

Thursday 5-16-2002

Bonnors Ferry Herald

Orval Nichols, 90

Orval Nichols, formerly of Bonnors Ferry, Idaho, recently passed away at the age of 90 in a retirement community in Auburn, Wash.

Born Oct. 27, 1911 in Moscow, Id., he was the son of Elmer DeWitt and Ella Cole Nichols and came to Boundary County in 1937 with his father in search for farm land.

Later that year, Orval and son Elmer (deceased) moved to the Klackman place at Porthill, followed by his wife, Alice, and remaining children. Orval and his family moved from farm to farm, selling everything from milk to potatoes, until the fall of 1943 when he went to work for the Farm Security.

While working for the Farm Security, Orval became interested in heavy machinery and later purchased his own cat and dragline. He continued in this line of work, digging waterlines, rebuilding dikes, cleaning drainage ditches and clearing land.

He later owned and operated Nichols Machine Shop until he retired in 1951. Orval and family moved to Comanche Street in Bonnors Ferry, where he spent his retirement gardening, which brought him hours of enjoyment.

In June 2000, Orval and his wife Alice moved to Kent, Wash. to live with their daughter, Patricia Padgett.

He was hospitalized March 28 and moved to Life Care Center in Auburn, Wash. where he passed away with his two daughters by his side on May 6, 2002.

He was preceded in death by three sons Ronald, Elmer, and Wayne. Also by three grandchildren. Surviving family members include wife Alice Nichols, son Vern Nichols, daughters Patricia Padgett and Lori Gangewar. He also leaves behind 25 grandchildren and 45 great-grandchildren.

He will be cremated in Auburn, Wash. and laid to rest in Grandview in Bonnors Ferry. There will be no services.

Condolences can be sent to: Alice Nichols c/o Patricia Padgett, 27608 135th Ave S.E., Kent, Wash 98042.