



Chester L. Birks

February 1, 1916 - July 30, 2011

Chester L. Birks Obituary

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Chester L. Birks was born February 1, 1916 in Jamestown, North Dakota to Thomas Rawson & Myrtle Birks. He grew up on a farm with six brothers and two sisters who have all passed away but one.

At the age of 18 in 1933 Chester joined the Civilian Conservation Corps known as the Three C's, a program instituted by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 to help put the country back to work during the depression.

In 1936 Chester quit the Three C's and hitched-hiked and road freight trains to Washington and California with his brothers, Alan and Doug, to work in the pea and wheat harvests as well as picking fruit.

In 1938 Chester and his brother, Alan bought a tree farm near Detroit Lakes Minnesota where they had their own saw mill and sold lumber, pulp wood and fire wood.

In 1942 Chester was drafted into the army during World War II and served in North Africa, Sicily and Normandy, France. After Sicily, he was sent to England to train for the invasion of France. He was involved in the third wave during the invasion of Normandy and was wounded at the very beginning and ended up spending two years in an army hospital while his wounds healed.

In 1946 after being discharged from the hospital he went back to the farm and then on September 2nd of 1946 he married Elizabeth Evans from Jamestown, North Dakota and lived on the farm in Minnesota with her until 1953. From

1946 – 1953 they gave birth to five children, Barbara, Bonnie, Kenny, Dick and Bob. Their first daughter, Barbara died during her first year from a birth defect.

In 1953 they sold the farm and moved their young family to Washington State, first landing in Manson Washington where he had worked years earlier. Later in 1953 they bought a home in East Wenatchee, Washington where he had landed a job with Keokuk, a mining company in Rock Island, Washington just a few miles from their new home. It was in East Wenatchee where they settled in for the next 31 years while raising their six children which now included Jerry born in 1955 and Janice in 1957 along with their many grandchildren. Chester retired in 1978 at which time he and his wife, Elizabeth began to travel in their new 5th Wheel home visiting many of the Thousand Trail campsites up and down the west coast. In 1984 they decided to sell their home in East Wenatchee and move to the Sacramento area where their son, Ken was now pastoring a church in Roseville, California.

In 1995, they moved back to Washington, missing their family there. They lived in Coulee City near their son, Dick for a few years, before relocating back to their beloved Wenatchee, where they would find great delight as a “grandpa & grandma” to their 15 grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

Chester L. Birks passed away, Friday, July 30, 2011 at 12:30 a.m.

He is survived by his children: Bonnie Birks Mitchell (John) of Chico, CA., Kenneth L. Birks (Lydia) of Roseville, CA., Richard J.R. Birks of East Wenatchee, WA., Robert Birks (Tracy) of East Wenatchee, WA., Jerry Birks (Connie) of Wenatchee, Janice Birks Kolbeck of Edmonds, WA., and brother, James Birks of New Jersey.

Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guestbook at jonesjonesbetts.com. Jones & Jones ~ Betts Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Gravesite service with military honors will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 3rd, 2011 at Evergreen Memorial Park in East Wenatchee.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Memorial Park

1301 10th St NE
East Wentatchee, WA 98802
(509) 884-4651

Previous Events

Service

AUG 3. 10:30 AM (PT)

Evergreen Memorial Park
1301 10th St NE
East Wentatchee, WA 98802
(509) 884-4651

Tribute Wall

JA

“ We send our sympathies to the family of Chet Birks.

Our memories go back many years. Our family went camping with the Birks family at La Push one year when the children were around grade-school ages and older. Chet & Jim went out salmon fishing one day. While out away from shore in the afternoon, they became surrounded with fog. They were soon disoriented & unable to know which way to shore. A larger boat appeared suddenly. They were able to tell the captain that they wanted to follow him in to shore! I don't think that they went out fishing again during that trip!!!

We were sorry not to attend the memorial graveside service, but we had a medical appointment at that time.

You are in our thoughts and prayers as you grieve your loss.. God bless you and keep you close in your time of sadness.

*With our love,
Jim & Juanita Anderson*

Jim & Juanita Anderson - August 04, 2011 at 06:51 PM