

Mary Lee Bates

Pendleton

August 28, 1926-May 22, 2012

Mary Lee Bates, born August 28, 1926, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on May 22nd, 2012, in Pendleton, Oregon. A memorial service will be held on Friday, June 1st, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the Pendleton Vert Auditorium. A gathering will immediately follow the service, downstairs in the Vert Club Room. Disposition was by cremation and private inurnment will be held. For those who wish, memorial contributions in honor of Mary Bates may be made to the BMCC Foundation, or to the Scholarship Funds of The First Christian Church, Altrusa Club of Pendleton or the AAUW, to the Salvation Army, or any other charity of the donor's choice. Sign the online guestbook at www.burnsmortuary.com. Burns Mortuary of Pendleton is in charge of arrangements.

Mary was born in Ordway, Colorado, to the Reverend Dr. James Milton and Grace Allison Bennett. Mary was the third of eight children. Mary graduated from Vancouver, Washington, High School. She married Mel Bates on August 23rd, 1947. They enjoyed nearly sixty-five years of marriage together. Mary later received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, and her Masters in Librarianship from the University of Washington.

Mary cherished her family and friends and was very active in every community that she resided in. Her love of music continued throughout her life, singing in, and directing many choirs. With her words of encouragement, Mary had a special ability to coax a singing voice from those who thought they had no talent whatsoever. She enjoyed playing the flute, piano and organ. She loved the arts and enjoyed many concerts, plays and other performances. Mary and her husband Mel loved to travel. They participated

in a 10K walk in each of the fifty states, as well as in each of the thirty-six counties in Oregon. Besides visiting every state in the U.S., Mary and Mel had also

traveled to many Canadian provinces and seven European countries.

Education was an integral part of Mary's life, teaching at the elementary, high school, college and graduate levels. Her proudest

professional accomplishment was serving as the founding librarian at Blue Mountain Community College, and continuing as the Director of Library Services. She was instrumental in the development, growth and leadership of the library since the college's inception. She served as president of the Pacific Northwest Library Association, Oregon Library Association, Eastern Oregon Library Association and the Oregon Community College Library Association. She also served as president of the local branch of the AAUW and the Pendleton Women's Club and was very active in the Altrusa Club of Pendleton. Mary was also honored with being selected as First Citizen of Pendleton in 1971.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, and brothers Burton Bennett and Dr. Samuel Bennett. She is survived by her husband Mel, son Richard and Cindi, daughter Kathy and Lamont, son Ron and Debbie and daughter Margie, grandchildren Amy and Jukka, Cory and Jennifer, Sheena, Jefferson, Vincent, Jordan, Cody, Jayda, Janelle and great-grandchildren Andrea, Afton, Chloe, Kaylynn and Lucas. Other survivors include her siblings Theodore and Vi Bennett, Velma and Hubert Sales, Dr. Stephen and Mary Bennett, LoraBell and Wayne Stram and J. David and Bonnie Bennett, and sister-in-law Marillyn Bennett as well as her numerous nieces and nephews and many friends.



Bates



Photo provided by the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office

Army National Guard airlift one of three people who were all plane crashed on a steep and snowy mountainside in night.

Rescued from plane crash in remote Idaho

Search resumes for Idaho pilot missing in southeast Oregon

LAKEVIEW (AP) — Air and ground crews again searching southeastern Oregon and northern Nevada in an effort to find a pilot who has been missing since Thursday.

Sheriff Tim Evinger of Klamath County said Monday that an Oregon National Guard helicopter is joining the search.

The pilot, 48-year-old Tony Nicholls of Meridian, Idaho, flew to Lakeview, Ore., on Thursday afternoon to drop off two children. He then departed Lakeview on a return flight to Idaho.

Evinger says there were snow showers and gusty winds in the region at the time of departure.

There is no control tower at Lakeview. Evinger says radar and cell phone records indicate the last known location for the four-seat aircraft was near Hart Lake in the area of Plush, Ore.

lift them out with a hoist.

"It was inhospitable for a landing," Marsano said. "The use of the helicopter was indispensable for this type of rescue operation."

The three were flown one at a time to a landing area about a half-mile from War Eagle Mountain in southwest Idaho's Owyhee County. They were later flown to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, where they remain in stable condition Monday.

It's unclear what caused the Cessna to go down. Photos taken by rescuers showed significant damage, including a broken front windshield.

Authorities identified the family as Brian Brown of Wilton, Calif., his wife Jayann Brown, and their adult daughter, whose name was not immediately available. They declined to be interviewed Monday, said hospital spokeswoman Elizabeth Duncan.