

OBITUARIES

Walter Harrison Hamm

Pendleton  
June 19, 1953 — March 30, 2021

Walter Harrison Hamm passed away Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at his home surrounded by his family and friends. Walt was born a June 19, 1953, to Jane and William Hamm.



Hamm

Walt worked and retired from the training center in Pendleton, Oregon, where he met many lifelong friends.

He is survived by his sisters Sara William and Barb Brown, and brother Joe Hamm. Walt was a great uncle to his nieces and nephews.

Walt was married for 35 years to Nancy and they have two children, Heather Thornburg and Guy Hamm. He was a grandfather to

Tanner Walczyk, Sean Simons, Mallory Thornburg, Brodie Bass, Hayden Hamm, Mackenzie Baird and Arya Hamm, and a great-grandfather to Malikia Simons.

Walt spent his time hunting and fishing with his family and friends. He was known for telling endless jokes and singing songs around the campfire.

Walt was a very genuine person with a huge heart. He never came across someone he didn't like.

Burns Mortuary of Pendleton is in charge of the arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at [www.burnsmortuary.com](http://www.burnsmortuary.com).

William David Hardie Jr.

The Dalles  
December 20, 1921 — March 26, 2021



Hardie

It was said at the passing of Bill Hardie's grandmother in 1918 that "She had fought the good fight; she had finished her course; she had kept the faith; she is at rest." The same can be said of her grandson, William David Hardie Jr., born December 20, 1921, at the ranch his Scottish grandfather homesteaded in 1883 at the head of Trailfork in southern Gilliam County. Bill died Friday, March 26, 2021, at the Oregon Veterans Home in The Dalles at the age of 99.

He was the son of William D. "Will" Hardie and Georgia Smith Hardie, whose parents were life-long natives of the area. Bill's childhood and young adult life in the wilds of Trailfork included many pets, including deer, rattlesnakes and dogs. He attended the Badger school east of Mayville for the first five years of his schooling, and finished grade school at the Trailfork School. He graduated from Condon High School in 1939. Bill worked on area farms and at Kinzua Pine Mills until attending junior college at Modesto, California.

In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army; graduated from parachute school in Georgia in 1944; then overseas, joined the 377th Parachute Field Artillery, "A" Battery, 502nd Parachute Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, serving in the World War II Allied invasions of Holland at Bastogne and through Germany and Austria, earning the rank of first lieutenant, along with accolades and admiration for his service.

Following his honorable discharge from the Army, he married Donna Klint of Hilmar, California, in 1946, and they returned to Condon and worked on his parents' ranches in Lost Valley and Trailfork. In 1947, with his uncle and aunt, John and Irene Hardie, they went to the Philippines where they operated a dairy for the next two years before returning to the family ranch.

Bill and Donna raised four children on the Trailfork ranch where they farmed for the next three decades, gradually adding to the long-time family holdings acreages previously owned by the Barker, Russell, Maddock and other families. Donna died in 1973 from complications of a stroke.

Bill continued the farming and cattle production operation and in late 1974 married Anne D'Agostine.

James Edward Hubbard

Pendleton  
March 22, 1938 — March 29, 2021

James Edward Hubbard, of Pendleton, Oregon, passed away March 29, 2021, one week after his 83rd birthday. He was bravely doing every-



Hubbard

ing the level of Maintenance Man 3. He retired in the late 1990s.

James was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where he held various callings. He had a passion for his family, quilting, genealogy and hunting. At some point in each of his children's lives he had taken them on a hunt, whether it be with a gun or bow and arrow.

He was also able to pass his passion for hunting to many of his grandkids.

He was preceded in death by his parents Chester and Alice, brothers Art and Modie, and his grandson Jeff.

He is survived by his wife, six children, 16 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Burns Mortuary of Pendleton is in charge of his arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at [www.burnsmortuary.com](http://www.burnsmortuary.com).

They continued to live at the ranch until late 1980 when they built a home in Condon and moved to town.

Bill, wanting to serve in public office, was elected as a Gilliam County commissioner in 1974, and in December 1983 was appointed Gilliam County judge. After successfully serving in county government for 12 years, he resigned as judge in 1987 when the ranch came back into his possession and he resumed an active role in its operation until 2010.

In 1985, Bill became involved with the 101st Airborne Division Association and traveled to Europe on several occasions to attend reunions with Army buddies and war-time friends. Bill and Anne enjoyed other world-wide traveling as well.

Bill's jovial spirit and keen sense of humor were well known and appreciated by those with whom he served on a variety of boards and commissions throughout the community and region. He was a member of the 101st Airborne Division Association, the Portland Parachute Club, Oregon Wheat League, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, a 67-year charter member of Condon Elks Lodge No. 1869, Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge No. 95, The Shriners, and was a long-time board member of the Condon School District and the Education Service District.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Donna and wife Anne, his daughter Nancy, and his brother Earl.

He is survived by his daughter Suzanne and Robbie Hyde, daughter Georgia and Jim VanWinkle, and son John Hardie; grandchildren Jessica and Patrick Ginn, Scot and Tasha VanWinkle, and Brad Hardie; and seven great-grandchildren.

A graveside service with military honors will be held 11 a.m. Monday, April 12, at the Condon Cemetery.

Memorial contributions, for those who wish, may be made to the Gilliam County Historical Society, P.O. Box 377, Condon, OR 97823; Oregon Veterans Home, 700 Veterans Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058; or Summit Springs Village, P.O. Box 687, Condon, OR 97823.

Sweeney Mortuary of Condon is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at [www.sweeneymortuary.com](http://www.sweeneymortuary.com).

Joy Nell Salter

Athena  
October 23, 1932 — April 3, 2021

Joy Nell Salter died on April 3, 2021, at the age of 88 at the local care facility in Athena, Oregon.

Joy was born to Frank and Minnie Begley in Kiowa, Oklahoma, on October 23, 1932. She graduated from Kiowa public schools, then married her high school sweetheart, Bill Ward, in 1950. They moved to Prineville, Oregon, where they had two sons, Frank and Jim.

They remained in Prineville until 1961 when the family moved to Athena, Oregon, where Joy would live and call home for the rest of her life.

In Athena Joy raised her two sons and watched both of them graduate and go on to college, which she was so very proud of. She also babysat and cared for many of the local children while her kids were in school and for years after her own children were grown and gone. She loved each child as if they were her very own and enjoyed having kids around.

After her divorce from Bill she held many odd jobs, from bookkeeping at the local feedlot to driving grain trucks during harvest, but the job she was most proud of was her career as a paraeducator at Athena public schools, doing what she loved most, which was caring for children.

It was through this job that she met her soulmate, Gaylord Salter. The two would later become married in 1993 and even though they found each other later in life they absolutely adored and loved one

another deeply. As they went on into retirement the couple filled their time going to the many athletics and extracurricular activities that their grandchildren were involved in. It didn't matter if it was a roping, rodeo, basketball games, dance recitals, school plays, music concerts, golf, or track meets. She never missed an event and was also very proud of all of her family's accomplishments.



Salter

Joy is preceded in death by her spouse Gaylord Salter, mother Minnie and father Frank, brothers Frank Jr. and Willie, and sister Neva. She is survived in death by son Frank Ward (Caroline) and granddaughters Lacy Holeczek and Whitney (Jon) Thompson; son Jim Ward and granddaughters Lindsey Stern and Ashley (Wes) Wells, and great-grandchildren Josey and Colt Wells.

Due to Joy's passion for athletics, the family has requested in lieu of flowers or gifts to send any monetary donations to the Athena-Weston Booster Club in memory of Joy.

She is being laid to rest with her mother in Prineville, Oregon, at a private ceremony with immediate family. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date for those wishing to attend.

Family would like to extend extreme gratitude to Tammara Pittman and her staff at The Athena House for the great and loving care they gave Joy the last few years.

Vernita Ethel Chapman Herburger

Pendleton  
March 14, 1946 — March 22, 2021

Vernita Ethel Chapman Herburger passed away on Monday, March 22, 2021.

She was born March 14, 1946, in Pendleton, Oregon, the daughter of Wayne and Eathel (Hogeland) Chapman. She grew up and attended school in Pilot Rock, Oregon.

After graduating from Pilot Rock High School she attended Blue Mountain Community College and then beauty school to become a hairdresser, but her passion was in animals.

She married Chuck Herburger in Pendleton in 1969. Together they had two sons, Mark Herburger and Lennis Herburger.

Vernita's love for animals motivated her to be surrounded by cows, goats, sheep, dogs and horses. She boarded and trained horses for over 50 years. She taught riding lessons and spent countless hours on horseback rounding up cattle or

riding in the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Wayne and Eathel Chapman, her infant brother John Walter Chapman, and uncles Jim and Lennis Hogeland.

Vernita is survived by her husband, Chuck Herburger; her sons Mark (Michelle) of Pendleton, Oregon, and Lennis (Andrea) of Mt. Vernon, Washington; her sister Waynette Ralls of Vancouver, Washington; two grandchildren, Ryan Herburger and Scott Herburger, both of Pendleton; niece Rayanne DeBose (daughters Kendall and Taylor); and nephew Mike Ralls (wife Suzie and children Casey and Tripp).

At Vernita's request, no services will be held.

Share online condolences with the family at [www.pioneerchapel.com](http://www.pioneerchapel.com).

Frederick M. 'Rick' Sellers

Hermiston  
November 20, 1952 — March 31, 2021

Frederick M. "Rick" Sellers of Hermiston, Oregon, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 68 on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

Rick was born on November 20, 1952, in Spokane, Washington, to Frederick "Fred" and Betty Burd Sellers. He attended Hermiston schools and graduated from Hermiston High School in 1971. After high school, Rick attended Blue Mountain Community College for two years.



Sellers

A summer job with Union Pacific during that time evolved into a 42-year-long career proudly working for Union Pacific. Rick was united in marriage to Diane Campbell on December 9, 1989, in Hermiston, Oregon.

Upon retirement from Union Pacific, Rick took a security officer's job with Amazon, where he was currently working.

Rick loved sports and, in particular, he loved baseball. He played in a men's league in Hermiston for many years, and after that delighted in watching his son Travis play, and most recently watching his grandson continue the baseball

tradition.

Family, friends, and colleagues all agree that Rick was a wonderful person who was always there to help. He will be greatly missed by all.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Sellers; his son Travis Sellers (Stephanie); his daughter McKenzie Houk (Tom); his stepson Brian Faro (Samantha); and his stepdaughters Monica Michel (Luis) and Morgan Shehata (Mike). He has 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Jacqui Sellers (Dan).

Rick was preceded in death by his parents.

If you wish to make a donation in Rick's memory, donations would be gratefully accepted for the Tyler Campbell Memorial Scholarship Fund. They may be sent in c/o Burns Mortuary, P.O. Box 289, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Due to COVID, a private celebration of life service following state guidelines will be held.

Please share memories of Rick with his family at [burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://burnsmortuaryhermiston.com).

Georgia Elizabeth 'Betty' Martin

Pendleton  
January 2, 1921 — March 31, 2021

Georgia Elizabeth "Betty" Martin, age 100, passed away peacefully Wednesday, March 31, 2021, in Pendleton, Oregon, with family nearby.



Martin

She was born to George and Pearl Challis on January 2, 1921, in Hermiston, Oregon, the oldest of seven children. Betty grew up during the Depression and learned to be thrifty. She had a life-long passion for living and eating healthy. She was a great cook and loved to bake. Her hobbies included gardening flowers and vegetables, canning, and watching birds, especially in spring time. She also loved to read and had a huge collection of cookbooks.

She enjoyed her family, siblings, family reunions, travel, and serving in the community. She collected signatures to bring the first ambulance service to Pendleton. She served as Campfire girls leader in Pilot Rock, and in Pendleton Side Saddlers, White Eagle Grange, Pendleton Senior Center, and in the 2000s in the Pilot Rock Lion's Club.

Her last employment was Kerns Furniture Factory in Pilot Rock.

In the words of our loving mother in 1990: "I grew up in Hermiston and Stanfield area, graduated from Pendleton, and we raised our children on a farm in Pilot Rock. I worked in Pendleton during World War II at the Air Force

Hospital and the railroad. I went on several bicycle trips, with six others from the AYH. We went to Canada in 1948, toured the Oregon coast in 1949, and Hawaii in 1950. Upon returning from Hawaii, I met George Martin and we were married in January 1951. In 1976, for our 25th anniversary, we traveled to South Africa for 21 days. We traveled to Alaska in 1983, and also traveled to Calgary, Canada, and saw the big Circus parade in Wisconsin."

Betty was preceded in death by her lifelong companion and husband George Henry Martin, son Charles, five siblings, and two grandsons. Survivors include daughters Marie Carroll (Robert), Sulton, Washington, and Katherine Palmer, Pendleton, Oregon, eight grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, brother Clarence Challis, and many nieces and nephews.

Donations may be made to Pendleton or Pilot Rock Lions Club. Betty cherished the gift of sight.

Graveside service will be held Friday, April 9, 2021, at 3 p.m. at Olney Cemetery, Pendleton, Oregon.

Burns Mortuary of Pendleton is in charge of arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at [www.burnsmortuary.com](http://www.burnsmortuary.com).

DEATH NOTICES

Kathleen Ann Comstock

Pendleton  
Aug. 4, 1950 — April 4, 2021

Kathleen Ann Comstock, 70, of Pendleton, died Sunday, April 4, 2021, at Wallowa Lake. She was born Aug. 4, 1950, in Pendleton. Arrangements are with Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop. Online condolences may be sent to [www.pioneerchapel.com](http://www.pioneerchapel.com).

James Dean 'Jim' Simpson

Hermiston  
May 10, 1935 — Nov. 19, 2020

Pastor James Dean "Jim" Simpson, 85, of Hermiston, died Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020, at his home. He was born May 10, 1935, in Los Angeles, California. A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, April 17 at 3 p.m. at the Hermiston First Christian Church. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Share memories with the family at [www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com).

Rev. Eugene Charles 'Gene' Van Beveren

Pendleton  
April 20, 1935 — April 3, 2021

Rev. Eugene Charles "Gene" Van Beveren, 85, of Pendleton, died Saturday, April 3, 2021, at his home. He was born April 20, 1935, in Hood River. Services are pending with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories with the family at [www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com).

Christine Louise Wilkins

Pendleton  
April 23, 1969 — April 6, 2021

Christine Louise Wilkins, 51, of Pendleton, died Tuesday, April 6, 2021, in Walla Walla, Washington. She was born April 23, 1969. Arrangements are with Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop. Online condolences may be sent to [www.pioneerchapel.com](http://www.pioneerchapel.com).