

11-21-2002

Bonnors Ferry Herald

John Hubert Hilliard, 86



John Hubert Hilliard, 86, long-time Bonners Ferry resident, died early Sunday morning, Nov. 17, 2002 at his home in Spokane, Wash.

John had been in ill health for many years. A Vigil Service was held on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bonners Ferry Funeral Home in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The Mass of Christian Burial will be on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. in the St. Ann's Catholic Church in Bonners Ferry with interment following in the Grandview Cemetery.

John was born on May 19, 1916 in Dodson, Mont. to Dan Freemont and Marie JoHanna (Drabbles) Hilliard where the family homesteaded on the Prairie. The family loaded up all their worldly belongings in two wagons and headed west arriving in Bonners Ferry, Idaho in August of 1923.

He met, fell in love and married Lila Bell Galbraith June 9, 1941. The two lived their lives in Bonners Ferry where John was a mechanic for Thomas Chevrolet, Nieland Chevrolet, Hines Chevrolet, Gamblin Chevrolet, Plum Chevrolet and D&P Motors, Inc. where he retired from in May of 1979 after

working or 37 1/2 years there. He continued to work part-time to help out for a few more years.

Their union produced three children: their eldest and only son, David James Hilliard, was born May 4, 1942. Jeannette Marie was born Aug. 23, 1947 and Sheryl Kay was born Jan. 9, 1954. They were all educated in Bonners Ferry.

About 1960 John and Lila, with seven other couples, formed the square and round dace club, "The Kootenai Kloggers." They continued to be avid dancers until failing health of both of them in 1994.

John also loved to pick huckleberries and camp, and he did wood working, gardening, hunting and fishing. He enjoyed his family and friends and enjoyed riding with and helping his lifetime friend Rod McNair in his locksmithing business.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Daniel Freemont Hilliard, in 1951 and Marie JoHanna Hilliard in 1954.

Mr. Hilliard is survived by his wife of 61 years Lila at home in Spokane, Wash.; son, David Hilliard and wife Nita of Bonners Ferry, Idaho; two daughters, Jeannette DeLisle and husband Dee of Chattaroy, Washington; Sheryl Cheers and husband Bob of Spokane, Wash.; sisters: Emogene Bassett of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Helen Hogue and husband Gene of Spokane, Wash.; Vivian McDaniel and husband Milt of Spokane, Wash.; and Marie Greenwald of Moorehead, Calif. Mr. Hilliard is also survived by 15 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Research or Parkinson Disease Research.