

# R.L. Harris

Pendleton

March 13, 1920-January 26, 2012

The viewing for longtime Pendleton resident R.L. Harris, 91, will be from 2-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2nd at Burns Mortuary of Pendleton and services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3rd at the First United Methodist Church with interment immediately following at Olney Cemetery. Sign the online guest-book at [www.burnsmortuary.com](http://www.burnsmortuary.com). Burns Mortuary of Pendleton is handling arrangements. Contributions may be made directly to the Memorial Fund of the First United Methodist Church at 352 S.E. 2nd St., Pendleton or through Burns Mortuary.



Harris

R.L. died Thursday January 26th following a short stay at a local care center. He was born on March 13, 1920, in Watervliet, Mich. He was the second born and oldest son of Roy Lavergne and Gladys Pauline (C. Muth) Harris. The family moved several times in Michigan, but moved from Detroit to Oak Grove, Ore., in June of 1930. From there they moved to Vernonia in 1932, Silverton in 1934, and finally to Prineville in 1938-39. R.L. moved with his father to a barren piece of property in Prineville in the fall of 1938, after he finished high school. They built a house and broke out sagebrush for crops and the remainder of the family moved the following summer. He found himself building B-17 bombers in Seattle when WWII broke out. He returned home to join the service, but was given a medical deferment due to hearing problems. Instead, he stayed on the farm, working for his parents (two other brothers served in the Pacific).

In 1945 he met a new OSC Ext. Agent, Lulu Earnheart, who visited the farm to view his brother Douglas's 4-H project. They were married at the First Methodist Church in Pendleton on Feb. 24, 1946. They moved and began a farming partnership with Lulu's father, R.O.O. Earnheart, on the family farm north of Pendleton in

March of 1950. "Ott" died in 1954 and they ultimately took over full ownership from the heirs.

They were very active in the Methodist Church and the Cold Spring Grange. In addition to farming, R.L. sold grange property and auto insurance for over 20 years. He enjoyed hunting, mostly big game, and fishing.

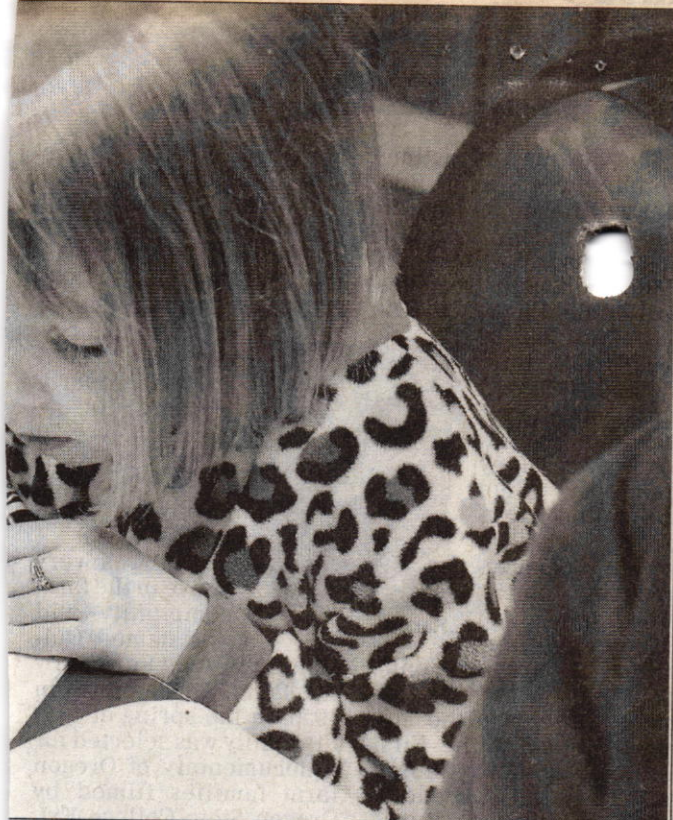
R.L. was very active in the farm community and was named Outstanding Young Farmer by the Pend. Jr. Chamber in 1956. In the spring of 1959 the family was selected for a documentary of Oregon farm families filmed by Oregon State College Ext. He served on the PGG Board and as an officer of the Umatilla Co. Wheat Growers.

In 1963, the Ford Motor Co. named him the Ford Farm Almanac Farm Efficiency Award winner for wheat growers and the Pendleton FFA named him an Honorary Chapter Farmer.

The OSU College of Ag. Sciences named him to the Diamond Pioneer Ag. Career Achievement Registry in 2009.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; infant son, Richard; sister, Beulah; brothers John, Marleau, Roland, and Douglas.

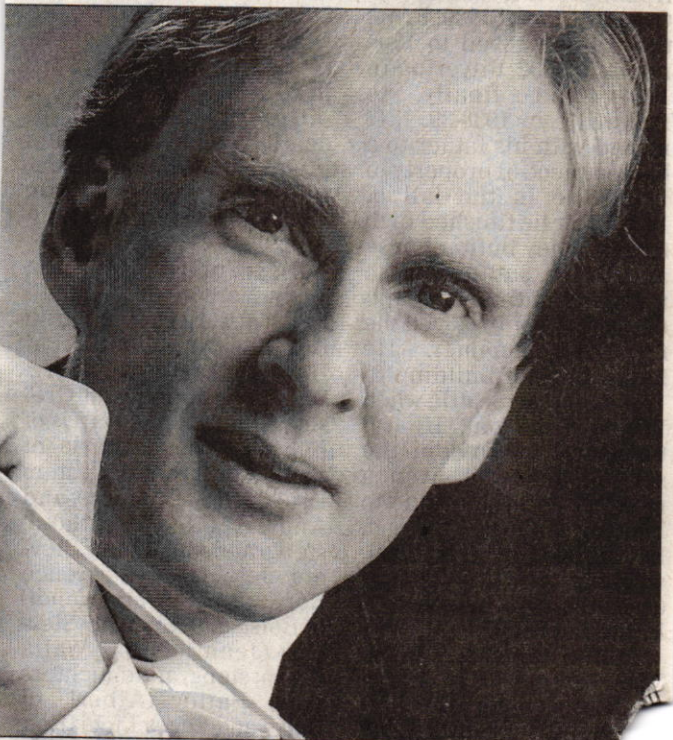
He is survived by sister, Mary Larson of Klamath Falls; sisters-in-law, Sarah Burch of Walla Walla, Pat Harris of Newberg, Winifred Simmons of Gresham, and Joanne Harris of Echo; son, James (Carla) of Pendleton; granddaughters Erica, Jill Sabo (John), and Andrea, all of Portland; stepgrandsons Corey Sievers (Jessica) of Lawrence Kan., Jason Sievers (Wendi) of Boise, and Spencer Sievers (Jennifer) of Walla Walla; stepgranddaughters Julie Bailey (Albert) of Boise and Lacey Lichi (Ens. Anthony) of Norfolk, Va.; adopted granddaughters Ashley of Boise, Angel and Autumn; one great-grandson, Caleb Sabo, and nine stepgreat-grandchildren. Numerous nieces and nephews that he adored also survive him.



EO file photo

...ast Night at the Museum at the Children's Museum of  
...rop their children off at the museum while they attend  
...aturday at the Vert Auditorium in Pendleton.

# ...seum, Oregon ...offer night out



File p

...music director and conductor of the Oregon East  
...Chorale, will raise the baton during Saturday's Bach,  
...ws at Vert Auditorium in Pendleton.

**Feb. 4**

INFO: 541-276-1066, [www.cmeo.org](http://www.cmeo.org)

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Oregon East Symphony

WHAT: Bach-Baroque and Brews