

4-29-2004 News

BFA

Everett William Virden, 91



Everett William Virden, 91 passed away at his daughter's home on Brown Creek Road in Naples, Idaho on April 20, 2004. He was born on Oct. 10, 1912 in Farmington, N.M.

Everett married Haroldine Pherson on Sept. 18, 1937 in Santa Rosa, Calif. Everett was a man of many hats; he started out in farming, became a certified diesel mechanic, and had an interest in radios so he took a course through the National Radio Institute.

He gave up mechanics and opened a radio shop, but World War II came along and he was drafted. He was sent to work the railroad until the end of the war.

After that, he worked for North American Aviation as a mechanic. As a hobby, he got interested in beekeeping. When North American closed its plant, he opened his own mechanics garage in Clovis, Calif., but it was short-lived as a California highway project went right through the garage.

He decided to expand his hobby into a full-time business which did very well until the smog and increased use of pesticides were killing off too many of the bees.

He began looking for a place to move; that's how he showed up in Naples, Idaho with a truck loaded with 500 hives of bees. For five years he supplied the community with some of the tastiest honey. By the time he sold the bees, he had already started Virden's

CB Sales & Service and he repaired, sold CB radios and other equipment for people in Montana, Idaho Washington and Canada. He like helping people.

So Everett, Ray Clark and Arnold Pherson started H.E.A.R.T. (Highway Emergency Assistance Radio Team). They provided help to people stuck or broke down in water or lost hikers. This was his joy, helping people. And as for retiringm his answer was, "I wouldn't have anything to do. When I wake up and find myself dead, then I'll quit."

Everett was preceded in death by his father, William Henry, in 1929 in Phippsberg, Colo.; his mother, Effie May (Phelps) Virden in 1979 in Sandpoint, Id.; his brother, Floyd, died of the flu in 1925 at the age of 15.

Everett is survived by his wife, Haroldine Virden, at the Extended Care Facility; his son, Ronald William Virden, and wife Thalia of Stockton, Calif.; his two daughters, Gloria Jean Kjos and husband Kevin of Bonners Ferry; Judith Deen Musial and husband Jim of Naples, Idaho; his sister, Laura Cauyhey, of Storm Lake, Iowa.

Everett has seven grandchildren: Elaine Thorton, Blaine Virden, Shannon Johnson, Shawn Musial, Tonya Cokenour, Todd Schmitz, Terri Smith and 14 great-grandchildren: Stephine, Jenifer Thorton, Zackary, Andrew, Erica Virden, Mercedes Musial, Cole Ross, Melissa Musial, Nathin, Tina Anton, Mathew Cokenour, Carl Jean Smith, Jr.

A memorial service will be held at Bonners Ferry Funeral Home, 6485 Harrison St., Bonners Ferry, Idaho at 11 a.m. on April 29, 2004 by Lowell Carlson.