



Obituary

Born: Tuesday, April 12, 1932

Died: Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Duane Whitten

April 12, 1932 – September 9, 2015

Duane Leonard Whitten was born in Baker City, OR on April 12, 1932, to Walter Leonard Whitten and Wilma Irene (Kennedy) Whitten. He grew up on a ranch near Keating, OR, attended a one-room school in Keating, and delivered milk pulling a small wagon for his grandparents in Pondsosa, OR. He went to Baker City as a freshman in high school. The family then moved to Joseph, OR, where Duane finished high school and met June Walker, his future wife. They were married September 13, 1953, at the First Methodist Church in Joseph.

Duane completed his B.S. in Education at Eastern Oregon College in 1954, and taught in Baker City. He then joined the U.S. Army. After training at Fort Ord and Fort Knox, Kentucky, he graduated from radio school in the top five of his class and was allowed to choose the location of his next assignment. After a brief discussion with June, they decided to go to Germany. He was stationed near Mannheim. They purchased a Volkswagen and traveled on every possible leave Duane could earn. They greatly enjoyed touring most of the European Countries.

After returning to the states in 1957, Duane taught in Island City while June finished her education. They then met Rudy Rada and Wally McCrae and were both hired to teach in the Pendleton School District in 1960. Duane completed his M.S. in Education at Eastern Oregon College. In 1965, he was appointed principal at McKay Elementary School. He later was principal at West-Hills-Lincoln and many years at Washington Elementary School. He prided himself with excellent relationships with the students, staff, and parents in his schools.

June and Duane had two sons, Brian and Greg. Every year, after baseball season, the family packed up a travel trailer and went fishing and camping on the Oregon Coast and British Columbia. They spent one summer at a remote location out of Fort St. James, BC where the fishing was great and the boys regularly "fell" off the dock into the lake.

After retirement from the school district, Duane and June bought a motor home and had many wonderful trips. Most memorable were helping with birding tours into Mexico and touring into Guatemala with a motor home group. They also

Service Summary

Lunch Following Service

Celebration of Life

11:00 AM Mon Sep 21, 2015

Vert Auditorium

480 SW Dorion Avenue
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

traveled to Australia, New Zealand and many Central and South American countries on birding tours. The National Parks of the U.S. were also the point of many trips, traveling to over 50 parks, including all of the Hawaiian and Alaskan Parks.

Duane is survived by a brother, Gerald Whitten and his wife, Darlene of Tigard, OR, and a sister Darlene Whitten of Sacramento, CA. He is also survived by his wife, June, and sons Brian and Greg and their families. Brian and Holly and children Christa and Rex Knight and their son, Noah; Cody Wise and Wyatt Whitten; Greg and Jana and their children: Kelly and Stephanie Jobs and their children, Dean, Liam and Turner; Leelyn and Chris Zucker and their children Madison, Brooklyn, and Dawson; Tucker and Cheyenne Whitten, and Logan Whitten.

Duane enjoyed golf and was a member of the Pendleton Country Club since the 1960's. He loved the Blue Mountains, elk hunting from his property near Meacham, and many pleasant trips to the Wallowa Lake cabin. He belonged to the Elks, Morrow-Umatilla Retired Educator's Association, VFW, and Pendleton Bird Club. He was also a BIL for the P.E.O. Chapter EM. He enjoyed the camaraderie of two coffee groups, one of retired educators and the other of "old" friends. He resumed leather tooling, especially in his later years, and loved making belts and billfolds for friends and family. He raised wonderful tomatoes and often had the first ripe tomato in Pendleton.

He was a great sports fan and regularly attended local high school sports events. Baseball was his favorite to watch where he had his own parking place at Bob White Field. He also enjoyed watching sports on TV with golf being his favorite.

A Celebration of Life for Duane will be held Monday, September 21st at 11:00 AM at the Vert Auditorium. Lunch will be served in the Vert Club Room following the service. For those who wish, contributions may be made to the Duane L. Whitten Memorial PHS Baseball Scholarship at Columbia Bank, 2101 SW Court Place, Pendleton, OR 97801 or Burns Mortuary of Pendleton, PO Box 489, Pendleton. Sign the online condolence book at www.burnsmortuary.com