

Ralph J. Eby, 81

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Ralph J. Eby, 81, passed away Wednesday, May 20, 2009, at Boundary Community Hospital in Bonnors Ferry.

A graveside gathering will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, May 30, at Copeland Cemetery. A potluck celebration of his life will follow at 1 p.m. at Albert and Terry Solts' home.

Ralph was born May 5, 1928, in Valentine, Neb., to Joseph L. and Eva L. Fletcher Eby.

In 1935, the family, including chickens and cows, made a nine-month journey from Nebraska to Idaho. There were times they walked, especially up steep grades because the vehicle would not carry the load. Ralph's father cut and sold firewood to pay for the move.

Ralph attended schools in



Boundary

County. He left school in 1946, enlisted in the Army Air Force and was stationed at Nome,

Alaska. He received a World War II Victory Medal and was discharged Oct. 12, 1949.

On April 4, 1950, Ralph married his soul mate, Edna "Dolly" Cameron, in Bonnors Ferry. They shared a good life together until mom's death in 1981.

During the 1950s and 60s, he supported his family by logging, and cutting and selling firewood. Dad was a big man and a strong man, and he could really swing that

mall. Around 1965, Ralph went to work at Pack River Lumber, which later became W.I.. He remained there until retirement.

Throughout life, Ralph loved the outdoors, beginning in the spring with mushroom hunting, fishing, huckleberry picking, fishing, cutting firewood and more fishing. One of his favorite fishing holes was Spar Lake in Montana. Dad also loved to garden and he played a mean harmonica.

Dad will be missed greatly and remembered fondly by sons Kevin Eby, and Harry Eby and his wife, Julie; daughters Kay Gage, Nickie Hernandez and her life partner Trino Osorio, Terry Solt and her husband, Albert, all of

Bonnors Ferry, and Lynette Kjos and her husband, Larry, of Blanchard; 15 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; brothers Bobbie Eby, and Richard Eby and his wife, Bev, of Bonnors Ferry, and Lester "Short" Eby and his wife, Arlene, of Omak, Wash.; sisters Velma Hatter of Washington, Peggy Peterson of Oregon, MaryAnn Tolle of Libby, Mont., and Sandra Bailey of Chatteroy, Wash.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ralph also was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Fay, Donald and Glen Eby; and grandson Aroldo Hernandez.

Family and friends may sign Ralph's book at www.bonnorsferryfuneralhome.com.