

OBITUARY

Albert Carlsen

Birth: Jun. 29, 1910

Death: Feb. 6, 2008

Albert Carlsen, our family patriarch has gone on to be with his beloved wife. Albert Carlsen, who passed away Feb. 6, 2008 at the home of his daughter in Meridian, Idaho, was born June 29, 1910 in St. Paul, Minn. He was raised on a farm in Grantsburg, Wis., along with three brothers and two sisters, all of whom predeceased him.

After graduating from high school, he and two friends "came out west." He said he wanted to get as far away from milking cows as he could get. He ended up in Idaho, liked it, and stayed. Dad worked farms from southwestern Idaho to Grand View. He was sitting on a curb in Mt. Home, jobless, and contemplating his next move when a crew boss from Idaho Power tapped him on the shoulder and asked him if he wanted a job setting power poles. The rest is history. He went on to become a lineman, oiler at Swan Falls power plant, and a part-time serviceman while studying electrical engineering at the University of Idaho Southern Branch (now ISU).

While attending school he met and married (June 19, 1935) the "catch of his life", Frances Elizabeth (Betty) Nixon, a sought after maiden in Pocatello. They have four children. Mom passed away Oct. 22, 1997. It was a long 10 years for Dad without her. In 1942, Dad was "loaned" by Idaho Power to help with the start up of Idaho Potato Starch Co. in Blackfoot. He built that company from the ground up, learning about the making of starch as he went. He subsequently left Idaho Power to become General Manager, and later President and principal owner of Idaho Potato Starch Company, a career he pursued for 25 years.

When he left there were three plants in Idaho and one in Colorado. While living in Blackfoot, Dad also began his active civic career. He was trustee of the Crippled Children Society of Idaho for several years, President and Director of Safety Savings and Loan, a member of the school board for 12 years, many of which he served as Chairman. Through appointment from Governor Smylie, he served as a Minimum Education Program Evaluation Committee Member in 1955-56 and as a member of the Potato and Onion Commission from 1965-1968, plus two years as president of the Idaho School Trustees Association.

Dad was elected an Idaho Power Company director in 1965 while he was still with Idaho Potato Starch Co. He rejoined Idaho Power full time in 1967 as president, adding the responsibility of CEO and Chairman in 1971. His career with Idaho Power had come full circle - literally from the bottom rung to the top.

He continued his selfless civic service while in Boise. He served as a director of the Idaho State Chamber of Commerce, and president and director of Associated Industries of Idaho. He sat on the boards of Home Federal Savings and Loans and St. Luke's Hospital. He was a member of Idaho State University's College of Business Advisory Council. In addition, he was an active participant in the Federation of Rocky Mountain States, Boise YMCA, Junior Achievement and Boise Development and Planning Commission.

After retirement from Idaho Power in 1981, he was appointed to the board of Frontier Airlines. Other highlights of Dad's career were: . Director of the Teton Peat Corp in Blackfoot . Blackfoot Man of the Year in 1955. . President of Rotary Club in Blackfoot . Officer of Pocatello Knife and Fork while in Blackfoot . Exalted Ruler of Elks Club in Blackfoot . Member of Zoning Committee in Blackfoot . General Chairman of Community Planning Board in Blackfoot . Member Seattle Regional White House Fellows Panel . Listed in Who's Who in American and the World . Member of the Board or Advisory Committee of the National Association of Electric Companies, the Edison Electric Institute and the Defense Electric Power Administration . President Junior Achievement in Boise . Chairman of the Potato Industry Advisory Committee in Boise . Advisory Board of U of I College of Engineering in Boise . Idaho Statesman's Distinguished Citizen July 1967 .

Speaking in 1969 to the first graduating class at Boise State after it was made a four year school. Dad was a well-known speaker in Idaho and throughout the country . Awarded by ISU as Idaho Businessman of the Year in 1972 . Hosting foreign exchange students both in Blackfoot and in Boise Mom and Dad enjoyed retirement in Rancho Mirage, Calif. in the winter and in McCall during the summer - just due to one who loved Idaho and served her well.

Dad is survived by his children: James, McCall; Nancy Stanger (Don), Meridian; and Ken (Rena), Boise. His son, Richard, predeceased him. He is also survived by grandchildren, Anita Panko-Johnson, Georgetown, Idaho; Troy (Kaelia) Carlsen, Nebraska; Scott Carlsen, Washington; Sheila (Steve) Crist, Meridian; Brent (Tricia) Stanger, Wyoming/Meridian; Julia Stanger, Utah; Caleb and Thad Carlsen, and Hannah (Derek) Carlsen Smith, all of Boise. He has 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. In addition he is survived by two nieces and two nephews.

There will be a viewing Sunday evening, Feb. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Summers Boise Funeral Home, 1205 W. Bannock St. Services will be held Monday morning, Feb. 11, 11 a.m. also at Summers Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Morris Hill Cemetery in Boise. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to the Anne Carlsen Center for Children (named for his sister) at 301 7th Avenue N. W.; Jamestown, North Dakota 58401-2971. This Center serves severely handicapped children from all over the world.

-Idaho Statesman on 2/10/2008.