



Robert Skelton

January 5, 1915 - August 26, 2011

Robert "Bob" Skelton, 96 of Philomath died Friday, August 26th in Corvallis. He was born near Newberg to Carl and Letha Riker Skelton. They lived on Chehalem Mountain. When Bob was 11, the family moved to a small town called Pedee near Kings Valley. There, he attended Nolan School through the eighth grade. He graduated from Pedee High School at age 16, with two other boys in his class.

At the age of 17 he started his work career. He cut wood for his neighbor, then traveled to Washington to help harvest hay. When he returned home, he went to work in the woods doing whatever he was asked to do. His dad told him that if he worked really hard and then did a little more, he would always have a job. Bob did just that. He drove log truck; worked on the landings; was a mechanic; was employed by Rex Clemens. Later on, he had his own logging outfit.

After 25 years, he quit logging and went to work for Dorsey Bus Company, where he worked for 25 years. He loved this job. If you asked him, it was the best job he ever had. He loved the kids and all of the friends he met along the way. One of his favorite moments was being the commencement speaker for the Class of 1971, Corvallis High School.

He met Arlene Cosgrove, "that cute redhead" at church, and they were married July 11, 1936. They lived in the Corvallis-Philomath area their entire lives. Arlene passed away October 1, 1999, and their daughter, Ellen Hathaway, passed away July 19, 2002. Bob was also preceded in death by a

sister, Virginia Patton and a half-brother Wayne Earl Dyer.

Bob is survived by a daughter Eleanor Martin and her husband, Bill of Philomath; brother, Harlan Skelton and his wife, Bessie of Dallas; several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was a humble man with a big heart. He loved the Lord with all his heart and is with Him today.

At Bob's request, there will be no memorial service. The family asks that you keep them in prayer, and remember the special moments when Bob was part of your life. He will be missed.

Tribute Wall

JF

“ I have many fond memories of Bob when he drove me home on ol' bus 24 from Roosevelt school in the late 50's and early 60's. I'm now retired and have chosen a second career as a school bus driver. Bob was a big inspiration in this decision and I will try to follow his footsteps in how he related to his charges. Bob, we will miss you and thank you for being a part in so many our lives.

John Franklin - September 09, 2011 at 10:59 PM

PN

“ What a kind soul this man was. He was there weather we won or lost with words to make us feel good. He will be in our hearts and memories.

Penny Nash - September 01, 2011 at 09:48 PM

HP

“ I have such fond memories of Bob.He was such a fixture on CHS buses that when I see a yellow school bus I think of him. Heaven knows what possessed him to always be the one to drive us. The Swing Choir trip to San Fran. was the trip of a lifetime for me, and Bob must have really had an earful of teenage shenanigans. I will always remember him with a smile on his face, sitting in the bus drivers seat with one hand on the door opener.What a character he was!!!!

Helene Pihl - September 01, 2011 at 06:47 PM

CE

“ I remember Bob as the fun bus driver taking the Swing Choir all the way down to San Francisco in 1971! Thanks of the fun, the safe driving, and for connecting with us crazy teenagers! Rest in Peace, Bob! We all love you!

Cindy Wheeler Elting - September 01, 2011 at 09:25 AM

S'

“ I share your grief that Bob has left us; he was a very special man & we all loved him so much! I wish I had made more of an effort to keep in touch with him in between reunions! Until my mom died, she kept me up to date on him, & filled him in about me. I learned how to play poker on his bus between state basketball championship games, using toothpicks for bets! (Don't really remember how to play, now!) I have such fond memories of riding on rally buses, etc. going to games, & usually he was the driver. I read once that "God gave us memory, that we might have roses in December." I hope you find great comfort in your memories of him, as well as knowing that we all loved him so much & will miss him too. Thank you for sharing him with us!

Sue Elliott May, CHS '71 - September 01, 2011 at 06:36 AM

RP

“ Robert Skelton

Rick Paine - September 01, 2011 at 12:47 AM