

Mary Lou Brigham

Ringering Long

Crooked River Ranch

April 25, 1935-March 1, 2013

Mary Lou Brigham Ringering Long, 77, died peacefully at her home in Crooked River Ranch on Friday, March 1, 2013, surrounded by family.

Mary Lou was born in La Grande, Ore., also known as God's Country to her, on April 25, 1935, to John Robert Brigham, the son of an Englishman, and Nancy Emily Casteel Brigham, a Native American woman. She was the middle of three daughters who all spent their childhood growing up in the Meacham, Squaw Creek and Gibbon areas of Eastern Oregon.

Mary Lou was a Walla Walla Tribal member, one of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Throughout her lifetime, she was very proud of her Native heritage.

Mary Lou graduated from Athena High School, and in 1952 she married Floyd Ringering of Pendleton, Ore. They lived there for 10 years and together they had three children. They divorced in 1962, but Floyd's family remained very close to Mary Lou and the kids throughout the years.

Always a working woman, Mary Lou was a 37-year government employee, beginning in Mission, Ore. In 1964, she transferred to Warm Springs, Ore., to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as an administrative officer. She raised the kids in Warm Springs and lived and worked in Warm Springs until transferring to Portland, Ore., to work at Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Wherever she worked, she enjoyed spending time with her coworkers. She made lifelong friends everywhere she went.

Mary Lou held that position from June of 1974 until she retired in June of 1990. She decided she wanted to spend more time with the kids and grandkids. She spent the next 20 years keeping up with all the sporting and after-school activities that all of them had going on.

On January 2, 1977, Mary Lou married Robert Long of Madras, on a cold snowy day with nearly a foot of snow on the ground. Robert left his employment at North Unit Irrigation District (NUID), as a ditch rider, and soon after he began working at John Deere Corporation in Portland, Ore. He continued there until 2007, retiring after 30 years.

With Mary Lou's three kids grown, she and Robert were able to make the most of long weekends and their annual 3- or 4-week vaca-

tions to travel about while still working full-time. They made many road trips to New Orleans and the East Coast to visit Robert's side of the family over the years, usually with a very special dog, and a cat or two riding in the motor home, looking out of the front top window.

They actually wore out the first little motor home and replaced it in 2004 with a newer, larger model.

Mary Lou and Robert were also able to take several cruises. Their retirement plans were to see even more of the U.S. Unfortunately,

illness made later travel very difficult. Mary Lou was a cancer survivor, but her Alzheimer's robbed them of that special time.

Mary Lou is survived by her husband of 35 years, Robert Long, of CRR, Ore.; her son, Robert (Bob) and Diane of Madras, Ore., with grandsons Brian of Redmond, Ore., and Eric of Portland, Ore.; daughter Pamela Friend of CRR/Terrebonne, Ore., with grandson C.W. and Mandy and great-granddaughter Nymewae, of Portland, Ore., grandson Joshua and Ashley and great-grandson Gillian of Terrebonne, Ore., and granddaughter Cheyenne of Pendleton, Ore.; daughter Kristi Lou and Craig Erickson of Pilot Rock, Ore., with grandson Boyd of Salem, Ore., and granddaughter Ashley of Pilot Rock, Ore.; sisters Jeanne of Prineville, Ore., and Betty of Pendleton, Ore.; along with many nieces and nephews and cousins. We loved her so and will miss her every day.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, baby brother Bobby, and Pam's son Gillian Friend.

Mary Lou and Robert moved to CRR in 2006 to be closer to family members. She loved being in Central Oregon, but the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon were her true home. She will be laid to rest alongside of her mother and father and other family members at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton, Ore. Viewing will be held Thursday, March 7 from 3-6 p.m. at Burns Mortuary, 366 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Services will take place Friday, March 8, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. in the Burns Mortuary chapel.

If you would like to make a donation it can be made to your local Alzheimer's Association in Mary Lou's name.

Cards of sympathy can be mailed to The Ringering Family, P.O. Box 74, Madras, OR 97741.



Long

Find good through a

Dear Abby: My husband and I are expecting our first child (later this year). How do I teach my son to enjoy solitude and his own company? Too many people turn on the radio or TV because they can't appreciate the quiet.

I want my little one to have interesting friends, but also periods of quiet, reflective fun time by himself. My husband and I grew up with siblings, but he hates social activities while I find lots of activities by myself. I am never lonely. What's the difference between social and loneliness? — **Solitary Tawa, Canada**

Dear Solitary Woman: The difference between solitude and loneliness is how an individual handles it. Some people find silence refreshing while others — like yourself — need to recharge their batteries.

For your son to be able to be alone, ration his television time to him so he'll learn to appreciate what entertainment books provide. Give him toys to play with that foster creativity: clay, paints and paper, a cardboard box that can pretend is a playhouse or a fort. (You may find he prefers it to the carton contained.) If he's interested to use it, his imagination will fill it.

Dear Abby: My father-in-law is an alcoholic and an avid gun enthusiast. He owns many weapons; I don't know the exact number. He has been accumulating ammunition at an accelerated rate because he's afraid that large caliber weapons will be banned. He drinks too much and becomes belligerent and angry very easily.

Last summer, during one of his fits of inebriation, he shot a gun in the living room as a "surprise" to the eight family members who were sitting within two feet of him. He takes pride in the fact that all his guns are kept loaded, as "what's the use of an unloaded gun?" On two separate occasions,

100 Years Ago From the East Oregonian March 4-5, 1913

Frank Pierce and his mother were taken yesterday evening from Hepburn when they had been to attend the funeral of James H. McHaley, the banker who was killed in an automobile accident a week ago Sunday. Mr. Pierce's death was reported in the newspaper reports of the accident were incorrect in declaring that the auto turned over it was a motorcycle and going at the rate of an hour. The motorcycle was stopped when it was passed by the car, not going faster than 20 miles an hour according to him. The accident occurred when the young son of the banker lost control of the steering apparatus.

50 Years Ago From the East Oregonian March 4-5, 1919

The McEwen Scotties, on their way to district competition, rose to the occasion and turned back their three opponents to win the District 7 championship, and the right to represent the district at Bend March 14. The team, coached by Cloyd Dunca, defeated the strong Riverside

Today is the 64th day of 2013. There are 301 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 5, 1963, country music performers Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas and



BY LYNN JOHNSTON



BY JOHNNY HART



BY PAT BRADY



BY MORT WALKER



BY JIM DAVIS



DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE



BY SCOTT ADAMS

I MAKE MY OWN GOLD