



Harland L. Pratt

October 15, 1917 - July 5, 2016

Harland Pratt passed away at his home in Corvallis on July 5. He was 98 years old. Harland Leo Pratt was born on October 15, 1917, in Jerome, Idaho. His mother was Anna Ashubah Morris, daughter of Samuel and Quintilla Morris. His father was Milo Arno Pratt, son of Charles and Clara Pratt. Harland graduated from Imbler High School at 16, and entered Eastern Oregon Normal School, a teacher's college, now Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. He went through the 2-year program. After the 2-year program, he transferred to Oregon State College in Corvallis in January, 1937, where he earned a degree in Agricultural Education from the School of Agriculture. He was a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, OSC Class of 1938. After graduation, Harland moved to Madras, Oregon, where he worked as a Field Supervisor for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. He married Wilma Bell of Corvallis in 1941 in the First Baptist Church here in Corvallis. From Madras, they moved to Ontario, where he managed the Ontario office of the Agricultural Conservation Service. In 1943, he joined the Navy, and went through storekeeper school at the United States Naval Training Station in Farragut, Idaho. His naval career was spent as a crew member of the USS Prentiss in the South Pacific. After honorable discharge on March 16, 1946, Harland returned to Oregon where he managed the office of the Lane County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee in Eugene, 1947-1951. He then joined the family construction company, Pratt Development

Corporation, helping with construction and property management while working also for Corvallis Hardware on Fourth Street in Corvallis.

In 1953, he married Neta Jo Williams of Corvallis, and adopted her children Harry and Suzanne Williams.

Harland purchased the City Delivery Service in 1957 and operated the business for 12 years. He and Neta Jo also owned and operated the Old Stuff Shop, 1986 - 1996, and ran estate sales. An active amateur historian, Harland was a strong supporter of the Benton County Historical Museum, and his donations of historical photos and documents to the BCHM total several hundreds of items.

In his later years, Harland enjoyed daily coffee with old-timers at the Old World Deli, where he would share historical photos and papers of interest to the others at the table. In the summertime, he picked wild blackberries and delivered them as surprises to his friends and sometimes to complete strangers.

Harland was preceded in death by his wife Neta Jo Pratt, and his adopted children, Harry and Suzanne Williams, his brothers Chadwick and Keith Pratt, his sisters Gladys Hodges and Clara Gardner. He is survived by his brother, Robert G. Pratt of New Jersey along with many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Mennonite In-Home Care, Benton Hospice, McHenry Funeral Home, and above all, David Livingston, for his friendship and assistance to Harland over the years.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall



“ Harland and I were the last of the original homeowners of this neighborhood. I remember how tough he seemed when I was a little kid and as I grew up I learned what a really sweet man he was. He was my reading-lending library and shared his love of books, especially local authors, though admitted he could never get into my novels which are sci fi. He would just shake his head and laughing, say, "You never were quite right in the head, Kelly". Will miss him. I was glad to be able to take him a few egg salad sandwiches and homemade applesauce over the last year or so. Wish I could have done more for him. Let me know if there is anything I can do as I live just down the street . . . water plants, help clean, whatever you need. David L. you can call me if I can be of help.

Kelly Tharp - July 14, 2016 at 07:23 PM

JM

“Harland was a very good friend to my Mother, Vivian Hawkins, who he visited daily for over ten years after his wife Jo passed away in 2004. It was a comfort to us knowing that he was checking up on her in her later years. When she could no longer drive, he would shop for her and escort her to appointments. She, too, was 98 when she died last August, so they both lived long and well. Harland loved picking wild blackberries in the summer and would share them with friends and neighbors. He was always generous to those in need. Harland, thanks so much for all the memories.

Judy Mutch

Judy and I live in California and had the opportunity to get to know Harland when we visited Judy's mother, and he came calling in the afternoon. We never knew when he would come but when he did, he enjoyed telling stories and sharing pictures or old postcards or books of historical interest about the area. He particularly enjoyed any information about railroads in the area. He had a large collection of postcards that he sold on E-Bay. Harland enjoyed playing cribbage and he and I engaged in many a game. Though I did win my share of games, he was a very clever player and usually managed to out count me on most hands. He always remembered the skunks, whoever got them. We had many conversations over cribbage about historical things and also the game itself which he referred to as a "funny game" especially when one of us would have a run of bad hands. He loved the suspense of turning over the crib and as he turned it many times would say, "And in heeere we have..." He had a wry sense of humor that he maintained up until the final days of his life. He also knew our children and looked forward to their visits; giving a couple of teddy bears from his collection to our granddaughter who was born in the time that we knew Harland. He enjoyed baseball, especially the Seattle Mariners. He watched their games on TV up until he passed. We would ask how they were doing when we visited and he would always say "losing", which unfortunately was usually the case. Our family will

always remember Harland as a caring and generous man who played a significant role in our lives and particularly in the life of Judy's mother, Vivian, in the final years of her life.

Jim Mutch

Jim Mutch - July 09, 2016 at 08:33 PM

BP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bob Pratt - July 08, 2016 at 01:38 PM