

Bonnors Ferry Herald

Orion L. Grunerud, 91

3-12-09

Former Bonnors Ferry resident Orion L. Grunerud, 91, passed away Wednesday, March 4, 2009, in Boise.

Orion was born June 10, 1917, in Broderick, Saskatchewan, Canada. He attended school in Bonnors Ferry, University of Idaho and Lewiston Normal School.

Orion was a grade school principal for three years at East Greenacres Elementary School before he joined the Navy during World War II. He continued serving in the Naval Reserve and reached the rank of lieutenant commander.

In 1941, on Halloween, Orion eloped with Frances Aresvik of Coeur d'Alene. This year marks their 68 anniversary. During their marriage, they were blessed with children Karen, Allen, Kathy and Brian.

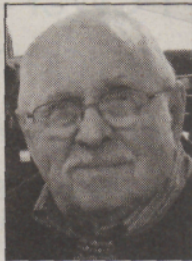
In 1946, Orion began working for Idaho Department of Highways in Coeur d'Alene. He started as a roadman, continuing his career as project chief, resident engineer, district engineer and assistant construction engineer. Orion retired as state construction engineer in 1980 after a 34-year tenure.

He was a registered professional civil engineer and drew the admiration and respect of his peers.

In retirement, Orion and Fran served as campground hosts for 12 years at Redfish Lake. This was the ideal place for him to pursue his passion for painting, photography, fishing and enjoying time

with friends and family. Orion's engineering background flourished again as he mapped out a handicapped-accessible trail around Redfish Lake and surrounding areas.

In 1996, his dreams of a trail came to fruition when the U.S. Forest Service adopted his plan and proceeded to create the trail. In a dedi-



cation ceremony held in September 1998 at Redfish Lake, the Forest Service officially opened the Orion Trail to the public. Today a plaque highlighting his work can be found at the trail head.

Most of all, Orion was a teacher and confidant to all who knew him, especially the hundreds of people who had the opportunity to meet him during a stay at Redfish Lake.

Orion is survived by his wife, daughters Karen Huber and her husband, John, of Coeur d'Alene and Kathy Neves and her hus-

band, Don of Pocatello; sons Allen Grunerud and Shellie Harwood of Connecticut and Brian Grunerud and his wife, Kelli, of Salt Lake City; nine grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Services were held March 6 at Cloverdale Funeral Home in Boise. Gifts may be given in Orion's name to Sawtooth Society, P.O. Box 209, Stanley, Idaho, 83278, for continued improvements and development of the Orion Trail.

Condolences to the family may be submitted online at www.cloverdalefuneralhome.com.