

5/23/2002

Obituaries

Cleo Henslee, 85

On April 14, 1917, Cleo Henslee was born to William Winfield and Ida Belle (Taber) Henslee in Ozark, Missouri. After blessing his family for 85 years, he departed this life on February 27, 2003 in Sandpoint, Idaho.

He was one of eleven children and when the youngest babies (the second set of twins) were 6 weeks old, Cleo's parents loaded the entire family and all their belongings into one car and headed west. It was 1926. They were headed for Oregon but settled instead in the Hagerman Valley area of southern Idaho.

Cleo attended school in Hagerman. In 1941 he ventured north to help move the Roy Glauner family to Boundary County. Roy's son Chet would soon become Cleo's brother-in-law.

Cleo stayed north, meeting and falling in love with his friend's sister, Florence Nickolauson. They were mar-

ried Dec. 27, 1941. Three children were born to them, James, Richard, and Sue. Cleo entered the United States Army in January 1942, just a few weeks after their wedding, and was honorably discharged in November 1945.

They lived a brief spell in southern Idaho after his discharge before settling in Paradise Valley. Cleo farmed, milked cows and worked at the local lumber mill before retiring in 1982. They sold the farm in 1989 and moved into a new home in Hope, Idaho - right next door to their daughter Sue and her husband Gary.

Although Cleo enjoyed many activities such as camping, fishing, and gardening there was never any doubt that his greatest joy in life was spending time with his family. He was the biggest fan of family get-togethers and encouraged them for any reason.

In deference to his wish for no funeral service to be held, we will instead honor his mem-

ory at the annual "Papa's Birthday" get-together in April. Our hearts will be saddened by his absence, but we will celebrate his life, the many joys he brought us, the laughter we shared, and the impact he had on our lives. Cleo Henslee was a wonderful human being and a piece of him will live in all of us forever.

He leaves behind a close-knit family - most importantly his wife of 61 years, Florence; his sons Jim and Richard, and his daughter Sue. He also loved as his own Richard's wife Barbara and Sue's husband Gary Tipps. Twelve grandchildren were his most precious treasures, the spouses and friends of the grandchildren were accepted with love. Cleo also took great delight in his 15 great-grandchildren.

Also left to mourn Cleo are one brother, Lenn & wife Caroline Henslee, three sisters, Florene Tracy, Irene Glauner, and Jean & husband Perry Hanson, brother-in-law, Eugene & wife Patsy Nickolauson, sisters-in-law Alice and Marilyn Henslee, Ruth and Agnes Nickolauson, a host of nieces and nephews, extended family and friends. Preceding him in death were his parents, 6 brothers, numerous brother- and sister-in-laws, and one great-grandson, Garrett Tipps.

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