

Alma Tachenko

Dec. 1928 – June 2015

Alma Tachenko, 86, of Keating Valley, formerly of Grassy Butte, ND, died Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at her son's and daughter-in-law's home of Rod and Valerie Tachenko, in Keating, Ore. A funeral service will be at 2 p.m., Friday, June 19, 2015 at the Grassy Butte Seventh-Day Adventist Church with Pastor Rudy Harnisch officiating. Interment will follow at the Grassy Butte Seventh-Day Cemetery.

Alma Vera Alexenko was born Dec. 5, 1928 on the family farm north of Grassy Butte, the daughter of Procher "Prince" and Tannie "Tena" (Dobrovalsky) Alexenko. She was raised and educated in the Killdeer area, having attended rural school in Dunn County, in Killdeer, and at the Shyenenne River Academy in Harvey, N.D. Alma taught school at two rural school houses in Dunn County, one of which she had attended as a student. She took nursing studies at Hinsdale Sanitarium in Chicago, Ill., and was employed for a time at St. Joseph's Hospital in Dickinson.

Alma was united in marriage to Joe Tachenko on Oct. 4, 1951 in Hillsboro, Ore. They made their home near Grassy Butte, where they ranched and raised their family. Joe died on March 25, 1997. Alma remained living on the ranch until moving to Baker City, Ore. in 2004, at the invitation of her son and daughter-in-law, Rodney and Valerie, where she lived until her death.



Alma was a lifetime member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, most recently holding membership at the Grassy Butte Seventh-Day Adventist Church. She enjoyed gardening, working with her flowers, traveling, visiting with people, playing the piano, and ice cream. She was very supportive of missionary projects, spending countless hours cutting out Bible Story felt sets and making other things for the children overseas.

Alma is survived by her sons, Rodney (Valerie) Tachenko, Baker City, Ore., and Terry (Terri) Tachenko, Grassy Butte, ND; four grandchildren, Ryan (Vanessa) Tachenko, Baker City, Mollie (Jeremy) Whitaker, Culver, Ore., Amanda Tachenko, Grassy Butte, and Joseph (fiancé Gabrielle Schreier) Tachenko, Grassy Butte; five great-grandchildren, Zeb Tachenko, Wyatt, Morgan, and McKenzie Whitaker, and Cash Tachenko. She is also survived by three siblings, Ruth Eschenko, Rose Eschenko, and Raymond (Deanna) Alexenko; two brothers-in-law, Lonny (Estelle) Tachenko, and Mike (Marvela) Tachenko; one sister-in-law, Virginia Tachenko; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe; her parents; and 10 siblings, Della Spence Haider, Lawrence Alexenko, Elaine Jablonsky, Steven Alexenko, Matt Alexenko, Katie Hurinlenko Stubbs, Elsie Boyko, Stacia Merickle, Ann Boyko, and Agnes Moseanko.

Memorials to the 3ABN.org or to Amazing Facts Ministries/Canada may be made 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.

What to Do When a Loved One Dies

By Jason Alderman

Whether it's expected or accidental, the death of a loved one can shake you to the core. The last thing you want is to have to interrupt grieving to deal with mundane tasks, but unfortunately there are many actions that must be done on behalf of the deceased. Some must be taken immediately, while with others you can take your time and reflect on the best path to follow.

Here's a checklist:

If the death occurs under hospital or hospice watch, they will notify the proper authorities and help you make arrangements with the coroner's office for transport of the remains. If it happens at home, call local police or 911 for assistance. If he or she was an organ donor, you'll need to act quickly.

Reach out for help in making arrangements and locating key documents. Split up such tasks as contacting others who will want to know, taking care of pets, collecting mail and safeguarding the deceased's home if it's now vacant.

Look for a will or other document that spells out the deceased's burial or cremation wishes – many people make funeral arrangements in advance, even paying ahead of time. The funeral home can guide you through the paperwork process, such as placing an obituary and ordering death certificates.

Hopefully, the deceased prepared a will that names an executor to oversee the disposition of his or her estate; otherwise, the court will have to appoint one. In sorting through their files, also look for: a trust; insurance policies; bank, credit card, mortgage and loan accounts; safe deposit box key; contact information for lawyer, doctor, accountant or other professional advisors; and passwords to computer and other accounts.

Within the first few days, start notifying organizations with which the deceased had business or financial arrangements. In most cases you'll be required to submit a certified copy of the death certificate, so be sure to order ample copies. You'll need to contact:

- Current or former employers for information about possible final wages, accrued vacation, retirement, life insurance or other death benefits.
- Social Security Administration. If they were receiving Social Security benefits, you'll need to stop payment right away. Funeral homes often do this, but be sure to ask.
- Once you've notified Social Security, they will contact Medicare to cancel benefits. However, if they were enrolled in a Medicare Prescription or Advantage Plan or had a Medigap policy, contact each to cancel coverage.
- Veteran's Administration. Veterans, their immediate family members and certain others may be entitled to burial at a national cemetery.
- Forward their mail to a secure address so you don't miss important correspondence.
- Cancel their driver's license to avoid identity fraud.
- Banks, credit unions, credit card issuers and other lenders to close accounts – or if you are a surviving spouse, to convert accounts to your name only.
- If they had a safe deposit box and you don't have the key, ask what documentation you need to gain access.
- Insurance companies, to cancel auto and homeowner's policies; however, consider keeping them activated until assets are sold, in case of theft or damage.
- Close email accounts.
- Cancel magazine subscriptions and utilities.

Finally, the executor will have to deal with such issues as locating beneficiaries, distributing inherited property, filing final tax returns, and settling outstanding debts. You'd be wise to work with an attorney who specializes in probate issues.

Death & Service Notices

Edwin H. Ward, 73, of Yuma, Ariz., a former Baker City resident, died April 11, 2014 in Yuma. A graveside memorial service with will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Baker City.

Gary Trinklein, 81, died at his home on June 11, 2015. Gary requested that there not be any formal services or obituary. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home. Online condolences may be shared for his family at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Arthur Marvin Gilliam, 73, of Baker City passed away on June 16, 2015 at his residence. Arrangements are being handled through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, Ore. 97814.

Opal V. Creger, 83, a resident of Baker City died Monday June 15, 2015 at her home. Graveside services for Opal will be held Saturday, June 20, 2015 at 9 a.m. at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Vault interment will follow the services. Donations may be made to St. Jude's through the Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, Ore. 97814.

Happy Birthday Leo, and Thank You!

Leo Adler Leo was born in Baker City, Ore., the youngest of three Adler children, in June of 1895. At the age of nine, Leo began his business on a street in Baker peddling magazines from a single paper bag with Saturday Evening Post on the front side and Ladies Home Journal on the reverse side.

His first business associate was his dog, Prince, who knew Leo's customers and routes as well as, if not better than, Leo. The business soon expanded by the addition of a magazine mail service to Haines, North Powder and Hot Lake. Several additional magazine lines were added to his inventory and Leo established his first office in the corner of his father's jewelry and music store.

After graduation from Baker High School, this industrious youth followed his father's advice to "stay home and work to get a head start while the others are in college." By age 20 he had created a major magazine reshipping business which ultimately employed a staff of 30 members, most of whom dedicated over 25 years of service to Leo. He retired at age 77 after making history in the magazine business by developing a seven-state empire with 2,000 outlets and selling more than 3 million magazines annually.

Leo was a self-made millionaire with a keen mind and an amazingly modest standard of living. He never married, but possessed a deep caring for people. Throughout his lifetime he used his money to help those less fortunate and to support community services. His first major gift to the city was the purchase of a pumper truck for the Fire Department in 1939. He donated large sums annually to St. Elizabeth Hospital and over the years donated numerous ambulances to the Baker City Fire Department. Leo ordered steaks delivered by taxi to the fire station on many occasions, and he provided a television set for the firemen to watch on night duty.

Leo was an avid baseball fan and attended over 20 consecutive World Series. He supported his beloved sport by providing funds for the construction of a baseball field in Baker City which was dedicated in his name by then Governor Mark Hatfield. He contributed generously to the high school, Little League, and Babe Ruth programs. He provided modern floodlighting for the playing fields as well as the local rodeo grounds. Leo was the major force in attracting high school basketball and football tournaments to Baker City as well as the Shrine East-West game.

Leo received a score of honors and awards from local, regional and national organizations in recognition of his dedication to the general welfare of people of the area and of the state of Oregon. His devotion to his community led him to donate generously to educational institutions, historical preservation groups including the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, medical facilities, regional development, health and welfare organizations and all religious denominations.

Through deep commitment, sound business principles and hard work, Leo Adler generated immense wealth which, upon his death, created a scholarship fund for encouragement of the developing minds of future generations and a community fund for worthy projects of charitable organizations. This was Leo's ultimate gift to his beloved community.

Biography from the Leo Adler Foundation Website.

Photo: Leo Adler receiving Life Membership in Oregon Fire Chiefs' Asso. At the right is Leo's long-time friend Bishop Francis P. Leipzig, of the Baker Catholic Diocese. Leo donated several ambulances to the Baker City Fire Dept. Photo courtesy of the Baker County Library Historical Archives.



Wildfire Puts Lower Imnaha Off-Limits to Salmon Fishing

Chinook salmon anglers on the Imnaha River will find limited access to the lower river due to the nearby Little Basin fire. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is alerting anglers that Dug Bar Rd. leading to the lower Imnaha has been closed by the U.S. Forest Service.

Current reports indicate the road could be closed up to five days, through the upcoming weekend.

According to Kyle Bratcher, ODFW fish biologist in Enterprise, the river remains open from Fence Creek up to the Summit Creek Bridge, though anglers can expect to see a little more fishing pressure shifting upriver.

The Little Basin fire started June 15. For updates, visit the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center website: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/>.

He was a man of few words



Thank him this Father's Day for showing you how to live, and love.

J. TABOR

JEWELERS

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