

## Obituary

**Born:** Friday, February 18, 1916

**Died:** Tuesday, September 1, 2015

Randolph "Randy" Dorrان, 99, of Helix, Oregon passed away September 1, 2015 at Juniper House Assisted Living. Randy was born to Helen (Narkaus) and Bill Dorrان on February 18, 1916 in Pendleton, Oregon. Randy's life was spent on the family farm in Juniper Canyon, north of Helix, where his grandparents had homesteaded in the late 1800's. He attended elementary school in a one room school house east of the homestead. When he began high school at the age of 12 it was necessary for him to attend school in Helix, eighteen miles away. He paid room and board to a Helix family where he lived during the weekdays and came back to the farm on weekends. Farming was his passion and he spent his extra time helping his father develop Dorrان Ranch.

## Service Summary

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### Graveside Service

11:30 AM Sat Sep 05, 2015

### Olney Cemetery

865 Tutuilla Road  
Pendleton, OR 97801

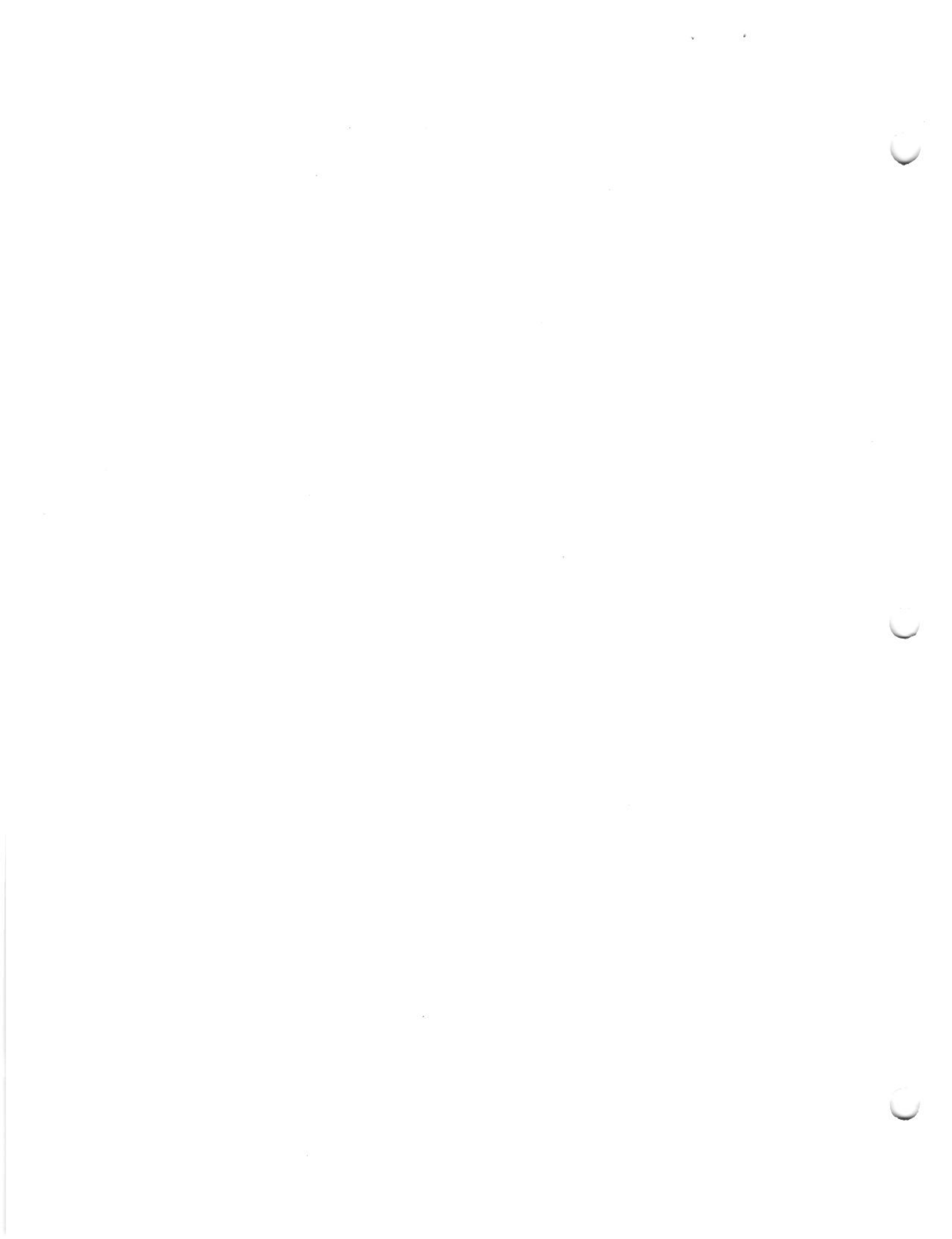
Randy graduated from Helix High School in 1932. He continued his education for one year at Southern Oregon College, transferring to Oregon State College (OSU) and earning a degree in Civil Engineering.

Upon college graduation, Randy returned to the family farm and became the keeper of the land for over 60 years. His desire was to build a farm for future generations.

As a young single farmer in the community, Randy would attend dances throughout the area. At one of those dances he kept his eye on "a special lady" by the name of Marjorie Hargett. She was from the Holdman community. They became a duo on the dance floor and enjoyed many years together sharing the joy of music and dance. Randy and Marge were married on January 24, 1941 in Lewiston, Idaho with their forever friends, Ferdie and Marge Hudemann, as their witnesses. A marriage that lasted for 73 years.

Randy and Marge began their married life in a one room bunkhouse on the Dorrان family farm in Juniper Canyon. Randy remodeled the schoolhouse (that he attended) into their family home where they raised their three children Jim, Janet and Judy.

Randy's farming days began with horse drawn equipment, milk cows and beef cattle and other various farm animals that provided food on the table. There were many challenges over the years that Randy experienced, but his progressive knowledge of caring for the land, creating innovative farm equipment, and an incredible work ethic made his wheat farming career successful. Sadness entered his life in 1969 when his only son, Jim, was killed in a plane accident. This tragedy brought a lifetime of sorrow and grief to Randy and Marge.



Randy took time out of this busy farm life to be involved in his children's activities, civic organizations, and professional development. He was ready and willing to help friends and neighbors whether it be farming tasks or testing for a new television signal. He belonged to many organizations and was a leader in many of them. He was a member and chairman of the Helix School Board, Pendleton Grain Growers, United Way, and Port of Umatilla. His other memberships included Umatilla County and Oregon Cattlemen's Associations, Oregon Wheat League, Benevolent Order of Elk's, Delta Tau Delta Alumni Association, and Order of Masonic Lodge.

Throughout his life he received many awards within the community, county and state. A plaque hangs on his wall as Umatilla County Conservation Man of the Year in 1957 along with one from Oregon State University Farmer of the Year.

Involvement in many of these organizations gave Randy and Marge the opportunity to travel to farm related conferences throughout the Pacific Northwest. They also took advantage of winter months on the farm when work became less intense. Seeing other parts of the world was enjoyable to them. Their extended travels included Hawaii, Asian countries, Europe as well as visiting places throughout the United States.

Often times the travel included another couple or a group.

In 1993, the decision was made to move from the farm to Helix, where they resided for 20 years. Randy maintained his Helix address for 99 years.

Memories will continue on forever with shared stories of his childhood and life experiences and will include lots of laughter and fun times. His grandchildren and great grandchildren will have a legacy to remember.

Randy is survived by two daughters, Janet Wood, Athena, and Judy (Cliff) Bracher, Pendleton; six grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Marge; brother, Russell Dorrان; son, Jim and grandson Doug Wood.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Helix Memorial Scholarship Fund or Helix Booster Club or charity of choice.

A graveside service for friends and family will be held on Saturday, September 5, 2015 at 11:30 at Olney Cemetery. A celebration of life reception will follow at the Pendleton Elk's Club.

