

1992 Kenneth J. O'Brien, 70

Kenneth J. O'Brien, 70, son of one of the pioneer families of Bigfork, died Feb. 14 at his home in Bigfork of natural causes.

He was born Dec. 6, 1921, in Bigfork, the son of Ernest J. and Catherine O'Brien. He attended elementary school in Bigfork and graduated from Bigfork High School in 1940.

The O'Brien family owned and operated the Bigfork Hotel which was destroyed by fire. The landmark hotel was replaced by the family in 1937, and is currently operated by different owners as the Bigfork Inn.

Kenneth attended the University of Montana and during World War II, he served in the army in the European Theater. Following his honorable discharge he returned to Bigfork and worked in the family business and also operated the service station in conjunction with the hotel until the time of his retirement.

Following retirement he remained active managing his varied investments and as an active member of St. Catherine's Parish. He was always a generous benefactor to the church. Earlier, his parents were instrumental in acquiring the land

where St. Catherine's Church and parish home are located. The church was named for his mother, Catherine, and she was a charter member in St. Catherine's Club.

In 1969, he was married to Dorothy Eiler who preceded him in death on July 4, 1985. He was also preceded in death by his parents and his only brother, Edmund.

He is survived by several cousins including Elizabeth Nelligan Gibson of Missoula, Frank M. Conners of Columbia Falls, and John D. Conners of Whitefish.

Rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. today at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Bigfork. Mass of the Resurrection will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at St. Catherine's Catholic Church with the Rev. Father Oblinger as celebrant. Burial will be in Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Friends may call at Johnson Mortuary for visitation from noon until 6 p.m. today.

The family suggests memorials may be made to St. Catherine's Catholic Church of Bigfork.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary.

Phyllis Odom, 63

Phyllis Odom, 63, died Nov. 8 at her home in Coram. 1992

She is survived by two daughters, a son, a brother, a sister, her mother, three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held Nov. 12 in Sharonville, Ohio, and a memorial service was held at Hungry Horse Chapel on Nov. 15. Burial took place in Sharonville.

William N. Ogle, 66

William N. Ogle, 66, of Kalispell, died at Kalispell Regional Hospital Thursday.

He was a radio technician.

He is survived by four children, including Alex Ogle of Kalispell; three sisters; a brother; and 11 grandchildren.

No public services are planned.

Cremation and arrangements are by Johnson Mortuary.

Gina A. Okins

Gina A. Okins, 86, of Bigfork, died Monday, Aug. 31, 1992, at Lake View Care Center in Bigfork.

She was born May 2, 1906, in Pelican Falls, Minn., to Mr. and Mrs. John Hauge. She was raised and educated in the Turtle Lake area of North Dakota.

In 1926, she married Leonard Okins in Turtle Lake, and they made their home in North Dakota for the next 15 years. They moved to Seattle in 1941, when Gina worked at the shipyards as a waitress and cook.

She moved to Bigfork in 1987 to be with her daughter and son-in-law.

Gina was of the Lutheran faith.

One of her greatest joys in life was dancing.

She was preceded in death by her husband and a son.

Surviving are two sons, Kenneth Okins of Concrete, Wash., and John Okins of Miami, Fla.; three daughters, Kay Billmeyer of Kalispell, Helen Hanasz of Bigfork, and Joanne Jardiens of Norfolk, Va.; a sister, Senvnna Hocksprung of Minot, N.D.; and 12 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Interment will take place at Ruso Cemetery in Ruso, N.D. Local arrangements are by Bigfork Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Lutheran Church, Ruso, N.D., 58778.

1992 Glen Richard Olesen, 62

Glen Richard Olesen, 62, of Kalispell, died in Kalispell Regional Hospital on June 6.

He was born July 31, 1929, in Minneapolis, Minn.

He was an electrical engineer, working in construction for a number of years.

On March 28, 1980, he married Gloria Roberts in Idaho, and is now survived by her at the family home. Other survivors include a son, Jimmy Olesen, of Kalispell; a daughter, Linda Ives of Eureka, Calif.; nine stepchildren, Melvin Roberts, Thelma Brandt, Richard, Connie,

Everett, Ray Herb Roberts and Lyda Perry all of Kalispell, and Helen Gibson of Visalia, Calif.; a brother, Marvin, and a sister, Gladys, both in Minnesota; and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday in Johnson Mortuary Chapel with the Rev. Larry Coen, pastor of the Church of the Nazarene, officiating. Burial will be in Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Friends may call at Johnson Mortuary for visitation until 6 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

Leslie C. Olsen, 80

Leslie C. Olsen, 80, of Bigfork, died Wednesday, Nov. 4, 1992, at Lake View Care Center in Bigfork.

Leslie was born July 11, 1912, at Camas, to Andrew and Clara Olsen. He grew up there and attended schools.

He worked on the family farm, construction and the Roy Olsen Brick Plant in Polson for a time.

He lived in Kalispell, and for about 15 years lived with his daughter in Bigfork.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Ray, and two sisters, Ruby Hurd and Selma Olsen.

Surviving family members include two sons, William Olsen Inman of

Tigard, Ore., and Roy Olsen Inman of Greensboro, N.C.; one daughter, Joyce Potts of Bigfork; 10 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; four brothers, Floyd Olsen of Addy, Wash., Milton Olsen of Gridley, Calif., Glenn Olsen of Reseda, Calif., and Archie Olsen of Japan; and one sister, Eva Malcolm of Sacramento, Calif.

Funeral services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Mosley-Shrider Funeral Home Chapel in Polson. Burial will be in Lakeview Cemetery in Polson.

Memorials may be made to the scholarship fund of the donor's choice.

5 June 1992 Duane R. Olsen, 71

Duane R. Olsen, 71, died of cancer Friday at his Kalispell home.

He was born May 26, 1921, in Ashton, Idaho, to Ren and Laura Olsen. He spent his early years in the Charlo area, graduating from St. Ignatius High School in 1942.

He joined the U.S. Navy in the summer of 1942, and served aboard the USS Dale. He saw action in the Aleutian Islands and in the Pacific Campaign.

He married Marjorie Stiles of Kalispell on Nov. 5, 1944, in Bremer-ton, Wash. After his three-year enlistment in the Navy, the Olsens made their home in Kalispell. He worked at Manions for many years and then was manager of Western Montana Implement. He retired in 1986 as superintendent of maintenance at Montana State Veterans Home.

He served many years on the Birch Grove school board. For 29 years, he was a 4-H leader and was a member of the Flathead County Fair Board for the past 18 years.

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, at the family home; three daughters, Mrs. Ben (Cheryl) Timlick



and Mrs. Dan (Dana) Higgins, both of Kalispell, and Mrs. John (Kayleen) Bristow of Phoenix, Ariz.; three sisters, Anona Belisle of Pocatello, Idaho, Mrs. Orv (Lu) Newman of Chico, Calif. and Darlene Fisher of Kalispell; six loving grandchildren; two grandsons-in-law; 16 nephews; and 18 nieces.

Duane was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, and two sisters.

He will be missed dearly by his many friends and neighbors who could call on him at any time for help. He was always there for others.

Friends may call at Weatherford Funeral Home today from 2-5 p.m. and Monday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., after which the casket will remain closed.

Funeral services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at Weatherford Chapel, with the Rev. Jerry R. Buchanan, pastor of First Baptist Church in Columbia Falls, officiating. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens, with military honors presented by United Veterans of the Flathead.

Duane loved collecting old stuff and refinishing furniture. Memorials are suggested to the "D.R. Olsen Antique Museum" to carry on his love for old collectibles. The address is P.O. Box 5124, Kalispell.

Harry H. Olson, 84

Harry H. Olson, 84, of Kalispell, died at Kalispell Regional Hospital on Sunday, Oct. 4, 1992.

He was born June 14, 1908, in Bergen, N.D., to Emil and Bertha (Anderson) Olson. He received his education in Fortina, N.D.

In 1932, he moved to Havre, where he met and married Mary Hanson on Sept. 7, 1932.

In June of 1937, they moved to Kalispell, where he worked for the lumber mills and then worked for Flathead County as a heavy equipment operator for 21 years (1951-1973). He also farmed from 1945 to 1973.

He enjoyed woodworking and building grandfather clocks. Mr. Olson also enjoyed playing the accordion with the "Harry Olson Orchestra" for old-time dances and the nursing homes.

He was a member of Northridge Lutheran Church and a life member of the Scandinavian Fraternity of America.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Lillian; and a grandson, Bruce.

Survivors include his wife, Mary, at the family home; two sons, Norman Olson of Spokane, Wash., and Henry "Hank" Olson of Kalispell; two daughters, Sonja Millett of North Waterford, Maine, and Sherry Mahugh of Kalispell; a brother, Bolvin Olson, of Massachusetts; 13 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Northridge Lutheran Church, with the Rev. Dan Heskett officiating. Burial of urn will follow in Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials may be made to Northridge Lutheran Church, 323 Northridge Drive, Kalispell, or to the American Lung Association, 825 Helena Avenue, Helena, 59601.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary.

Melvin Olson, 75

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Melvin Olson, 75, of Ronan, died of natural causes May 14 at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula.

He was born Jan. 27, 1917, in Irvine Flats, Mont., to Ole and Elizabeth Olson. He attended grade school in Round Butte and graduated from Ronan High School.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He was a switchman for Southern Pacific Railroad in California for 27 years, and then worked for Northern Pacific in Missoula until he retired in 1978.

He married Dora Johns on April 26, 1989, and she survives him in Ronan. Other survivors are his daughter, Pamela Olson in Sacramento, Calif.; stepsons Frank Klein of Morro Bay, Calif. and Robert Johns of Ronan; stepdaughter JoAnn Cowan of Ronan; brother Harvey Olson of Yuma, Ariz.; sisters Margaret Kirwan of Polson and Hazel Mae Maneual of Clallam Bay, Wash.; six grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by five brothers and his parents.

Graveside memorial services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Lake View Cemetery in Polson with the Rev. Father Reller as celebrant. Inurnment will follow at Lake View Cemetery.

Arrangements are by Shrider's Mortuary in Ronan.

The family suggests memorials to the Elks Club in Polson or the Jazz Society in Bigfork.

¹⁹⁹² Leonard Olson, 80

Leonard Olson, 80, died March 22 in Missoula of cancer.

He is survived by his wife and his children, including Jim and Margaret Kirwan of Polson.

Graveside services will be at Lakeview Cemetery in Polson at 10 a.m. Friday. Anyone unable to attend the service may forward their condolences to the family through the funeral home.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Bayview Funeral Chapel of Polson.

1992 Edith Orr, 90

Edith Orr, 90, of Kalispell, died at Brendan House Aug. 5.

She was born Aug. 3, 1902, in Extension, British Columbia, Canada, to Thomas and Isabelle Orr.

During her early years, the family moved many times, as her father was a miner.

They finally settled in Klein, Mont. (near Roundup), where Edith graduated from Klein High School in 1922. She worked in Klein, and in 1937, she

moved to Billings, where she was a bookkeeper for Vaughn Ragsdale store for many years.

In 1964, she moved to Kalispell to live with her sister.

Edith never married, and is survived by her sister, Jennet Beaver, of Kalispell.

Private burial will be made at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman Monday.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary.

Otto Henry Ost, 70

Otto Henry Ost, 70, died Friday, Sept. 18, 1992, in Tillamook, Ore.

He was born July 17, 1922, in Mercer County, N.D., to Christian Ost and Emma Krukenberg Ost.

Otto received his bachelor's degree from the University of Montana in education. He taught intermediate school for eight years in Montana. He later worked for the U.S. Forest Service as an administrator in personnel classification. The job required that he move frequently.

In 1977, Otto moved to the Portland, Ore., area and has remained there. He moved to the Oregon Coast, where he loved to fish for salmon so often that he placed a trailer in Rockaway Beach, Ore., to be closer to great fishing.

Otto retired from the U.S. Forest Ser-

vice in 1981 after 28 years of service.

He is survived by his mother, Emma Ost, of Whitefish; two daughters, Trudi Ost of Bozeman and Jill Ost of Daniel, Wyo.; four brothers, Orin of Salem, Ore., and Butch, Fred and Leo all of Whitefish; and three sisters, Ida Grant of Las Vegas, Nev., Tilly Green of Whitefish and Lavonna of Oregon.

Memorial services will be held Friday at 4 p.m. in Rockaway Community Church with the Rev. Jerry Fuller officiating. Memorial services will also be held Oct. 3 at 1 p.m. in Whitefish Christian Church.

Those who wish may contribute to "Make a Wish" or to the charity of their choice.

Waud's Funeral Home, Tillamook, Ore., is in charge of arrangements.

William J. 'Bill' Osborne, 79

William J. "Bill" Osborne, 79, Columbia Falls, died Jan. 16 at his home following a lengthy battle with cancer.

1992
He was born March 9, 1912, in Hudson, Wyo., while his parents, John and Flora Osborne, were on their way west from Kentucky in a covered wagon. The following year, the family continued west, homesteading in Orofino, Idaho, where Bill was raised and educated. He left home at age 16 with his horse, saddle, and a blanket.

On Nov. 25, 1936, he married Velma Gross at Cottonwood, Idaho, and they made their home in Orofino. Bill was a jack-of-all-trades, and worked at a number of different occupations. He retired as maintenance worker for School District 6

at Hungry Horse and Martin City in the late 1970s.

The Osbornes then retired to Indian Valley, Idaho, returning to the Flathead Valley nine months ago.

Bill loved horses, and enjoyed riding his mule as a member of the Adventists Horsemen's Association. A member of the North Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church, he will be remembered for his meek, gentle, quiet spirit. Bill was an honest, hardworking Christian.

He is survived by his wife, Velma, at the family home; three daughters, Ena D. Crow and her husband Bill of Dillingham, Alaska, Zanna Osborne of Columbia Falls and Carol Fischer and her husband Jim of Columbia Falls; three brothers, Ira

and Artie Osborne of Kennewick, Wash., and Jack Osborne of Wenatchee, Wash.; a sister, Demarice "Macie" Schnider of Waiatsburg, Wash.; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and numerous other relatives and friends.

Memorial services will be Monday at 1:30 p.m. at North Valley Seventh Day Adventist Church in Columbia Falls. Officiating will be Pastor James Osborne of the Northside Seventh Day Adventist Church, Anchorage, Alaska.

Arrangements and cremation are by Weatherford Funeral Home & Crematory in Kalispell.

The family suggests memorial contributions to Flathead Hospice, 1280 Burns Way, Kalispell.

1998 Norma Ostrom, 61

Norma Ostrom, 61, Kalispell, died April 19 at Kalispell Regional Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born July 19, 1930, in Lethbridge, Alberta, the daughter of Hubert and Vione Bell. The



family moved to Kalispell when she was 6, and she was then educated in Kalispell area schools. She attended school at the University of Montana, graduating from there in 1952.

During her college years, she became instrumental in opening ski racing to women and winning competitions for the U of M.

She also was chosen as one of five young women to represent Girl Scouts in Europe, going there in 1950 as a counselor. After graduation, she was accepted as a Girl Scout executive in Benton Harbour, Mich. Her high school sweetheart, Ritchey Ostrom, followed her to Michigan, and they were married Oct. 24, 1952.

They returned to Montana in 1953, where Ritchey attended the University of Montana, and Norma began raising their family. In the early 1960s, Norma and Ritchey

made a permanent move back to the Flathead Valley.

In addition to her interests in skiing and scouting, she was also interested in art at a very early age, making many art objects treasured by family and friends. She also loved the outdoors, especially fishing. Norma was a member of the Shining Mountains Church in Kalispell.

She was preceded in death by her father, Hubert, and her husband, Ritchey, who died March 19, 1985.

Norma is survived by her mother, Vione Bell of Sun City, Ariz.; four children, Cory Bitney and her husband, Dan, Lori Judge and her husband, Ken, Logan Ostrom and his wife, Jeannine, all of Kalispell, and Lisa McElrath and her husband, Mark, of Canoga Park, Calif.; a sister, Marian Emerson of Kalispell; eight grandchildren, Tiffany, Chris and Hayley Bitney, Loren, Brandon, and Lindsey Judge, and Logan and Rebecca Ostrom, all of Kalispell; and "the boys," Buck and Beau.

Memorial services will take place Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Weatherford Funeral Home, with the Rev. Judy Powell of Shining Mountain Church officiating. A reception follows the memorial services at Shining Mountain, 475 Eighth Ave. E. N., Kalispell.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1002, Kalispell, or a charity of the donor's choice.

Jeannette Otto, 69

Jeannette Otto, 69, died Sunday, Dec. 27, 1992, at her Bigfork home following an illness with cancer.

She was born July 10, 1923, in Easton, Pa., to Burnal and Frances Kantner. Jeannette was raised and graduated from high school in Easton.

During World War II, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was stationed at Cape May, N.J.

On May 12, 1945, she married Roy E. Otto in Cape May. Following their discharges later that year, the Ottos made their home in Tracy, Minn. Jeannette worked for People's Natural Gas in Tracy for more than 20 years. Roy and Jeannette retired to Bigfork in 1990.

She was a member of Tracy Lutheran Church, and was a very active volunteer at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bigfork where she was financial secretary. Jeannette had

also belonged to the VFW and American Legion in Tracy.

Surviving family members include her husband, Roy, at the family home in Bigfork; two daughters, Dawn Brown of Cupertino, Calif., and Deb Klontz and her husband, Pat, of Minneapolis, Minn.; a son, Gary Otto, and his wife, Lisa, of Huntsville, Ala.; her mother, Frances Kantner, of Easton; three sisters, Mary Jane Campbell, Annabelle Richards and Faye Pacchioli, all three of Easton; four grandchildren; and a number of other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father.

Services and interment are planned next Thursday, Jan. 7, at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis.

Arrangements are by Bigfork Funeral Home.

199 John Logan Orser

John Logan Orser, 70, died June 29 in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

He was born to Dr. Clarence M. Orser and Luella Logan Orser on Sept. 14, 1921 in Kalispell.

He was a graduate of the Flathead County High School Class of 1939.

He served with the Army in the Pacific Theater of WW II and received a purple heart.

Mr. Orser attended Montana State College in Bozeman and graduated from Babson Institute of Business in Wellesley.

He married Anne Borntraeger of Wellesley in June, 1950.

They resided in Wellesley, where he owned and operated a book store.

Mr. Orser was active in Kiwanis and community affairs in Wellesley and for many years played cornet.

He is survived by his wife and three children, Thomas Logan and David Marshall of Massachusetts and Anne Elise of Vermont; one brother, Dr. Robert M. Orser, and one sister, Mrs. William Goose, both of Kalispell; and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins.