

## OBITUARIES

## Stephen Edward Smiley

### Centralia, Washington

Dec. 13, 1928 — May 6, 2019



Stephen Edward Smiley was born Dec. 13, 1928, to James and Esther Smiley in South Prairie, Washington. The family moved to Lopez Island, Washington, in 1938.

At the age of 17, Steve joined the Army Air Corps in 1946, then chose to join the new Air Force in 1948 as a World War II veteran.

Steve lived in Anacortes, Snohomish and Seattle, Washington, until he met the love of his life, Anna Ohm, and was blessed with 57 years of marriage. After operating a dairy farm together south of Seattle, they moved to Brownsmead, Oregon, where they lived for 40-plus years. Steve then returned to Centralia, Washington.

Steve was known for his farming, gardening, fishing, raising Yorkie puppies and telling jokes and stories.

Steve was preceded in death by his wife, Anna, and seven brothers and sisters.

He leaves behind three children, Dorene (Randy), Caryn (Richard) and Greg (Debi); and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. June 22 at the Centralia Church of Christ, 502 E. Plum St. in Centralia.

A graveside service will be held at Bayview Cemetery on Whidbey Island, Washington, on Sunday, June 23, at 1 p.m.



Stephen Smiley

## Joyce Marie Cameron

Olney

May 4, 1937 — June 10, 2019

Joyce Marie Cameron, a longtime resident of the Astoria area, passed away peacefully Monday, June 10, at her home.

Joyce was born May 4, 1937, at St. Mary's Hospital in Astoria, Oregon, to Matthew Walter Wilson and Ina Marie Holt.

She was raised in Astoria, and graduated from Astoria High School in 1955. She then moved to Portland, Oregon, and worked as a bookkeeper for Yourgan & Meyer from 1956 to 1959.

She married her husband, Richard E. Cameron, on July 11, 1959. They spent over 50 years together before his death in 2005.

In 1959, she and her husband moved to Olney, where she remained until her passing. She became a homemaker to her two sons, Doug and Paul.

She loved to camp with her family, and swim. She had a talent for gardening and cooking. She treasured her yard and lovely rose bushes. Another hobby she enjoyed was sewing, and she spent nearly a decade as a member of the Klatskanie Sewing Club,

making beautiful quilts.

She also loved to travel the coast and gamble with her dear friend, Susan. She always looked forward to her Friday lunches with "the girls." She lived a full and beautiful life. She was blessed with a granddaughter and two great-grandsons, who brought her much joy.

Joyce was preceded in death by her husband, Richard E. Cameron, on Jan. 10, 2005.

She is survived by her two sons, Douglas E. Cameron and Paul E. Cameron, a granddaughter, Andrea M. Cameron, and two great-grandsons, Cody S. Johnson and Korbin C. Tull, all of Astoria, Oregon. She is also survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Chuck and Jan Wilson, of Grants Pass, Oregon; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, Oregon.

There is no service planned at this time. However, there may be a celebration of life planned at a later date.



Joyce Cameron

## Betty Lorraine Berny

### Cottage Grove

Sept. 2, 1926 — June 8, 2019

Betty Lorraine Berny, a resident of Magnolia Gardens Assisted Living in Cottage Grove, Oregon, passed away on June 8, 2019, at the age of 92, from heart disease.

Betty was born on Sept. 2, 1926, in Ontario, California, to Marvin and Hazel (Keith) Ericsson.

She married Bud Berny on Sept. 6, 1948, and resided in Ontario until 1979, when they moved to Cottage Grove. Her husband, Bud, and her youngest son, Brian, preceded Betty in death.

She is survived by her children, Becky (and Myrl) Walter, Roxanne (and Alan) Williams and Mike (and Dana) Berny; grandchildren, Jed (and Lisa) Walter, Sara (and Jeff) Dreiling, Ryan Williams (and Sophia), Jaimie (and Taylor) Carr, Michelle (and Chris) Lang and Marina

and Natasha Berny; and great-grandchildren, Syllas, Sierra, Eli, Summer, Eva, Seth, Gwyneth and Clara.

Betty's family would like to thank all the Magnolia Gardens and Signature Hospice employees for the wonderful, loving care they provided our mother.

There will be a private family graveside service at Fir Grove Cemetery, followed by a celebration of life at Stacy's Covered Bridge in Cottage Grove on Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 12 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please perform an act of kindness on Betty's behalf, or make a donation to Signature Hospice in her memory.

Arrangements are in the care of Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.



Betty Berny

## Helen Maxine Nelson Holt

Salem

June 6, 1929 — June 6, 2019

Helen Maxine Holt was born in Denver, Colorado, June 6, 1929, to Hazel (VanNortric) and Clarence Nelson, and died on June 6, 2019, at age 90.

Maxine graduated from Gresham High School in 1947, and studied journalism and music in college.

In 1950, she married Donald Holt in Spokane, Washington, moving to Seaside in 1953 to be near her parents. Don and Maxine opened Don's Union 76 station in 1955.

Maxine and Don were members of North Coast Family Fellowship since the 1950s, where she taught Sunday school, directed choir and played organ for worship services. Maxine lived her life in the presence, and to the honor and glory

of God — Coram Deo.

Maxine was a gifted piano teacher, and taught in Seaside until 2017. Maxine loved her family and fully embraced being a grandmother. She was passionate about gardening, clam digging (limiting into her 80s), garage sales, collecting of all kinds, making sauerkraut and clam chowder and hosting dinners with Don in their home.

She loved picking wild blackberries and mushrooms. She walked hundreds of miles on the Prom with friends, talking through life's joys and challenges. Maxine's faith is now sight.

She is survived by her children, Bruce (Dana) Walter, Craig (Debbie Thornton) and Nancy (Scott Trumbo); 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.



Helen Maxine Holt

## OBITUARY POLICY

The 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. • Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication. • Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at [DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits](http://DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits), by email at [ewilson@dailyastorian.com](mailto:ewilson@dailyastorian.com), placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. • For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

## Housing: Councilors expressed interest in encouraging higher-density development

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On the map, most of the heel-shaped jut of land that forms Astoria is either pink or gray. The green sections of partially vacant land stand out. There are small pockets in the dominantly gray downtown, and larger parcels to the east.

Astoria's population has only just begun to creep up, but for years has held relatively steady at just below 10,000 people. The estimated population in 2018 was 9,695, according to Portland State University's Population Research Center.

The city is split almost in half between homeowners and renters. Across Oregon, around 39% of the population rents and 61% owns.

But Astoria also faces a higher estimated poverty rate. Clatsop County has the highest rate of homelessness per 1,000 residents than any other county in the state, according to the study.

With many county, mental health and social services clustered in Astoria, the city has had to grapple with how to address an increasingly visible homeless population that draws on these services. Combined with a lack of affordable housing and workforce housing, and rents that continue to rise, these issues have forced policy discussions in recent years.

The average cost of rentals is high in Astoria.

Of the five cities in Clatsop County, Astoria looks much more like Cannon Beach when it comes to what people pay in rent. A one-bedroom unit, on average, costs \$925 a month in Astoria, and \$900 in Cannon Beach. Two bedrooms can kick the cost up to an average of \$1,250, while a three-bedroom unit is an average of \$1,600.

"Property managers and the U.S. Census do not indicate that rental rates have grown particularly quickly, averaging roughly 3% annually in recent years," the study noted. "However, the greater issue is availability, as renters and employers

find it difficult to find vacant units to rent."

Entire Facebook pages have sprung up dedicated to people looking for a place to live in Clatsop County and in Astoria in particular. Property owners who advertise a cheaper-than-usual rental are often quickly flooded with inquiries.

The study identified a need for more single-family detached styles of housing for home ownership and more multifamily units for renters in Astoria.

### Higher density

On Thursday, city councilors expressed interest in encouraging higher-density development through strategies like cottage clusters — groups of smaller detached homes — and zoning.

"There's so much in the study to digest," City Councilor Joan Herman said afterward.

*'PROPERTY MANAGERS AND THE U.S. CENSUS DO NOT INDICATE THAT RENTAL RATES HAVE GROWN PARTICULARLY QUICKLY, AVERAGING ROUGHLY 3% ANNUALLY IN RECENT YEARS. HOWEVER, THE GREATER ISSUE IS AVAILABILITY, AS RENTERS AND EMPLOYERS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FIND VACANT UNITS TO RENT.'*

an excerpt from the study

The City Council plans to hold another work session to discuss the study's recommendations in more detail. Herman would like to go a step further and meet with elected officials countywide to see what could be accomplished collaboratively.

"Our workers, our residents, they don't know boundaries necessarily so it just makes sense that we don't work independently of each other," she said.

The study provided quantifiable data that sup-

ports what people have already been advocating. City Councilor Jessamyn West said afterward.

"And that is the need for more affordable housing, specifically for individuals who make less than \$25K a year," she said.

But the question remains: "How do you incentivize people to build workforce housing?" One answer: subsidize it.

City Councilor Roger Rocka was interested in the idea of a land trust that could purchase land and then lease it to developers. The move could help reduce a builder's costs and provide the city some guarantee that at least a percentage of the housing would be rented at affordable or workforce-level prices.

Utilizing land the city already owns and leveraging city loans are other options.

The options could provide ways to solve difficult vacant land conundrums, like Heritage Square's open pit next to City Hall downtown.

"I think that's potentially a great way for the city to use properties," City Councilor Tom Brownson agreed.

But it is hard to pick out any single thing from the housing study at this point, Rocka said. "There are good ideas and some good guidance and a lot more work to do," he said.

## Remembering The Japanese Submarine Attack On Fort Stevens 77 Years Ago

# June 21, 1942

### An Interpretation Of The Event Will Take Place At Battery Russell, Fort Stevens State Park

**Noon to 4:00 PM**

# June 21, 2019



## Why Did The Fort Remain Silent?



**Visit the Historic Site on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup> for living history activities**