

## Eleanor Johnson McKean

Dec. 28, 1924 - April 13, 2008  
Eleanor Johnson McKean died Sunday, April 13, 2008, at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colo.

She was born Dec. 28, 1924, in Bird City, Kan. Eleanor was the daughter of Weaver B. Johnson and Sula Jane Ford Johnson.

Eleanor grew up in Bird City and graduated from high school there. She went on to attend the University of Denver, and it was in Denver that she met John B. McKean, an officer in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

They were married in Denver and lived there briefly after John's discharge from the military. They subsequently lived in Montrose, Colo., Colorado Springs, Wichita, and on three different occasions, Grand Junction, Colo.

Eleanor and John had two children, John A. McKean of Corrales, N.M., and Barbara J. McKean of Tucson, Ariz.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband, who died Dec. 13, 2007, in Grand Junction, her parents and Royce Johnson, a brother.

Eleanor was an active member of the First Congregational Church, Chapter CY, P.E.O., Western Colorado Botanical Gardens, and enjoyed many activities in the community.

She loved sports, bridge, stitching, and most of all, her family and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado, PO Box 60307, Grand Junction, CO, 81506; Western Colorado Botanical Gardens, 641 Struthers Ave., Grand Junction, CO, 81501; or the First Congregational Church, 1425 North 5th Street, Grand Junction, CP, 81801.

Arrangements were by Callahan-Edfast Mortuary.

## Howard Wesley Sawyer

Aug. 13, 1918 - April 11, 2008

Howard Wesley Sawyer was born Aug. 13, 1918, the second of four children born to Cecil William and Vera Ethel (Thornburg) Sawyer. He died on April 11, 2008, at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis, Kan.

Preceding him in death were his parents; brother, Russell William and wife, Adeline; sisters, Mildred Eileen Platt and Illa Elaine Friberg and husband, George; son-in-law, Daniel M. Sullivan; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Tom, Frances, Betty, J.C. and Leila and Loyd and Ida Gleason.

Howard grew up approximately 10 miles north of Bird City where he attended country school and church in the Evergreen community. As a child, Howard contracted rheumatic fever and spent many long days in bed. He was able to attend Bird City High School for about a year and a half before the doctor sent him to bed for a long period of time once again due to heart complications from the rheumatic fever. This condition ultimately contributed to his death.

In the fall of 1937, Howard and his brother Russell decided to go to

barber school in Denver.

On June 1, 1939, Howard married Louise Gleason at the Justice of the Peace in St. Francis. They celebrated their 40th anniversary with a family trip to Oregon. Their 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated with an extended family dinner and program in Bird City in 1989. In 1999, they were again fortunate to celebrate their 60th anniversary with an extended family potluck in Bird City. Last year they celebrated their 68th anniversary with a cake and punch reception at the Good Samaritan Village where, due to bad health, Howard had resided since August of 2006.

The Sawyer family lived many places, including Fort Logan, San Antonio, Denver, Stratton and Goodland before finally moving back to Bird City in 1948. Howard had purchased the Bird City Barber Shop from Lynn Burr and he ran this shop for over 42 years. In 1978, he opened the Atwood Headhunter Barber Shop and ran that until his ultimate retirement in 1990.

Although Howard was a barber by education, what he really enjoyed was being a salesman...whether he was selling vacuums, cards, real estate, radio advertising for KWGB, or roofing materials, he loved the excitement of the sale.

This year, Howard would have celebrated 40 years of sobriety having entered Valley Hope in 1968.

Howard enjoyed fishing, working on his boat, gardening, mowing lawns, fixing up his workshop, "tinkering" with anything that needed "tinkered" with, watching nature programs on television, playing cards and being with his family.

Every year for about the last 20 years, the Sawyer family would get together for a few days of fun...usually congregating in Bird City over Memorial Day. The family will always cherish the memories together and the family pictures that were taken.

Left to mourn his passing are: his loving wife of almost 69 years, Louise, who moved to St. Francis in September 2007 to be closer to Howard; his daughter, Detta of Chandler, Ariz.; his son, Derald and wife, Greta of Sioux City, Iowa; his son, Byron and wife, Margaret of Kansas City, Mo.; his daughter, Darlene and husband Roger (Lauer) of St. Francis; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Claude, Marvel and Clyde and Wilma Gleason.

Howard was fortunate to have six grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who will miss him also.

Funeral services were held April 15 at United Methodist Church in Bird City, with Pastor Becky Davison officiating. Interment was at the Bird City Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Greg Lauer, Gerald Lauer, Jim Gleason, Dwen DeGood, Roy Shrader and Gary Brubaker.

The family has designated memorials for the Good Samaritan Village and Cheyenne County Hospital.



**PLANTING THE TREE** — The Brogan family, along with members of the Garden Club, planted a tree in memory of Ben Brogan. Family members are Laura Brogan, Julie

Brogan and Angela Brogan, club member are Margie Hubbard, Marlene Johnson, Joan Tongish and Vera Kacirek.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

The tree planting at the McDonald Cemetery was postponed from April 9 to April 15. Just to keep the record straight that the wind blows every time the Garden Club plans a planting, there were wind gusts of 30 plus miles an hour.

Willie Martin had dug out the dead trees on the west side of the cemetery and prepared the holes for planting.

The north tree, a Frontier Elm, was provided by the McDonald Garden Club. The other trees were given by Laura Brogan in memory of her son, Ben. The trees were in full bud, just to leaf out, and with the nice rain on Thursday, they should really start to grow. The Memorial trees were Triumph Elms — a variety that can grow to 30 feet tall.

Garden Club members present for

the planting were Margie Hubbard, Marlene Johnson, Joan Tongish and Vera Kacirek.

The Brogan family members present were Laura Brogan, Julie Brogan, and Angela Brogan and Gary Brogan. Adam Powell was also present.

Jerry Lee and Cheryl Hopkins of Aurora, Colo., were Monday morning visitors of Joan Tongish.

Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson were Tuesday visitors of Agnes Reeh in Atwood and Friday visitors of Barney Kacirek and Norman and Tessa Davis.

R.J. Sabatka returned home on

Thursday following knee surgery in Fort Collins, Colo. on Monday. Laddie and Vera Kacirek were Sunday visitors of R.J. and Susie.

Friday evening, Jerry and Betty Knapp met the Stan Purvis family at Parkhill in St. Francis and all enjoyed supper together. Camie and L.J. Purvis returned home with their grandparents.

On Sunday, Stan and Becky Purvis were dinner guests of Jerry and Betty Knapp and the children returned home with their parents.

Remember: The rummage sale at the McDonald Senior Citizen building on Saturday.

## South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning

Elaine Kogl was a Friday overnight guest of Ote and Ellen Dewey.

Kathy and George Banister attended the Cheylin Promenade Saturday evening and helped serve the dinner. David Banister was home for the weekend. Colleen Shrader was a Sunday supper guest of the George Banister family.

Donna and Sandy Binning attended the Rawlins County High School Promenade Saturday evening in Atwood.

Bethel Golt joined their birthday party women for lunch Wednesday at Two Lees.

On Saturday, Bethel Golt along with the women of St. John Lu-

theran Church hosted the Tri-State Spring Cluster of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Diane Shay and family, Charlene Kramer, and Coleen Gattshall and Lanae attended the Pharo Cattle Company Bull Sale in Burlington, Colo., Tuesday. Ryan and Diane sold young bulls at the sale.

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We want to be a partner in building this community's success. As we celebrate Kansas Community Bank Week, April 28 - May 2nd, we invite our friends and neighbors to stop by our banks and let us thank them in person for their partnership and trust in Peoples State Bank to serve this community.

We will provide refreshments all that week to show our gratitude.

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