduate courses at the University of Idaho. On May 21, 1955 he married Helen McDavid in Boise, Idaho. The couple remained married for 40 years until her passing on March 1, 1995.

Moose worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 37 years as a range conservationist and wildlife biologist and was the snow ranger for Anthony Lakes. He enjoyed many outdoor activities including skiing, which he continued to do until he was 84 years old, hiking, family trips camping and sing-a-longs by the campfire. He also enjoyed bicycling, participating in Cycle Oregon two times.

Joaquin was involved in the



Boy Scouts of America for 15 years. He started and was the head coach of the Baker

Swim Team from 1973 until 1976 and was an active member of St. Francis de Sales Cathedral and a member of the Knights of Columbus. His greatest legacy was his faith in God, his love of family and his love of the outdoors.

Survivors include four sons: Michael Stephens and wife Dia of Baker City, Joe Stephens of Alameda, Calif., Bill Stephens of St. Helens, Ore., and James Stephens and husband Darold of Vancouver, Wash. Two daughters: Patricia Keithley and her husband Chip; and Amy Dodson and her husband Randy of Baker City, Ore. Seven grandchildren: Melissa Kelso, Matthew, Eric and Suzanna Keithley, Jordan Stephens and Tawny Dodson. Five great grandchildren: Logan Kelso, Angel, Jeremiah, Matilda and Rocket Keithley. Three foster grandchildren: Raz, Ozzie and Landon Stephens-Slack. And his very good friend, Diane Cobb.

He was preceded in death by his wife Helen, his parents, a granddaughter Mandi Stephens, one brother Joseph Stephens and one sister Helen Annabell Stephens.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mayce Collard Scholarship Fund in care of Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, Ore. 97814