

Donald 'Deacon' Hawkins

January 5, 1922-December 2, 2012
Pendleton

Donald Hawkins, Pendleton farmer and community leader, passed away at the family home on Sunday, December 2, 2012. Don was born in Pendleton on January 5, 1922, son of Malinda Eggers Hawkins and Joe Hawkins. The family lived on a wheat farm near Myrick Station, north of Pendleton. Don and his five siblings attended school beyond a country grade school before graduating from Griswold (Helix) High School. Don's well-respected work ethic started as a boy on the farm, first with chores and then driving a horse and mule team pulling combines. Don attended Oregon State College, majoring in agriculture, where he was also Pacific Coast Conference Champion Boxer in the 155-pound weight division in 1942.

In 1942, Don was drafted into the Army, where he served with honor in the 58th Field Artillery Battalion. In his three year army service, Don fought in major battles in Sicily, Northern France, Ardennes, and the Rhineland including the Battle of the Bulge and the second wave of the landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day. During much of Don's service he traveled with General George Patton. Upon his return from service in 1945, Don married his college sweetheart (and Pendleton native) Helen Rice. Don and Helen celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary this spring in typical Hawkins' style — family, community friends and a memorable party. Helen and Don have five daughters and a son: Sherri Leisinger (Andy), Julie Carter (Jim), Tim Hawkins (Jennifer), Candy Wheeler (Mike), Pam Hawkins (Frank); Don (deceased); Becca Zollman (Gary). They have 16 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews.



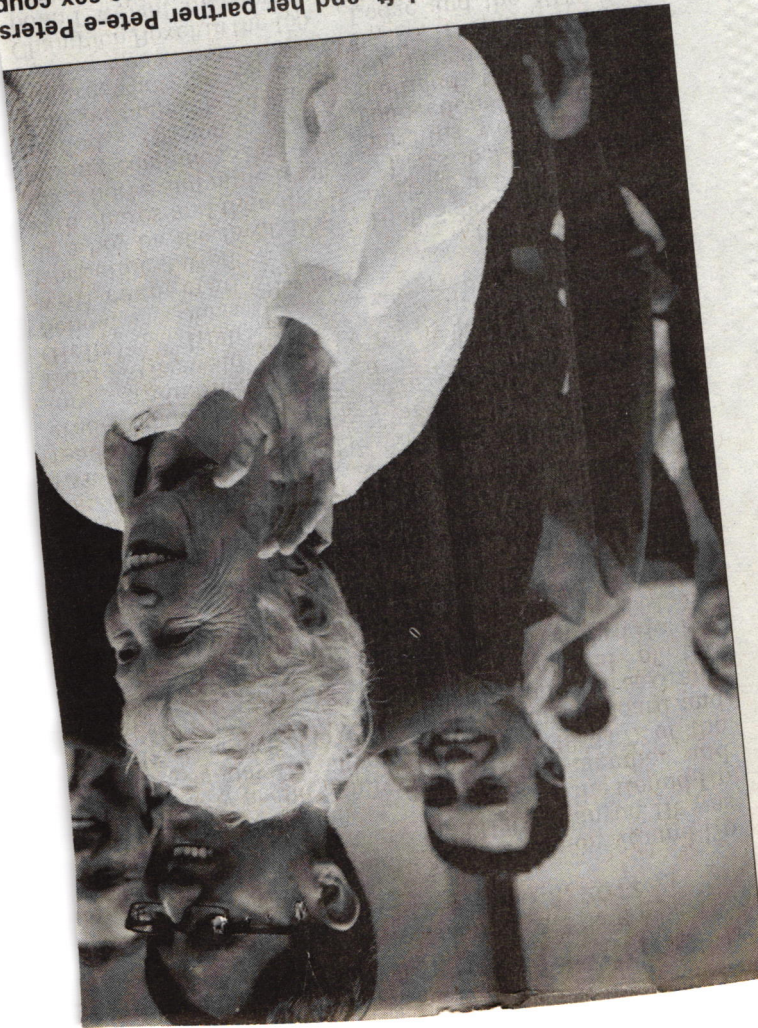
Hawkins

Don's social group memberships were important connections for him. These included the Pendleton Elks Lodge, Stanfield Moose Lodge, Pendleton Eagles Lodge and the VFW. Don rarely missed the Saturday afternoon get-togethers of the Pendleton 4-6 Club, where he regularly took his sons as guests. At the top of Don's life list was his family and family gatherings. A great part of his recreation included one or more of his own children, his grandsons or granddaughters. great-grandchildren. Some times this was teaching about how to work and play, and other times just watching and enjoying the activities in which they were engaged. He loved to hunt with both his family and close friends. He remained a loyal Oregon State Beaver fan with a pause for support of WSU football during the years that his two grandsons played there. We will all miss the Deacon and his large presence in all that was good in the community.

The family asks that memorial contributions be made in Don's name to The Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame, the Umatilla Historical Society, the Peace Lutheran Church or any other charity. Donations may be made through Burns Mortuary of Pendleton. A memorial service will be held at The Pendleton Convention Center at 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2012. Send condolences online www.burnsmortuary.com.

Don's life centered on the family ranch and community service. The family came near Pendleton in 2000. Don ranched with his two brothers, Bob (deceased) and Wray, Don's nephew and his son Tim and grandson Tanner. Many young men worked on the Hawkins ranches in the Helix and Echo areas over the

Jane Abbott Lightly, left, and her partner Pete-e Peters receiving the first marriage license for a same-sex couple and Petersen are Brendon K. Taga, left, and Jesse Page. The licenses immediately upon certification of the November



Gay Washington couples get married

By MANUEL VALDES, RACHEL LA CORTE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Hundreds of same-sex couples across Washington state started picking up marriage licenses Thursday as a voter-approved law legalizing gay marriage took effect.

King County, the state's largest, opened the doors to its auditor's office in Seattle just after midnight to start distributing licenses. But hundreds of people had lined up hours earlier, snaking around the building on a chilly December night. By Thursday afternoon, more than 450 licenses had been issued in Seattle, where the mood was festive overnight.

"We waited a long time. We've been together 35 years, never thinking we'd get a legal marriage. Now I feel so joyous I can't hardly stand it," said 85-year-old Pete-e Peters, who with her partner, 77-year-old Jane Abbott Lightly, were the first to get a license.

After meeting 35 years ago on a blind date in Sacramento, Lightly and Petersen plan to get married Sunday. The couple has been out buying shoes and clothes for the wedding.

Washington state now joins several other states that allow gay and lesbian couples to wed. Gov. Chris Gregoire and Secretary of State Sam Reed certified the election results of Referendum 74 on Wednesday afternoon, and the law took effect at 12:01 a.m. Thursday.

R-74 had asked voters to either approve or reject the state law legalizing same-sex marriage that legislators passed earlier this year. That law was signed by Gregoire in February but was put on hold pending the outcome of the election. Nearly 54 percent of voters approved the measure.

The law doesn't require religious organizations or churches to marry gay or lesbian couples. Same-sex couples married in another

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