

OBITUARY Roger Leroy Bouse

Astoria

June 30, 1931 — May 13, 2017



Roger Leroy Bouse, 85, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family members on May 13, 2017.

He was born in Okeene, Oklahoma, on June 30, 1931, to Roger and Opal (Barron) Bouse. At the age of 13, his family moved to Oregon City, Oregon, and he graduated from Oregon City High School in 1949.

In 1951, Roger joined the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, and was stationed in Adak, Alaska, and on the aircraft carrier USS Point Cruz.

Upon his honorable discharge in 1955, Roger returned to the Crown Zellerbach West Linn Paper Mill. He married Muriel "Joy" Smith in 1955 in Aloha, Oregon. When the Wauna Crown Zellerbach Paper Mill was built, Roger was one of the first employees, settling in Knappa, Oregon, in 1965. He retired from the Wauna Mill in 1993, after over 42 years of service.

Roger served for 12 years on the board of directors of the Wauna Federal Credit Union, serving as vice president during part of his tenure. He was active in the Central Labor Council for many years, serving as secretary/treasurer. He was a member of the American Legion, and belonged to the First Lutheran Church of Astoria.

For many years, Roger was a beekeeper — often referred to as the "honeyman" — and his

honey could be found in many of our local stores.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Muriel Joy, in 2007; and a sister, Iva Mae Parelius, who passed away in 2007. Roger is survived by four children, Michael I. Bouse (Nancy Davis), Linda McElroy (Dan Gallagher), Cynthia Stephens (Daniel) and Jacqueline Kerr (William III); two sisters, Cecile Pearson of Oregon City and Mary Edgley (Richard) of Gresham; eight grandchildren, Michael R. Bouse, Diana Anderson (Isaac), William Kerr IV (Brooklyn), Jason Stephens, Jennifer Stephens, Aaron Stephens, Kara McElroy and Eli McElroy; eight great-grandchildren; longtime special companion, Lila Booth; and numerous other extended family members.

Memorial donations can be sent to Lower Columbia Hospice, First Lutheran Church of Astoria, or a charity of your choice. Interment with military honors will take place on Saturday, May 20, at the Knappa Prairie Cemetery, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. at the First Lutheran Church, 33rd Street and Grand Avenue in Astoria, with a reception to follow. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. Please sign our online guest book at www.caldwellsmortuary.com



Roger Bouse

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Cannon Beach to invest in new fire equipment, volunteers

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District is focused on saving money for future upgrades in next fiscal year's proposed budget.

Along with a new fire engine, nozzles and other apparatus, the fire district may add a recruitment officer to improve volunteer retention and add more paid, part-time firefighter positions.

This is Fire Chief Matt Benedict's first budget cycle to oversee, and he said his goal is to help "standardize and streamline" the budgeting process for the district to clarify why each item is needed to the public.

"We're setting this budget up for the future," Benedict said. "We are saving money for when our apparatus need to be replaced to be fiscally responsible."

Recruiting and keeping qualified volunteer firefighters is a task that is becoming increasingly more challenging

not only for Cannon Beach, but for volunteer departments around the country, Benedict said. According to the National Fire Protection Association, the number of volunteers decreased 12 percent from 1985 to 2015.

To help with retention, Benedict is proposing to add \$39,000 to the budget for more part-time firefighter positions. It would be structured so that existing volunteers could sign up for two, 10 hour paid shifts a week at \$15 an hour. Seaside Fire Department already has a similar program.

Right now the fire district has 18 volunteers, which Benedict said is adequate for now. Ideally, he hopes to recruit to reach a total between 25 and 30.

Benedict is also proposing to apply for a four-year, \$728,150 grant to fund a new recruitment officer. The funds would help pay the officer's salary, as well as training and outreach materials to develop a long-term strategy to find and keep volunteers.

Lack of affordable hous-

ing and the high cost of living are two main reasons Benedict identified as major issues contributing to recruitment struggles.

"It's definitely a trickle down effect," he said.

About \$85,000 is proposed to be transferred into a reserve fund for the eventual replacement of a 1995 fire engine set to expire in the next few years, and will eventually cost around \$400,000. Fire nozzles and self contained breathing apparatus equipment will need to be replaced before expiring in 2019, and the district intends to secure a grant to foot a bill that could push \$500,000.

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