

Charles O'Brien, 72

23 Nov 1977

Charles John O'Brien, 72, died Monday in Whitefish. He was born June 20, 1905, in Sleepy Eye, Minn., the son of John and Susan O'Brien.

Following the death of his mother when he was a small child he went to live with his grandparents in Plentywood. He later moved to Lewistown and Superior where he owned and operated taverns. Twelve years ago he moved to Whitefish.

He is survived by three nieces, Mrs. Verne (Gerry) Whiting, Blackduck, Minn., Sally Swendsen, Walker, Minn., and Patricia Albrecht, Minneapolis, Minn.

Services will be conducted from the Austin Chapel at 2 p.m. Monday. Burial will be in the Whitefish Cemetery.

Richard J. Ochsner

7-11 Mar, 1977

Richard J. Ochsner, 45, Kalispell, died last week while on business in Libby.

Mr. Ochsner was born Aug. 22, 1931, in Billings. He lived in Missoula most of his life and moved to Kalispell in 1976.

He was a furniture and auto salesman and an avid fisherman.

He was a veteran of the Korean War, a member of Hellgate Lodge 383, BPOE, and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

He is survived by his widow, Lois, Kalispell; a son, Richard A., Missoula;

a daughter, Lenora Larson, Kalispell; his mother, Hilda, Missoula; his father, Jake, Kalispell; a brother, William, Missoula; two sisters, Lillian Merritt and Evelyn Fehr, both of Missoula, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were Wednesday with burial in Mountainview Cemetery, Ronan.

Miss Catherine Margaret O'Connell, age 72, died in Polson

5 Nov 1977

Miss O'Connell was born April 11, 1905, in Kalispell, a daughter of William H. and Margaret O'Connell. She attended Kalispell schools and was a graduate of the Flathead County High School. She was a registered nurse, having trained at the Kalispell General Hospital. After graduation she went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where she completed all the subjects for her degree in Nursing. She was then employed as a Nursing Instructor in New York; Washington D.C.; New London, CT, and Pittsfield, MA. She also worked at the St. Joseph Hospital in Polson for four years prior to her retirement due to ill health. Miss O'Connell had lived on the East shore of Flathead Lake for twenty years before moving to the St. Joseph Retirement Home in Polson where she resided at the time of her death. Miss O'Connell's father, William, was sheriff of Flathead County in 1909 at the time of the Hanging of Le Beau. She was of the Catholic Faith. She was preceded in death by her parents and three brothers, Leo, Charlie and John, and is now survived by two nieces and one nephew. Funeral services for Miss O'Connell were held Monday in Big Fork with burial in the Conrad Memorial Cemetery, under the direction of the Johnson Funeral Home.

Fred O'Connor

2 Aug 1977

Fred O'Connor, 75, 1275 S. 2nd St. W., died Tuesday in his home.

Mr. O'Connor was born May 12, 1903, in Coal Station, Ill. He attended schools there and served in the Army during World War II. He moved to Montana in 1927 and was employed by the L. A. Hamilton sawmill until his retirement in 1967.

He married Caroline Potter on Dec. 28, 1965, in Missoula.

Mr. O'Connor is survived by his wife, a stepson, Roscoe Potter, and five stepdaughters, Mrs. Bonnie Houtchens, Mrs. Lola Clark, Mrs. Connie Schwab, Mrs. Jenny Dame and Brenda Potter, all of Missoula.

The body was sent to Great Falls for cremation. Memorial services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in the Salvation Army Church.

MARY BEATRICE ODEGAARD

57 Nov 1977

Mrs. Mary Beatrice Odegaard, age 78 who had resided at 238 Three Mile Drive, died in Kalispell on Sunday evening. She was born April 1, 1899, in Vesleyville, ND, a daughter of Thomas and Mary Krile. She had received her education in ND and on Jan. 1, 1920, she was married to Harry Odegaard in Devils Lake, ND. The couple farmed in North Dakota until 1948, when they moved to the Flathead Valley and ranched West of Kalispell. Mrs. Odegaard had attended the Central Bible Church and was a member of the Scandinavian Fraternity of America and the Neighbors Club. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry, on April 25, 1967;

her parents and one brother. She is now survived by three sons, Clifford and Dennis of ND and Clayton Odegaard of Kalispell; one daughter Vivian Helland of ND; three sisters, Frances Larsen of ND, Anna McCann of CA and Albina Biesel of Indiana; twelve grandchildren; six great grandchildren and a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives. Funeral services for Mrs. Odegaard will be conducted in the Johnson Chapel at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday with the Rev. Kenneth Young, pastor of the Central Bible Church officiating. Burial will be in the Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Steven O'Donnell

12 Aug 1977

Steven O'Donnell, 21, 1635 S. 14th St. W., died Friday in the Veterans Hospital in Ft. Harrison of injuries sustained in a July 23 auto accident in Missoula.

The car Mr. O'Donnell was driving collided with a car driven by Sandra M. Krammer, West Riverside, in the 300 block of South 6th Street West. O'Donnell's car spun around and struck a parked car.

Mr. O'Donnell was born Oct. 16, 1956, in Bozeman. He attended the University of Montana and was employed by the World Theater.

Survivors include his mother, Marilyn McDonald, East Helena, and four sisters, Cheri Clawson, Billings; Cathy Martin, Missoula; Cindy Scharenberg,

Bozeman, and Cally O'Donnell, East Helena.

Funeral services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Hagler Mortuary Chapel in Helena. Burial will be at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Bozeman.

Charles H. Oertel, 77

24 Nov 1977

LIBBY — Charles H. Oertel, 77, died Thursday in the Libby Hospital.

He was born Aug. 12, 1900, in Columbia Falls. He was raised in the Flathead Valley, where his parents were early day homesteaders, and attended Bad Rock Canyon School and college in Helena.

He married Esther Klinke April 15, 1928, in Kalispell. He came to Libby in 1937, where he was a railroad clerk with the Great Northern Railroad. He retired in 1970 with 50 years of service.

Survivors include his wife Esther of Libby; one daughter, Dolores Deyerle, Helena; two sisters, Margaret Armstrong, and Grace Harper, both of Gorst, Wash.; and three grandchildren.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at the Vial Funeral Home with Rev. Terry Dunn of the Troy Methodist Church officiating.

Burial will follow in the City of Libby Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Methodist Church.

Vernon Oesch, 68

28 Oct. 1977

Vernon Edward Oesch, 68, died at his home at 1034 Batavia Lane Friday.

He was born Dec. 26, 1908, in Garden City, Mo., a son of John and Mary Oesch. He received his early education in Missouri before moving with his family to the Creston area, where he completed his schooling. He has since engaged in timber work and farm work all of his life. He was a single man and is survived by one brother, Harold Oesch of Kalispell, and three sisters, Mrs. Ora (Beulah) Miller and Mrs. Dan (Lela) Lapp, both of Kalispell, and Mrs. Hershah (Bernice) Hooley of Phoenix, Ariz.

Services for Oesch will be conducted in the Johnson Chapel at 2 p.m. Monday. Glenn Roth of the Creston Mennonite Church will officiate.

Burial will be in the Fairview Cemetery.

Clara Olson, 91

7 Dec. 1977

Mrs. Clara E. Olson, 91, Mrs. Vern (Florence) Homuth and Mrs. Kenneth (Stella) Adams, both of Kalispell; 12

grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren.

Services for Mrs. Olson will be conducted in the Johnson Chapel at 2 p.m. Saturday with the Rev. Wilbur Whanger, pastor of the Epworth United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial will be in the Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Mrs. Olson had been a member of the Epworth United Methodist Church since 1924. She was preceded in death by her husband, Oscar, on Oct. 4, 1972; one daughter, Olive in 1927; and one son, Clare, in 1963; and seven brothers and sisters.

She is survived by three sons, Merl of Missoula, Raymond of Kalispell and Elbert Olson of Richland, Wash.; two daughters,

Thorvald Ohnstad, 66

23 Apr 1977

Thorvald Ohnstad, 66, Railroad at Anchorage. In died in California on Saturday.

Mr. Ohnstad was born on Nov. 13, 1910 at Charleson, N.D., the son of Henry and Anna Ohnstad.

When he was a young man he moved to Wyoming for a while and then to Montana, making his home at Lake Five where he worked on construction work on U.S. 2, and also for the Great Northern Railroad.

In 1942 he moved to Anchorage, Alaska where he worked in electrical work and in later years worked for the Alaskan

Five and spent the winter months in California.

Mr. Ohnstad is survived by one son, Joseph Ohnstad of Missoula; one daughter, Caroline Marshall of Seattle, Wash. and one sister, Mrs. Betty Lynch of California.

Services are planned for 11 a.m. Friday from the Van Leuven Chapel in Columbia Falls, with the Rev. Leonard Spraycar officiating. Burial to follow in Woodlawn Cemetery.

John H. O'Lexey, 74, passed away on Jan. 2, 1977 at his home in Severn, Maryland. He was born in Westbrook, MN, grew to manhood in Kalispell, MT. At his death, he was president of the Sevren Realty Corporation; he retired seven years ago. He was founder and the first chief of the Jessup Volunteer Fire Department, was a member of the International Fire Chief's Association, and taught University of Maryland extension courses in fire fighting. He first came to that area while serving in the Army at Fort Meade during World War One. His wife passed away in 1973. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Tyras S. Athey, of Jessup; a son John J. O'Lexey, of Waterloo; a sister Mrs. Kate Hendrickson of Phoenix, AZ; three brothers, Peter of San Diego, CA; Henry of Jessup; and Philip of Washington State, and five grandchildren.

3 Jan 1977

George Olson, 66

26 Oct 1977
George John Olson, 66, 1972, and by two brothers and one sister. died at his home in Condon Wednesday evening.

He is now survived by one sister, Betty McGowan of Boise, Idaho; and three children, Delmar, Bonnie and Dan. He was born Feb. 18, 1911 in Boise, Idaho, a son of Lewis and Hannah Olson. He had received his education and spent his early life in Boise. He later moved to the Flathead Valley, where he was engaged in logging work, and later was employed as a bartender at the Dixie Inn.

He was a member of the Kalispell Eagles Lodge.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ellen, in

9 Aug 1977 Walter Olson

Walter Edward Olson, 75, 204 E. Pine, a former linotype operator for The Missoulian, died Tuesday in a Missoula hospital.

Mr. Olson was born Feb. 1, 1902, in Deer Lodge. He was graduated from Deer Lodge High School in 1923, and worked as a printer at the Powell County Post (now the Silver State Post) in Deer Lodge.

He was a linotype operator for newspapers in Hamilton, Dillon and Billings before he came to The Missoulian.

Mr. Olson retired in February 1967. He was a member of Blue Lodge 14, Royal Arch Masons and Ivanho Commandry in Deer Lodge.

Survivors include two brothers, Leonard and Bill, both of Deer Lodge; four sisters, June Olson and Avis Abbott of Deer Lodge, Bea Bormuth of College Park, Md. and Nola Blakesley of Chula Vista, Calif. and numerous nieces and nephews including Robert B. Olson and Mrs. Orin Lien of Missoula.

Graveside services will be conducted Friday at 3:30 p.m. in the Missoula Cemetery by members of the Missoula Lodge 13, AF&AM. Geraghty Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the intensive care unit of Community Hospital.

William Opelt

7 Mar 1977
William H. Opelt, 85, Trego, died in Sunburst Wednesday. He was born August 5, 1891 in Van Wirt County, Ohio.

He received his early schooling in Ohio then moved with his family to Northern Michigan. He later moved to Oklahoma.

In 1910, he entered the U.S. Army for one year returning to Oklahoma where he worked on ranches until re-entering the U.S. Army during World War I.

In 1927, he moved to Sweetgrass, where he homesteaded until 1944 when he moved to Trego. He then did woodwork and was later employed with the Forest Service, retiring in 1955.

Mr. Opelt was a member of the World War I Barracks #362 of Kalispell.

On June 10, 1942, he was married to Madeline Lozing in Shelby and now is survived by her at the family home in Trego. He also is survived by one son, William H. Opelt, Jr. of Trego.

Services for Mr. Opelt were conducted in the Austin Chapel at 2:00 P.M. Monday with the Rev. Joe Haugestuen, Pastor of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church officiating.

Music was furnished by Mrs. George Lantz Organist and Mr. Al Olson soloist.

Casketbearers were: O. V. McCurry, Paul Nordahl, Jack Peters, Doyle Shields, Ned Simmons, and Bub Skrable.

Burial was made in the Glacier Memorial Gardens where military graveside rites were conducted by the local veterans' organization.

Mr. Frank E. Opp, age 83, died on Tuesday evening (April 26th), at the Immanuel Lutheran Home where he has resided for the past year. Mr. Opp was born Feb. 7, 1894, in Muncy, PA, a son of Wilson and Cora Opp. He taught school in Pennsylvania for several years. In 1917, he moved to Montana where he homesteaded North of Havre until moving to Whitefish in 1925, and to Kalispell in 1926, where he has since resided. After moving to the Flathead Valley he was district manager for H. E. Clack Company until his retirement in 1955. Mr. Opp was a member of the First Presbyterian Church; Kalispell Lodge #42A.F. &A.M.; Algeria Shrine Temple; Cyrene Commandry #10; Grand Council R. & S.M. of Montana. In 1917, he was married to Esther Griggs in Hughesville, PA who preceded him in death and in 1944, he was married to Virginia Wormley in Libby who also preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by one son, Ned Opp in 1968. He is now survived by one son, Alan Opp of Kalispell; two daughters, Mrs. Ken (Betty) Kjelstrup of Lakeside and Mrs. Lewis (Margaret) Campbell of Santa Rosa, CA; twelve grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Funeral services for Mr. Opp were conducted in the Johnson Chapel Friday with the Rev. Dr. Odin A. Baugh, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church officiating. Burial was in the Conrad Memorial Cemetery where ritualistic Masonic Rites were conducted by the Kalispell Masonic Lodge #42 A.F.&A.M. 1977

Mrs. Mary Alice Greeley Orr, age 63, died at her home at 12 Charlotte Ave. on Sunday morning. She was born Sept. 25, 1913, in Polson, MT, a daughter of Earl H. and Mary Coulson. She received her early education in Polson, later moving to Kalispell where she graduated from the Flathead Co. High School. She then attended the University of Montana. She was married to Cy Greeley who preceded her in death in 1952. She had lived at various places including Great Falls. On Nov. 14, 1967, she was married to Albert Orr in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The couple then moved to Kalispell where they have since resided. Mrs. Orr is now survived by her husband, Albert, at the family home; one daughter Mrs. Larry Wicker of Missoula; two grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and other relatives. Graveside services for Mrs. Orr were conducted in the Conrad Memorial Cemetery on Tuesday with the Rev. Dr. Odin A. Baugh, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church officiating. 29 30 March 1977

9 May 1977
EUREKA — Gary J. Osler, 22, died at his home near Eureka on Monday. He was born on Sept. 23, 1954 in Kalispell.

He was raised and attended schools in Eureka.

He had lived in Portland, Ore., where he had been employed on construction until moving back to Eureka several weeks ago.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Osler of Eureka; a brother, David; a sister, Gay, both of Eureka; a grandmother, Dora Rodell of Kalispell

UM Junior

Dies in Wreck

8 Aug 1977
SWAN LAKE — Karen Leslie Orr, 19, a University of Montana student from Littleton, Colo. was killed Monday night in a single vehicle accident near Goat Creek on Swan Highway 209.

Lake County Sheriff-Coroner Bill Phillips declared the woman dead at the scene. Gary McLean, 32, driver of the vehicle, was flown by air ambulance to Kalispell Regional Hospital for treatment of broken bones and internal injuries.

The young woman, a junior at UM, was killed when the north-bound pickup truck left the highway and struck a tree at 9:30 p.m. about two miles south of the Goat Creek Ranger Station.

A coroner's jury was empaneled Tuesday afternoon and an inquest is pending.

The death pushed Montana's death toll this year to 178, compared to 172 a year ago.

The body will be sent to Littleton for services and burial.

18 Aug 1977
Carl L. Ostman

Carl Lewis Ostman, 48, 1813 Reserve St., died Thursday evening in a Missoula hospital.

He was born July 6, 1929, in Okanogan, Wash., and attended schools there. He married Phyllis Morgan Oct. 24, 1969, in Reno, Nev.

In 1971 he moved to Superior, and in 1973 to Missoula. Mr. Ostman was an employe of various trucking firms in the area.

Survivors include his wife at the family home; four sons, Rodney Ostman, Raymond Smith, Ronald Smith and Kelly Smith, all of Missoula; a daughter, Sherry Price, Missoula; a brother, Byron, Coco Beach, Fla., and a grandchild.

Funeral services will be Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Livingston-Malletta Chapel with the Rev. Beryl Burr officiating. Burial will be in Missoula Cemetery.

^{3 Sept 1977}
Mr. Mentz Overby, age 88, formerly of Somers, died in the Valley View Home in Glasgow on Saturday. He was born July 25, 1889, in Norway, a son of Erik and Britta Overby. He received his education in Norway and in 1905, he came to the United States and farmed near Cooperstown, ND. He had attended Concordia College at Moorhead, Minnesota and sang in the first choir at the college. He had served in the Armed Forces during WW I. He then moved to Somers where he was employed with the Somers Lumber Company until his retirement in 1954. On June 23, 1923, he was married to Olga Lee in Somers. The couple continued to live there until April 1975, when they moved to Glasgow. Mr. Overby was a 54 year member of the Eidsvold Lutheran Church of Somers and had served as secretary-treasure for the church for 25 years. He was a member of the WW I Barracks of Kalispell and the Sons of Norway. He is now survived by his wife, Olga; three sons, Erwin of Valley City, ND, Glen of Bisbee, ND and Neil Overby of Minneapolis, Minnesota; one daughter, Marie Tarum of Richland, MT; sixteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Funeral services for Mr. Overby were conducted in the Eidsvold Lutheran Church of Somers on Wednesday with the Rev. Alton Johnson officiating. Burial to follow in the Bethany Lutheran Cemetery. The family suggest memorials be made to the Eidsvold Lutheran Church.

29 Nov 1977
NORA E. OTIS

Nora E. Otis, 87, a former resident of Kalispell, died November 29th in the Extended Care Unit of North Valley Hospital in Whitefish. Mrs. Otis was born July 24, 1890, in Britton, SD, the daughter of Alexander and Liza Hall. She attended schools in South Dakota and North Dakota and later taught school for two years before homesteading near Billings. Mrs. Otis married Leamon Otis in Billings on December 15, 1915. The couple moved to the Flathead in 1935. For a number of years she was a pastry cook at the old Kalispell General Hospital. She was a member of the Church of Christ in Kalispell. Mr. Otis died in 1956. Surviving are her sons, Leamon E. of Fortine, Earl G.

of Caldwell, Idaho and John L. of Seattle; 5 daughters, Mrs. Art (Lucille) Biegler of Fortine, Mrs. Robert (Fay) Fine and Mrs. Dewey (Ruby) Levitt, both of Columbia Falls, Mrs. Jessie Lauman of Seattle, and Mrs. L. P. (Ruth) Adams of Great Falls; her brothers, Hobart Hall of Kila and Earl Hall of Kalispell; 20 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was also preceded in death by one son, four sisters and four brothers. Funeral services were Saturday in the Weatherford Funeral Home with Jack A. MacDonald of the Hungry Horse Chapel officiating. Burial was in Glacier Memorial Gardens.

W.A. Owings

^{Sept 25, 1977}
Word has been received of the death of William Arthur Owings, 70, Lewis Dela. where he has lived for about 20 years and was involved in home restorations.

Mr. Owings, who died Sept. 25, was in Columbia Falls for the Talbott School reunion in 1976. Survivors are a half sister, Mrs. Rosalie Brunette, Columbia Falls, a sister-in-law, Erma Owings, Simms, and two nieces, Marguerite Haaland, Coram, and Laurie Haynie, Los Angeles.

Services are to be held Friday in Lewis, Dela. with cremation to follow.

He was born in Cut Bank, Feb. 8, 1907, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Owings with the family moving to Columbia Falls about 1911.

During World War II, he was in the Army medical corps, and had worked in Glacier National Park at Two Medicine and Kintla Lake.

Word of his passing came from Dr. Rupert Koeninger, Huntsville, Texas, who taught in Columbia Falls in 1929-34, and then went on to earn a doctorate from Ohio State, and later retired as professor of sociology and head of the department of Central Michigan University.