

Howard Allan MacDonald, 86

Beloved husband and father, Allan MacDonald passed away at his wife of 64 years, Mildred and his children, Linda, Joel, and Dorothy. Allan was born in Tomkinis, Saskatchewan, March 25, 1919 to Jim and Amerlia MacDonald.

He began his education in Cadillac, Saskatchewan, continued gradeschool in Sandpoint, Idaho, where the family later migrated, and completed his education in Bonners Ferry after the family made their permanent home there. Allan attended several one room schools around Boundary country and held his teacher, Mabel Cash, in particularly high esteem.

Although Allan had to temporarily drop out of school twice to take his father's place at work until Jim recovered from serious illness, Allan valued education and graduated from Bonners Ferry High School in 1940.

While in high school, Allan worked for and boarded with Marjorie and Chauncey Guthrie which was how he and his future wife, Mildred, began to make beautiful music together — he on the fiddle and she on the piano.

They were married Sept. 7, 1941 and eventually made their lifelong home on the farm her grandparents has homesteaded and where Mildred had been born. Allan worked for a time for the U.S. Forest Service on fire crews and in the lookout atop Fisher Peak; then he went to work for the Great Northern Railroad where he worked for 22 years as signalman and maintainer, leaving to work at Kootenai Lanes, and becoming part owner when Bill Nieland returned. In his spare time, Allan farmed, worked as a

gunsmith, made handcrafted violins (a total of 64 over the course of his lifetime), bowled, and played in and judged old time fiddling contests throughout the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

Among his awards and achievements, Allan prized his "300 trophy" for his unsanctioned perfect game and his trophies for his 700 series, his designation as winner of the 1970 Northwest Regional Fiddling Contest, his having been named Idaho State Champion Fiddler in 1978, and having judged the National Oldtime Fiddle Contest in Weiser, Idaho, twice.

In 1996, son Joel opened MCCBS Recording Studio in Bonners Ferry which allowed Allan to record 16 CDs and tapes of his music, to self-publish four books

of adventures and remembrances of his life growing up during his early years in Canada, and to complete a video series on how to build a violin.

In addition to his wife and children, Allan is survived by his sisters — Doris (Lester) Howard, Donnie (Myrel) Howard, Annie Ritz, Jessie (Paul) Schlener, and Ruth (Larry) Hoglan — and his brothers — Jim MacDonald, Dan MacDonald, and Ken MacDonald — his cousin Bill MacDonald and wife Alice of Creston, B.C., his cousin Bob MacDonald and wife Jean of Eureka, Calif., and the entire MacDonald Clan, North Idaho branch, of which he was dubbed honorary chieftain, plus,

last but never least, his grand-puppy, Tillie the Dog. Allan was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Bill MacDonald and Ralph MacDonald, and his brother-in-law Chet Ritz. Allan also leaves behind dear friend and fellow fiddler, Charlie Beaton, of Cranbrook, B.C.

Graveside services were held Oct. 13 at Paradise Valley Cemetary with the Reverend Lowell Carlson officiating. Music was provided by Janet and James Sapp (who played one of Allan's violins) and by Sabira and Lee Jackson. Bonners Ferry Funeral Home was in chare of arrangements. Donations in Allan's memory may be made to Hospice, PO Box 1448, Sandpoint.