



Obituary

Born: Thursday, March 8, 1923

Died: Friday, July 29, 2016

Milford Clay (Mel, Buddy, Pete) Peterson

March 8, 1923 – July 29, 2016

Milford Clay (Mel, Buddy, Pete) Peterson, 93, of Pendleton OR, passed away on Friday July 29, 2016, at home of natural causes.

The Celebration of Life will be held at 10:00 a.m. on August 6, 2016 at The Episcopal Church in Pendleton Oregon. Rev Charlotte Wells of the Episcopal Church will be officiating. Inurnment will be held on August 8, 2016 at Olney Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. Sign the online condolence book at www.burnsmortuary.com. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Burns Mortuary of Pendleton.

Service Summary

Celebration of Life

10:00 AM Sat Aug 06, 2016

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

241 SE 2nd Street
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Graveside Inurnment Service

10:00 AM Mon Aug 08, 2016

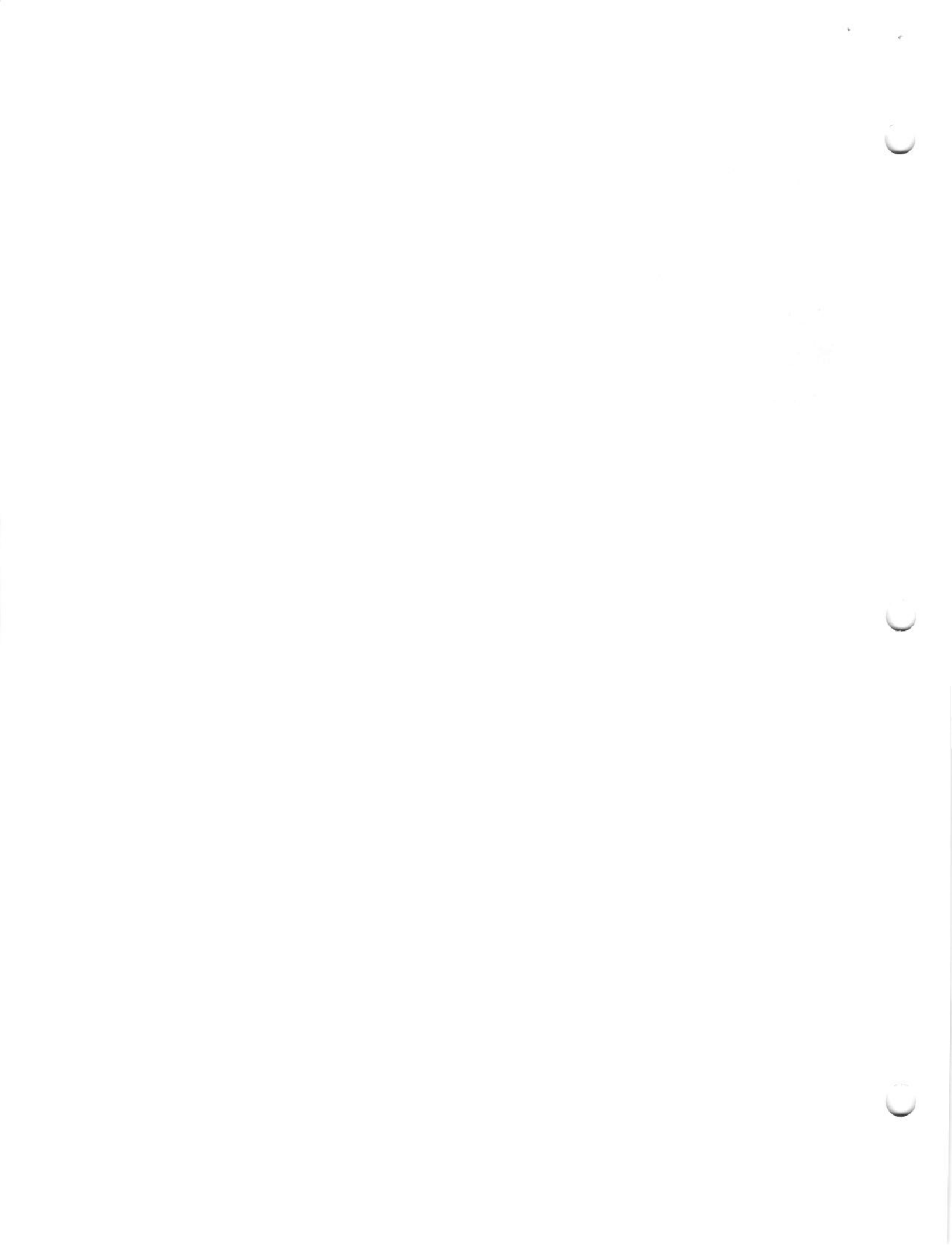
Olney Cemetery

865 Tutuilla Road
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Mel was born in Turtle Lake, North Dakota on March 3, 1923. He graduated from Santa Monica High School, in Santa Monica California in 1941. In high school he excelled at pole vaulting, track and basketball. Two days after graduation he enlisted with the Army Air Corp. He graduated from flight school at Luke Air Field in Arizona in 1942. Mel was married to Vera Lee Fortier on January 16, 1943; they were married 68 years when she passed away in 2011. Mel flew the P47 Thunderbolt in WWII. He was stationed in the European Theater and flew 102 missions over France and Germany. He was a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross. Mel worked as and became a skillful brickmason from just after his return from WWII until he retired in 1985. Many of the brick buildings and fireplaces in Pendleton are the result of his craftsmanship. He loved hunting and fishing and all sports. He was active with the VFW providing door security for basketball tournaments and for more than 40 years supported the Happy Canyon during the Pendleton Round-Up by running a lot and parking cars.

Mel is survived by his children, Stephen Peterson (with Gloria Flint) and Tiah Peterson (with Jeff Engelman); his siblings, Beverly Cameron (spouse Gary Cameron), and James Peterson; grandchildren, Jody Reedy, Seth Peterson, Amanda Peterson, Desirae Peterson-Raffety, Kenton Peterson, and Dylan Clemons; and eight great grandsons and one great granddaughter; and caregivers Traci Hallos and Robin Lehneis - without whom Mel could not have stayed at home.

Mel is preceded in death by his parents, Harry Peterson and Hazel Peterson-Berg; his wife, Vera Lee Peterson; sisters, Thelma Robinson and Dolores Bellas; brothers, Clinton



(Dick) Peterson and Ronald Peterson; children Milford Clay
(Pete or Chief) Peterson Jr and Sandra Dee (Sandy) Peterson.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be given to The
VFW Cowboy Breakfast. The family of Milford Clay
Peterson wishes to thank St. Anthony Hospice Program,
Department of Human Services Senior Services Program, Dr
Harrison and his entire office.

