

OBITUARIES

Jane Kniffen

VERMILLION — Jane Elizabeth Kniffen was born in Patterson, New Jersey, on March 19, 1930, and she died on October 19, 2011, in Vermillion, SD, at the age of 81. She was a loving and devoted mother and wife.



Kniffen

Her parents were John and Beatrice Wyman and she was raised in Amityville, Long Island, New York. One of her childhood memories was viewing the still smoldering wreckage of the Hindenburg disaster from a rumble seat of her parents' automobile when she was seven years old. She graduated from the Academy of St. Joseph High School in 1947 and went on to graduate from the State Teachers College in Plattsburgh, New York, in 1949, with a degree in Home Economics, and began a teaching career which spanned four decades. Her children fondly remember that she occasionally was their substitute teacher.

On August 23, 1954, she married Samuel K. Kniffen, a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, and together they started a family which resulted in six children and many grandchildren, all of whom she adored. Her husband's 25 year Air Force career resulted in her family being stationed in New Jersey, Ohio, and the Azores. In 1976 Jane and Sam moved their family to Vermillion, SD, where he was a professor of business at The University of South Dakota. Sam passed away July 18, 2003.

Jane was very active in church organizations wherever the family lived, culminating in Vermillion, South Dakota. Jane was also a long-time member of the bell choir of the United Church of Christ.

One of her hobbies was collecting Hummel figurines, a hobby which started when her husband Sam began sending her Hummel figurines from his flights to Germany. She eventually accumulated dozens of rare Hummels which she proudly displayed in her living room.

Jane loved to play games and she especially enjoyed playing bingo. Throughout the 1980s she rarely missed a Tuesday night bingo session at the Vermillion American Legion. Every Christmas she looked forward to playing Milles Bornes with her children. Jane also enjoyed playing bridge with her friends and was a member of the "Tuesday Out to Lunch Bunch" for many years.

All her life she loved animals and she always had seed for the winter birds and corn for the squirrels. Her home always had cats, dogs and birds. Some of her favorite pets were the black and white cats Putch and Kitsa, and Molly, the black Labrador, and later her black standard poodle, Tara.

In 1943, when Jane was 13, her mother encouraged her to respond to a pen pal request in a comic book and she began what would become a lifelong pen pal relationship with the Brian Ellis family who live in England. In 1973 their son Duncan spent the summer with the Kniffen family vacationing in the United States and Jane's daughter Nancy spent the summer of 1976 with the Ellis family vacationing in England and Spain. In 1979, after 36 years of correspondence, Jane and her pen pal Brian Ellis met for the first time, which resulted in an article in the *Vermillion Plain Talk*.

Jane always approached life with optimism and a wonderful sense of humor. Her family will always remember her twinkling green eyes.

She is survived by her sisters Ellen (Michael) Techninnis, and daughter Donna, Lee, Massachusetts, and Lakshmi (Bruce) Voelker-Binder, and daughter Heidi, Palm Springs, CA; her children Samuel Jr., Vermillion, Jeffrey, Jerseyville, IL, Nancy (Tom) Craig, Vermillion, David, Vermillion, Keith, Dallas, TX, Brian (Amy), Madrid, IA; and her grandchildren, Chelsea (Dane) Jorgensen, Tommy, Daniel (Katy), Joshua (Julie), Sam, and Rylan Craig, Kyle and Bethany Kniffen, Colton and Wyatt Kniffen, Sam III, Pete, and Rosalie Kniffen and several great-grandchildren.

Jane was cremated according to her wishes, and her ashes will be mingled with her husband Sam's, and their urn will be buried in Bluff View Cemetery in Vermillion, SD at a later date.

Funeral services will be Saturday, October 22 at 11:00 a.m. at the United Church of Christ in Vermillion, SD.

In Jane's memory, donations will be given to the hospice program here in Sanford Vermillion.

Her family is very grateful for the care and compassion of the staff at the Sanford Vermillion Care Center, and the kind assistance of the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion. hansenfuneralhome.com.

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Richard Lind

VERMILLION — Richard Lind, 80, of Vermillion died Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011, at Avera McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion.

Nancy Schenk

MISSION HILL — Nancy E. Schenk, age 82, of Mission Hill, South Dakota, died Thursday, October 20, 2011 at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa.

Funeral services are 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 22, 2011 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton, South Dakota with Reverend Dani Jo Ninke officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home.

Pallbearers are Jay Cutts, Craig Gartner, Allen Hofer, Steve LaFave, Scott Olson and Wayne Pibal.

Nancy was born November 2, 1928 in Chicago, Illinois to Vallee and Eva (Howells) Appel. She grew up in Highland Park, Illinois and graduated from Highland Park High School in 1946. Nancy received her degree in Sociology from the University of Alabama in 1951. She then worked as a secretary for the Port Huron Paper Company in Chicago. On October 26, 1957, Nancy married Willis Schenk. They lived in Deerfield, Illinois until 1969 when they moved to a farm in Mission Hill, South Dakota. Nancy loved her time on the farm. She always enjoyed mowing the yard and helping where she could. In July 2011, Nancy moved to Stoneybrook Suites Assisted Living



Schenk

in Dakota Dunes, South Dakota. She enjoyed gardening, traveling around the world and playing bridge with her friends. Nancy also loved the companionship of her dog, Charlotte.

Nancy is survived by three children: Nancy (Tom) Humphries of Charlotte, North Carolina, Katie Schenk of Omaha, Nebraska and Karl (Nancy) Schenk of Mission Hill; 11 grandchildren; and a sister, Mary (Frank) Swingle of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Willis on January 24, 1993.

The family would prefer memorials be made to your local hospice in memory of Nancy.

To send an online sympathy message, please visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

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Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Ronald Ryken

BELLE FOURCHE — Ronald R. Ryken, age 57 of Belle Fourche, died Tuesday, October 18th, 2011 at his home from a sudden heart attack.

A visitation will be held 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday with at 7 p.m. public prayer service at Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche. The funeral service will be held 11 a.m. Monday, October 24th, 2011 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Spearfish, with Pastor Jeff Dilks officiating. Burial will take place at the Gayville City Cemetery, in Gayville SD.

Memorials are preferred to the Children's Hospital.

Ronald Ray Ryken was born April 6, 1954 in Yankton, South Dakota. He was the son of Derald and Helen (Peterson) Ryken. He was the third of four sons. Ron grew up on a family farm near Gayville where he attended a country school. In 1972 he graduated from the Gayville-Volin High School. Following his graduation, he attended school in Sioux Falls where he received his certification as a Court Stenographer. For more than 30 years, Ron served the SD Judicial System as a Court Reporter. During these years he served Judge Leslie R. Hersrud, Judge Robert L. Tschetter, and Judge John W. Bastian while living in the Lemmon, Deadwood, and Spearfish areas. In 1992 he settled in Belle Fourche, where he has lived since. On June 27, 2008, Ron was united in marriage to Della Brockel. Ron retired in December of 2010.

Ron is survived by his wife, Della of Belle Fourche; son, Ryan of Belle Fourche; mother, Helen Ryken of Gayville SD; brothers, Gary (Gloria) of Lincoln NE, James (Margo) of Gayville SD, Brian (Laura) of Gayville SD; 3 step-children, Chad (Mary) Wells of Lincoln NE, Shannon (Jessica) Wells of Atwood KS, Kelsie (and fiancé Baily Simons) Feist of Howes, SD; 5 step grandchildren, Hunter, Grant, Jackson, Kaylyn, and Sawyer. He is also survived by his mother and father in law, Elmer and Fern Brockel of Lemmon SD; and brother and sister in law, Belinda (Todd) Christman of Lemmon.

Friends and family may leave written condolences and view Ron's video tribute at www.funeralhomeofthenorthernhills.com.

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Rosy Ferdig

VIBORG — Rosy Ferdig, 68, died Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011, at Evergreen Assisted Living in Viborg.

A memorial service is at 7 p.m.

Sunday at First Baptist Church, Viborg, with visitation starting at 5 p.m. at the church.

Register online at www.viborgfuneralhome.com.

Darlene Kunzweiler

Darlene M. Kunzweiler, 89 of Yankton, died early Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011, at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Margaret Catholic Church, Kimball, with the Rev. Andrew Swietochowski officiating. Burial will be in the parish cemetery.

Visitations begins at 5 p.m. Monday at the church with a wake service at 7:30 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, is in charge of arrangements.

John Cimpl

WAGNER — Funeral Mass for John Cimpl, 86, of Wagner, will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, October 24, 2011 at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Catholic Church in Dante. Burial is in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, rural Dante, with military honors.

Visitation will be Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner. Rosary/Wake services will be 7 p.m. Sunday at the church.

John A. Cimpl was born October 16, 1925 on the homestead five miles south of Dante, the son of John and Frances (Pilney) Cimpl. He died Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at the Community Memorial Hospital in Wagner. John attained the age of 86 years and three days.

John attended Rouse Country School south of Dante. He served in the US Army from 1945 to 1947, serving in Japan.

John married Irene Thaler at Dante on September 20, 1960. To-



Cimpl

Dr. Eugene Engen

MITCHELL — Dr. Eugene P. Engen, age 80, of Mitchell, SD and formerly of Yankton, SD passed away early Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at Avera Queen of Peace Hospital, Mitchell, SD.

Funeral services will be 3:00 p.m. Saturday, October 22, 2011 at the United Church of Christ (Congregational), Yankton, SD with Rev. Paul Opsahl officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery, Yankton, SD.

Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the church.

The Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, SD is in charge of arrangements.

Pallbearers are Daniel Strickland, Mike Kunze, Brendan Engen, Paul Engen and Charles Eestee.

Eugene was 80 years old and preceded in death by his wife Eunice Engen (d. 2010), to whom he was married for 53 years, and his sister Caroline Oberhelman (d. 1996). He is survived by his sister Alice Lawrence, 89 of Milton, IN, his son Paul Engen, 53 of Mitchell, SD, and his son Brendan Engen, 40 of Way Cross, GA and several nieces and nephews.

Eugene was born and raised in Yankton, South Dakota and attended Yankton College for his Bachelor's degree in psychology, Mills College in Oakland, CA for his Master's degree in psychology, and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA for his Doctor of Philosophy degree in psychology. As a young man, he served in the United States Air Force as well as the Public Health



Engen

Service as a commissioned officer and lived in Louisiana, Texas and Kentucky. He married Eunice in 1957 in Baton Rouge, LA, where they started a family. He and the family moved back to Yankton, SD in the late fifties to be closer to his father and sister, and at that time he took on a position as clinical psychologist at the Yankton State Hospital in Yankton, SD.

Eugene directed the Adolescent Program at the Yankton State Hospital in the mid-sixties. In the early seventies Eugene became a Diplomate in Clinical Psychology, a prestigious distinction in recognition of his achievements even as a then-young clinical psychologist. Also during this period he and a group of physicians and other concerned citizens started a mental health center in Yankton, SD, the Lewis & Clark Mental Health Center (now known as Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Center). He served as its executive director for approximately 20 years. In 1993, at the age of 62, he and Eunice moved to Waycross, GA to become part of a private group practice of psychologists and other mental

health providers. He ultimately started his own private psychological practice in Waycross in 1999 (now known as Psychological Services of Waycross), where he worked until 2009. While in the Waycross practice, he established satellite offices in four counties in southeastern Georgia. In 2009 Eugene retired, turned the business over to his son Brendan and moved back to South Dakota after he and Eunice had discovered their dream house in Mitchell, SD while on a trip to see their son Paul.

In his work and in his relationships, Eugene was known for his level-headedness and objectivity, his integrity, his kindness and encouragement, and his patient and empathic listening ability. Though he started from humble beginnings and tended to be extremely modest and quick to defer attention away from his own achievements, he ended up having established significant mental health programs and practices that continue and thrive to this day in South Dakota and Georgia. Quietly but industriously, Dr. Engen earned distinction as a pioneer in mental health services in South Dakota in the latter half of the 20th century.

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Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Donald Williams

Donald L. Williams, age 78 of Yankton passed away Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, SD.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, October 22, 2011 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton with Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be approximately 12:30 p.m. at the St. Vincent Cemetery in Springfield, SD.

Visitations will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, October 21, 2011 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton with a 7:00 p.m. Rosary followed at 7:30 p.m. Scripture Service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers are Israel Tesch, Ian Williams, Alex Williams, Jeff Olson, Mike Kellen, Allen Fossum. Honorary Pallbearers are Melvin Franka, Robert Coleman, David Walker, Layton Ferwerda and Bill Henthorn.

Donald was born on May 17, 1933 to Marion and Anne (Mc-



Williams

Maureen and twins, Brian and Bruce.

In 1964 he started working road construction for Myrl Clark, and later, other construction companies. In the 1970's he drove gas transport out of Newcastle, WY and Rapid City, SD. In 1978 he was employed by Pete Lien Co. in Rapid City, which he retired from in 1996. In 1999 Darlene retired and they started spending the winter months in South Texas to the present time. In 2001 they began making their summer home in Yankton, SD.

Don enjoyed working, traveling and visiting with family and friends. He was soft spoken, a

good listener and he could easily strike up conversations with strangers. He will always be remembered as a hard-working man who was interested in other people and the events they were involved in.

Don is survived by his wife of 53 years; daughter, Maureen (Bob) Frier of Lubbock, TX; son, Brian (Anne) of Sioux Falls, SD; grandsons: Ian and Alex Williams of Sioux Falls, SD, and Israel Tesch of Queen Creek, AZ; great granddaughter, Sydney Tesch of Queen Creek, AZ; sister; Patricia (Mel) Franka of Sioux Falls, SD and several nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Marion & Anne Williams and infant son, Bruce Williams.

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Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

gether they farmed south of Dante until moving into Wagner on July 1, 1990.

John was an active member of the Assumption Catholic Church, serving on the parish council, Catholic Workmen, where he served on state and local levels, Knights of Columbus, being honored as Knight of the Year in 1998 and 2010 and Family of the Year in 1984. He also was the Rouse Township treasurer for over 30 years. John was member of the American Legion and VFW for 55 years.

John will be remembered for his love of being with his grand kids, attending their events and being their taxi service when needed. He also loved playing cards.

Thankful for having shared his life are his two sons: Mike and wife Nancy Cimpl and their children, Al-

lison and Joshua; and PJ and wife Marti Cimpl and their daughter, Emilea, all of Dante; a brother, Wes and wife Evelyn of Yankton; three sisters: Albina and husband Raymond Soukup; Frances Nedved; and Marie and husband Robert Soukup; all of Wagner; two sisters-in-law: JoAnn and husband Francis Beeson of Dante and Mary Cimpl of Wagner; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Irene on September 9, 2007; parents; brother, Charlie Cimpl; two nephews: Bobby Soukup and David Beeson; an infant niece, Ann Marie Beeson; and brother-in-law, Leonard Nedved.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Helen E. Schenk

11:30 AM, Saturday
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home
Yankton



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