

Bonnors Ferry Herald, Thursday, June 26, 2008

Lonnie L. Watkins

Lonnie L. Watkins, 78, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, in Spokane, Wash., after a brief illness.

Lonnie was born Aug. 10, 1929, in Farris, Okla., to William Henry Watkins of Aurora, Mo., and Susie Mae Willis, of Webb City, Mo.

Lonnie left home when he was about 16 and has been on his own since.

He worked various jobs in different states. Lonnie was a part-time cook and co-owner of a restaurant in Arizona.

Later in life, he moved to Georgetown, Calif.

After a couple years, he met and married the former Wilma Smith on June 17, 1951, in Carson City, Nev.

Lonnie bought a place in Georgetown and got into the logging business.

He joined the Operators Engineer Union Local 3, where he worked construction with heavy equipment jobs and did land development.

In between his work, Lonnie made and manufactured fishing lures.

He also had a few honeybees. He lived there for about 24 years.

In the winter of 1975 and 1976, Lonnie moved to Porthill.

Lonnie didn't want to get into farming or logging. He wanted to get into something that we both could do, so he started with a few honeybees. It became a full-time job..

He also made beehives.

Lonnie is survived by his wife; daughter, Shirley Facha and her husband, Mike, of Moyie springs, son Henry Lee Watkins, and his wife Karen, of Bonnors Ferry; brother Walter Watkins and his wife, Barbara, of Weiser, four grandsons; two great granddaughters; a great grandson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lonnie was preceded in death by his parents; sisters Ella Mae Eddings, Lille Graham, Bertha Morrison and Goldie Roberts; and a brother, Carl Watkins.

Lonnie's love of his life was his wife, his garden, fishing and hunting.

His pride and joy were his bees and the place known as "Kootenai Valley Bee Farm."

Lonnie will be greatly missed by family and friends.