

26 Feb 1973

Edward Ober

Last rites for Edward James Ober, 78, East Lake Shore, Bigfork, were conducted Thursday. Interment was in Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Ober died Monday in Kalispell. He was born Jan. 23, 1895 at Minneapolis. He resided in Havre before moving to the Flathead about 23 years ago. He was a cherry grower.

Survivors include his widow, Evelyn, one son, Edward, and one grandson.

1973

Anton Olson

Last rites for Anton C. Olson, 79, Whitefish, who died Aug. 18, were held Wednesday with burial in Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Mr. Olson was born Jan. 30, 1894, in Iowa to the late Ole and Herborg Olson. He moved to Kalispell in 1942 where he logged in the Olney area until his retirement in 1967.

He is survived by his widow, Augusta, two sons, Anthony and Donald, both of Kalispell; two daughters, Mrs. Audrey Godboise and Mrs. Helen Blair, Portland, Ore.; 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; four brothers, Clarence, Whitefish, Henry of Kalispell, and Joe and Helmer, both in Minnesota; two sisters, Mrs. Annie Stunland and Mrs. Mable Bjorke, Minnesota.

Last rites were conducted Friday in the Weatherford Funeral Home for Hanna Olson, 82, a Kalispell resident until four years ago.

Burial for Mrs. Olson, who resided in Jamestown, N. D., was in Conrad Memorial Cemetery. She died in Jamestown Aug. 12.

Mrs. Olson was born in Sweden Sept. 23, 1890, and moved to Coteau, N. D., in 1914. She married Swen Olson there the same year and they moved to Kalispell in 1946, farming north of the city. Mr. Olson died in 1948.

Surviving are two sons, Oscar H. Olson, Kalispell, and Emil O. Olson, Jamestown; and three grandchildren.

John Olson

Funeral services for John O. Olson, 62, Creston, were held in the Bethany Lutheran Church, Bigfork, Wednesday. The Rev. Russell Hillman officiated. Interment was in the Bethany Lutheran Cemetery under the direction of the Weatherford Funeral Home.

Mr. Olson, a retired electrician, died Sunday. He was born March 25, 1911 in Tioga, N. Dak. and was a World War II veteran.

Survivors include his widow, Ida Marie; and two sisters, Mrs. Oliver (Ellen) Brandon, Vancouver, Wash., and Mrs. Bernice Webster, Glendale, Calif.

Peter Olson

Funeral services for Peter Olson, 84, Kalispell, will be conducted by the Rev. Russell Hillman in the Bethany Lutheran Church at 11 a.m. Friday. Interment will be in Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Olson died Tuesday. He was born April 3, 1888 in Sweden and resided in Canada before moving to Chester, where he homesteaded. He was married to Beda Erickson in 1910 and they resided in North Dakota and Washington before moving to the Flathead in 1960.

Survivors include his widow; two sons, Melvin, Bigfork, and Ernest, Seattle; one daughter, Thelma Clark, Great Falls; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

27 July 1973
Last rites for Leo (Poley) Opalka, 79, Polson, former area resident, were conducted Wednesday. The Rev. Robert Butko, St. Matthew's Catholic Church, officiated.

Interment was in Conrad Memorial Cemetery with military graveside rites. Pallbearers were Bill Baker, Henry Bureau, Norman Hanson, Walter Jackson, Tom Ladenburg and Paul Minette.

Mr. Opalka was born in a sod house on the Nebraska prairie on Nov. 15, 1893. He died July 27

at St. Joseph's Nursing and Retirement Center in Polson.

When an infant, his family, livestock and belongings were transported to the Flathead area in a railroad boxcar, known at that time as an "immigrant car." The family settled on a homestead in Bad Rock Canyon and he attended Columbia Falls schools.

In 1910, Mr. Opalka began working as a packer, learning skills from his father, the late Frank Opalka, a ranger for Flathead National Forest.

He was married to Marion Ainsworth in 1916 and entered the U.S. Army in 1917.

Following his discharge in 1918, he resumed work as a packer. Building of Logan Pass highway was the highlight of all his packing jobs. All equipment was packed from the bottom of the mountain, called Camp One, to various camps along the right-of-way to Camp Six, located on Logan Pass.

His last major packing job was surveying and clearing the International Boundary between the United States and Canada. Mr. Opalka was one of the last survivors of the old-time packers.

Later, he became a successful Hereford cattle rancher in the Hog Heaven and Polson areas. He received a crushed leg in an accident eight years ago and had been hospitalized.

Survivors include a brother, Joe Opalka, Columbia Falls; a daughter, Mrs. Frank (Betty) Taylor, Colorado Springs, Colo.; sisters, Mrs. Stella Mustell, Kalispell, and Mrs. Anna Willis, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, June, and four brothers.

Membership included the Elks Lodge of Polson, Montana Stockmen's Association and the American Legion.