

OBITUARIES

Loren Irvine Stoddard

Echo

January 4, 1936 — September 6, 2019

Loren Irvine Stoddard was born on January 4, 1936, in Everett, Washington. He passed away on September 6, 2019, at his home in Echo, Oregon, at the age of 83 years.

Loren graduated from Everett High School in January of 1954 and joined the United States Marine Corps in March of 1954. He served for 22½ years including the Vietnam War before retiring as a Gunnery Sergeant E-7. He moved from Kaneohe, Hawaii, where he spent his last tour of duty with his family in Arlington, Washington.

Loren worked briefly for Bayliner Marine before going to work for the Everett Post Office. In 1983, he moved his family to Hermiston, Oregon. Loren worked full time as a rural route mail carrier while continuing to work a small farm.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Beverly Stoddard; aunt Doris Allen; brother Paul Givler and wife Sheila; nephew Paul and wife Carol; daughter Debra Pugh and husband Pete; son Donald Stoddard, M.D. and wife Marie; son-in-law Terry VanDyke; 10 grandchildren: Brandon and wife

Melissa, David, Marissa and Daniel Pugh, Zachary and Courtney VanDyke, and Mia, Kristoffer and Stephen Stoddard.

Loren was preceded in death by daughters Sheryl Ann, Darlene Patricia and Sandra Louise VanDyke; son Duane Allen; and his parents. He also leaves his beloved dog, Sadie, and four cats.



Stoddard



Loren was described by his grandchildren as loving to fish, scuba dive, golf, travel and spend time with his family and pets. He was proud of his military service and his job with the post office. He had a big heart, an even bigger smile and always had a bear hug for his loved ones. Rest in peace Marine, Semper Fi!

A graveside service with military honors was held on Monday, September 30, 2019, at 10:30 a.m. at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, California.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Eastern Oregon Humane Society, 1844 N.E. Geer Road, Hermiston, OR 97838, or the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots.

Please share memories of Larry with his family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

Buel Vernon Taylor

Fort Dodge, Kansas

April 12, 1924 — September 21, 2019

Buel Vernon Taylor was born April 12, 1924, in Arkansas to Elias Bloom Taylor and Minnie Estella (Hart) Taylor, and passed away Saturday, September 21, 2019, at the Kansas Soldier's Home, at the age of 95.

Buel was raised on a farm in Leedeey, Oklahoma. He served in World War II and after returning home, he was called back to serve in the Korean War. Buel then moved to Kansas where he worked for a farmer and the Graham County Road Department, running a road grader. He later made his way to Hermiston, Oregon, where he worked for Lamb Weston, a potato plant, which he later retired from, at the age of 80. In 2011, Buel returned to Kansas to be with his family.

Buel enjoyed spending time with his family, fishing, hunting, gardening, playing cards, and collecting miscellaneous items.

Buel is survived by one son, Jerry Tay-

lor, and five daughters: Shirley Eichman, Susan Boyle, Cindy Rachow, Donna Buchholz and Dora Lancaster; 17 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.



Taylor



He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Penny; three brothers: Avery, WD "Bill" and Buddy Taylor; four sisters: Alene Partain, Evelyn Bentley, Wanda Hamilton and Dorothy Thornton; two daughters, Linda Marin and Angela Tejada; one granddaughter, Shelly Eichman; and three great-grandkids.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, October 3, 2019, at the Kansas Veterans Cemetery, WaKeeney, with Pastor Harold Demoret officiating and full military honors. There will be no public viewing, cremation has taken place.

Memorials may be made to the Kansas Soldier's Home in Fort Dodge, Kansas, where he resided, in care of Ziegler Funeral Chapel, 1901 N. 14th Ave., Dodge City, KS 67801. Condolences may be sent to www.zieglerfuneralchapel.com.

Vincent P. Davis

September 29, 2019

Vincent P. Davis (formerly of Stanfield) was born in Hermiston, the son of Patrick and Tammy (Barreras) Davis. He passed away at home with his family by his side on Sunday, September 29, 2019, at the age of 50.

He is survived by his parents, Patrick and

Tammy Davis; two sisters, Sheral Campbell and Dannie Moss; six nieces and nephews and four great nieces.

A private family gathering was held. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. To leave an online condolence for the family, please go to www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Nicholas "Nick" Kauffman

Umatilla

Jan. 10, 1960 — Sept. 27, 2019

Nicholas "Nick" Kauffman of Umatilla was born January 10, 1960, in Salem, Oregon, the son of Samuel and Patricia (Fitzner) Kauffman. He passed away in Richland, Washington, on Friday September 27, 2019, at the age of 59.

As a child, Nick lived in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. He later moved to Prineville where he attended high school. After high school, he served in the U.S. Army for three years. He then returned to Prineville for a short time. He has lived in the Umatilla and Irrigon areas for over 30 years. He worked as a mechanic and a welder in Eastern Oregon throughout his career.



Kauffman



Nick enjoyed making things go fast; motorcycles, 4-wheelers, dune buggies, go carts, cars and trucks. If it had wheels and an engine he enjoyed making it go fast.

He is survived by his daughter, Andrea; grandchildren, Gaven and Jocie Elwood; sister, Rebecca Johnson; brothers, Steven, Charlie and Andrew Kauffman; many nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family members; and his significant other, Elaine Clubb.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later time. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

To leave an online condolence for the family, please go to www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Dorene Lyn Napolitano

Hermiston

Nov. 27, 1949 — Sept. 5, 2019

Dorene Lyn Napolitano, 69, of Hermiston, died Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019. She was born Nov. 27, 1949, in Ely, Nevada. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, Oct. 19 at 12 noon at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church in Hermiston. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories with the family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

David L. Ayling

Hermiston

Sept. 21, 1929 — Sept. 16, 2019

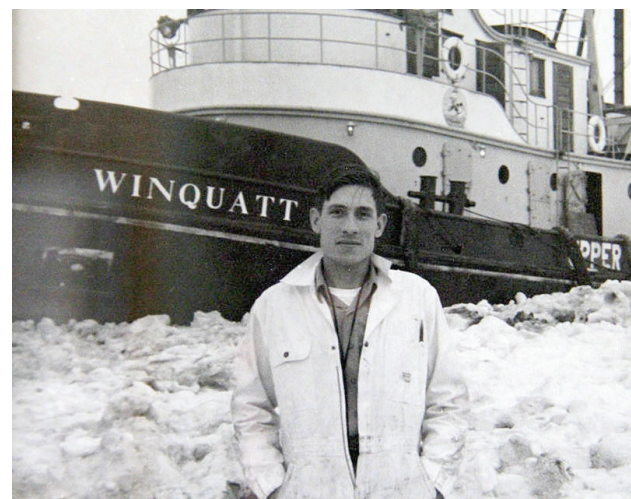
David L. Ayling, 89, of Hermiston, died Monday, Sept. 16, 2019, in Hermiston. He was born Sept. 21, 1929, in Royal Oak, Michigan. A private burial was held in Idaho. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories with the family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Keith Jefferson Rodenbough

'The Last of the Sagebrush Sailors'

Portland

April 30, 1926 — August 28, 2019



Rodenbough

Keith J. Rodenbough was an extraordinary man. Born and raised in Umatilla, Oregon, Keith followed in his father's watery path. Keith's father, Harry Rodenbough, owned and operated the ferry boat that crossed the Columbia River at Umatilla before the bridge was built. Alva Stephens, Keith's friend since third grade, piloted that ferry boat. At age 16 Keith became the youngest tugboat pilot on the Columbia River. He navigated the rough Columbia River at the helm of the legendary Winquatt operated by Inland Navigation Company. Those early days of piloting were so treacherous that many aspiring commercial sailors would give up after only a few months.

Keith was accomplished at such a perilous job that he was recruited to work on the Great Lakes and the Alaskan Coast.

At age 27 he was drafted and served in the United States Army where he served in the navigational field. Keith had a great love of all mechanical transportation. In addition to tugboats and barges, Keith studied commercial airplanes and locomotives.

From 1968 to 1977, Keith would drive to Portland most weekends where he and his friend, Don Feller, would spend hours building a model railroad train complete with mountains, towns and a train yard. The outside track was 60 feet around.

At 6'1" Keith was a tall, lean dapper gentleman. He took great pride in always wearing well-pressed shirts and shoes with a high shine. In fact, he was so handsome, well-dressed and knowledgeable about commercial planes that his friends would introduce him at parties as "Captain Rodenbough" of United

Airlines. Despite his gentlemanly ways, good looks and intelligence, Keith never married or had children.

His post-river life was dedicated to caring for his parents and being an active community member in Umatilla. Keith's mother, Hettie, fell ill while Keith was working on the Great Lakes. Harry called Keith, asking him to come home to help care for her. Thus, in his 40s Keith ended his career, returning home to Umatilla to care for his parents who died at ages 98 and 99.

In Umatilla Keith was an active member of the Elks and heavily involved with the Umatilla Museum. He was interviewed several times by reporters and by Columbia River historians. He and his beloved Winquatt were featured in an OPB documentary.

Over the years Keith would travel with his friend Don to places like Washington, D.C., and Las Vegas to take in museums and private collections. In the last few years of his life Keith would go out twice a week with his friend Alva and Alva's daughter, Jimmie Schleh. Together they would grocery shop, attend Sunday services and eat at a local diner.

On his birthday each year Keith would put on a pressed shirt with a tie

and those shiny shoes to lunch with his friends Pam Stocker, Kathy Bush and Kathleen Raw from Edward Jones.



Keith Rodenbough lived an extraordinary life. The name "Sagebrush Sailor" is about more than just a livelihood, it is about a type of man, one that no longer exists.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019, at 1 p.m. at Sunset Cemetery in Umatilla, Oregon.

Keith was well-loved. Dear friends include Don and Mary Feller of Portland, Oregon; Amanda Feller of Tacoma, Washington; Alva Stephens of Umatilla, Oregon; Jimmie Schleh of Umatilla; Pam Stocker, Kathy Bush and Kathleen Raw of Edward Jones, Hermiston, Oregon, as well as several neighbors and community members.

Keith's surviving family include his sister Doris Hiatt, 98, of Beaverton; nephew Jerry Hiatt of Hermiston; nephew Phil Hiatt of Beaverton; niece Sue Hiatt Arnaud of Beaverton; grand-nieces Cammie Hiatt Hewitt, Erin Hiatt Davis and Stephanie Arnaud Edwards; and grand-nephew Chris Hiatt, as well as several great-grand-nieces and -nephews.

See the original article, "The Last of the Sagebrush Sailors," below.

LAST OF THE SAGEBRUSH SAILORS

By Colin Murphey, Hermiston Herald, Published May 30, 2014

Keith Rodenbough describes himself as "broken in" on the Columbia River in 1942 when he was just 16 years old. Piloting the river until 1955, he was one of the original Sagebrush Sailors, a name given to a small group of brash, pioneering and fearless tugboat captains who were, Rodenbough said, the only ones crazy enough to navigate the upper reaches of the dangerous, unpredictable, untamed Columbia River.

DIFFERENT KIND OF RIVER

Riddled with obstacles with names like "Devil's Bend" and "Hell's Gate," the Columbia River at the time was a turbulent, fast-moving and shallow waterway demanding constant diligence from the boat crews navigating the waters. The Columbia remained that way until the construction of numerous dams changed the behavior of the river forever. As water levels rose, rapids and rocks were buried under feet of water. Devil's Bend, Hell's Gate and the infamous Umatilla Rapids are now just a memory in Rodenbough's mind.

In the 1940s and 1950s, agricultural operations in the area had to pay exorbitant fees to trucking companies and railroads to bring necessities such as fuel into the area and transport their goods out. When the Sagebrush Sailors became known as the only boat captains willing to travel to parts of the river in Umatilla County, using their services offered agriculture operations a reliable and less expensive way to ship critical supplies upriver and their goods downriver.

LAST OF AN ELITE GROUP

Now 88 years old and still residing in Umatilla, Rodenbough is the only surviving member of this close-knit fraternity of captains who piloted the upper Columbia River. "I'm one of the last of all of this," Rodenbough said. "I am the only one that is still alive of the group of us that tackled the river around here. It took me three years to learn this river. There's no one else left that used to run the Umatilla Rapids. Those rapids are what stopped most of the pilots. I used to break in some of the new guys, and they would say to me, 'Hey, I'm getting ulcers. I just can't take any more of this.' Their nerves couldn't take it."

Rodenbough began as a deckhand on tugboats pushing barges transporting goods and materials. Those days, the boats were not outfitted with standard, modern amenities such as a galley, restrooms and sleeping quarters. Before GPS, auto-pilots, radar and sonar, river captains had to rely on knowledge, experience and rudimentary navigation tools to avoid the many hazards along the barge route. The days weren't just long and exhausting, they were also extremely hazardous. Rodenbough described at least one fatality he witnessed when a deckhand was swept overboard, never to be seen again.

RIVER COWBOYS

According to Columbia River maritime historian John Rekart Jr., an author of two books on the subject, the history of the Sagebrush Sailors was nearly lost. Rekart said after he wrote his first book about the lower Columbia River, he realized he was unable to answer readers' questions about the upper Columbia and the men who sailed its waters. "These guys were on the river when it was still wild," Rekart said on a recent swing through Hermiston promoting his latest book, "Rollin' on the Wild River." "They called them the Columbia River Cowboys because they were crazy. Hearing the stories of what these guys did was what got me hooked. Rodenbough is the definitive expert on the river. Back then, the boats were incredibly under-powered by today's standards. Everything they did was by skill alone. They used the river to move the boat and to turn the boat using the natural dynamics of the water. They didn't have radios or radar. They had to know the river. They had to be able to read the river. Rodenbough was one of the original Sagebrush Sailors and went on to become one of the ace captains on the river. They were a different breed of guy."

Before dams were built for irrigation and hydroelectric reasons, the Columbia was considered to be one of the most dangerous rivers in the world. According to Rekart, naval experts whom he consulted for his book, told him, upon completion of the Navy's navigation school, sailors were expected to be able to navigate any river in the world, except two: the Yangtze River in China and the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. Rodenbough said the treacherous nature of the waterway was what attracted him to the river. "Once they put those dams in, it took all the fun out of it," Rodenbough said. "The outfit I worked for had some guys out from the Mississippi River one time to try and break them in, and after one day with us they said, 'These guys are crazy! They actually try to hit the rocks!' Well that was ridiculous. We didn't try and hit them. We came pretty close though. Now the river is boring. Anyone can navigate that thing now. Once the dams went in, I quit. It took all the love of the job out of it for me."

UPCOMING SERVICE

Ernest Hohenwald

Irrigon

May 14, 1932 — Sept. 13, 2019

Ernest Hohenwald, 87, of Irrigon, died Friday, Sept. 13, 2019, at his home. He was born May 14, 1932, in St. Paul, Minnesota. A memorial service will be held Friday, Oct. 4 at 4:30 p.m. at Burns Mortuary chapel in Hermiston. View the full obituary or to leave an online condolence for the family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.