

DEATHS AND SERVICES

Rebecca Charlotte Bloom

Sept. 17, 1911 — Oct. 24, 1998

Former RKO Radio musician and local pianist Rebecca Charlotte Bloom died at the age of 87.

She was born in Eureka, Calif., to Alexander S. and Melvina Anne (Branum) Howell. She married George DeHaven II in 1937; the marriage was later divorced. In 1946, she married Clarence Bloom in Salome, Ariz.; he died in 1963.

Ms. Bloom worked as a musician for RKO Pictures in Hollywood in her earlier years. She came to Jefferson County in 1976 from Tujunga, Calif.; while living here, she was the organist for many churches and organizations and grand organist for Eastern Star in both Washington and California.

She was a member of both the Jefferson County Chapter, Port Hadlock, and the Key Chapter, Port Townsend, of the Order of Eastern Star, and a member of the White Pine in Bremerton.

Survivors include a son, George DeHaven, and a daughter, Beth Reinhardt, both of Las Vegas; and five grandchildren.

Services: 11 a.m. Thursday memorial service in Kosec Funeral Home, with Rev. Mark Kram and members of the Order of Eastern Star officiating. Cremation is by Kosec Funeral Home.

Memorials: To a favorite charity.

Eugene H. Hite

Sept. 30, 1919 — Oct. 22, 1998

Diamond Point resident Eugene Hite died of a heart attack at the age of 78.

He was born in Idaho to Eugene H. and

Mina M. (Anderson) Hite.

He had spent most of his life in Southern California. Following his service in the U.S. Air Corps during World War II, he managed the Newport Beach office of Railway Express from 1947 until his retirement. He had lived in the Diamond Point area for the last 15 years.

He was a member of the Rhododendron Grange and the Port Angeles Yacht Club.

Survivors include special friend, Mary P. Johnson of Diamond Point; sons Eugene III and Harry, both in California; brothers Clifton of Stockton, Calif., and Buford of Downey, Calif.; sisters Blanche McGregor of Santa Ynez, Calif., and Mary Milkovisch of Houston, Texas.

Two wives, Harriett Hite and Janet Hite, preceded him in death, along with a sister, Clara Wood.

Services: 11 a.m. Wednesday memorial service in the Gardiner Community Church, Sequim, with the Rev. John Morgan officiating. Drennan & Ford Funeral Home is in charge.

Memorials: Gardiner Community Church Building Fund, 1040 Old Gardiner Road, Sequim WA 98382.

Don Laverne Smathers

Sept. 30, 1916 — Oct. 22, 1998

Army retiree and medal winner Don Laverne Smathers died at the age of 82.

He was born in Orenco, Ore., to Charles and Florence (Ensley) Smathers. As a youth, he worked in the woods of Oregon and southwestern Washington with his father.

From 1941 to 1946, he served in the U.S. Army, with the 104th Infantry Division in

Europe.

In 1949, his military career continued in the Philippines, maintaining the American National Cemetery near Manila; in 1951, he served with the military government on Okinawa.

In 1959, he was at the engineer depot in Japan, and he served in Korea in 1960.

He retired from the Army as a Lt. Colonel with the Corps of Engineers in February 1964.

During his Army career, Mr. Smathers was awarded the Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Distinguished Unit Badge for the 104th Infantry Division.

He married Evelyn Gerber, also a U.S. Army member, on April 8, 1961, at Fort Ord, Calif. After his retirement, he accompanied her to her assignments in Chicago, Fort Wright in Fairbanks, Alaska, and Fort McClellan in Alabama.

Mr. Smathers was a lifetime member of the Elks Club of Roseburg; a member and past president of the North Pole, Alaska Lions Club; and a member of the Gardiner Community Center Board. He was a lifetime member and past master of the Rhododendron Grange and had been assistant steward and tea coordinator for many years for the Grange Fourth Degree team. He also was a past master of the Jefferson County Pomona Grange.

Survivors include his wife, at the family home, and several nieces and nephews.

Services: No services. Mr. Smathers will be cremated and his ashes will be interred in Bunker Hill Cemetery near Longview. Kosec Funeral Home is in charge.