

OBITUARIES

Verle L. 'Tex' Ritter June 3, 1928 - Dec. 18, 2008

Verle L. "Tex" Ritter, Lincoln, Neb. died on Dec. 18, 2008 at the age of 80.

He was born on June 3, 1928 in Norton County to Leo Mae (Hager) and Franklin L. Ritter.

He graduated from Norton High School with the class of 1946, graduated from Hastings College with the class of 1956, received his Bachelor of Arts from the Mayo Clinic School of Physical Therapy in Rochester, Minn. in 1958 and received his Certificate of Physical Therapy.

He served with K Company, 180th Infantry Regiment in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1950 to 1952.

He was a physical therapist in a community hospital, a private community clinic, at nursing homes and a Veterans Administration Hospital, all in Wisconsin.

He was a life member of the National Disabled American Veterans; Post #7 in Lincoln, Neb.; 31 year member of the American Legion Post #3 in Lincoln, Neb.;

a member of the 180th Infantry Regiment Association and 45th Infantry Division Association; a member of the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 0199 in Lincoln, Neb.; and the South Gate United Methodist Church.

He was a three-sport contender in high school and won several medals; played baseball for teams at various levels including college and city and 180th Infantry Regiment, where he was the only player without prior professional experience.

He bowled on several teams including a scratch league, and played on several golf teams.

In his earlier years, he loved to hunt pheasant and ducks; and for all his life he loved to fish, during both summer and winter.

He enjoyed woodworking, oil painting and gardening, especially tomatoes.

He coached youth teams for his children and supported their athletic efforts.

Survivors include his wife of

52 years, Shirley (Kent) Ritter of Lincoln; his son Eric Ritter and fiancée Patty Wood, Ballston Lake, NY; daughter Dr. Erin and husband Dr. Christopher Masada, Lincoln, Neb.; grandchildren Megan, Nicholas and Daniel Masada, all of Lincoln, Neb.; sister Alta and husband Richard Dutton of Norton; and sister in law Marlyn and husband Richard Engelhardt; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents in law, three sisters, three brothers in law and two nephews.

Services were held today at 10:30 a.m. at South Gate United Methodist Church in Lincoln, Neb.

Inurnment will be at a later date. There will be no visitation.

Those who wish may send a gift to the Norton Public Library. Condolences may be sent to www.aspenaftercare.com.

Aspen Cremation and Burial Service in Lincoln, Neb. is in charge of arrangements.

Velda Ward Aug. 18, 1925 - Dec. 19, 2008

Velda Ward, Oberlin, died on Dec. 19, 2008 at the Cedar Living Center in Oberlin at the age of 83.

She was born on a farm in Norton County on Aug. 18, 1925 to Hiram Fullerton and Bertha (Crabill) Fullerton. She was raised in rural Norcatour.

She attended Long Branch Country School and graduated from Norcatour High School in 1943.

She lived on a farm near Norcatour, then moved to Norcatour in

1980, where she resided until moving to the Cedar Living Center in Oberlin in 2006. She was a member of EHU, Commercial Club, Cardinal Cafe Board and the Norcatour Alumni Association.

She married Frank Ward on April 14, 1946 in Norcatour.

She worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 27 years. Sewing was her hobby.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her hus-

band, Frank Ward; son Leslie and wife Lynn Ward of Norcatour; daughter Wava Reames of Norcatour, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral service took place at Paul's Funeral Home in Oberlin on Monday at 2 p.m. Interment was at the Norcatour Cemetery.

Visitation was Sunday from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Monday from 8 a.m. to service time.

Memorials may be made to Cedar Living Center or the Norcatour City Building Fund.

Another winner



Neva Erhardt brought ticket number 791038, which she got from Kansasland Tire to claim her \$50. Mrs. Erhardt is a long-time Norton resident. She said she is unsure how she'll spend the money, and that she has been watching the ticket numbers in the ad for most of the promotion. — Telegram photo by Christie Anderson

Accident report

Sunday, Nov. 30 — Sheriff Deputy, Jody Enfield responded to a deer-related accident on Road Q. Mark Scheetz, Norton, was driving west on Road Q when a deer came onto the road. Mr. Scheetz was unable to avoid hitting the deer. Damage was listed as more than \$1,000. Haley Jones, Norton, was listed as a passenger. No injuries were reported.

Friday, Dec. 12 — Officer Curtis Black responded to a hit-and-run on private property. An unknown vehicle backed into a legally parked vehicle belonging to Joan Hessler, Beaver City, and left without reporting the accident. Damage was listed as more than \$1,000.

Wednesday, Dec. 17 — Assistant Chief Jeremy Hartwell responded to a two-vehicle accident on east Wilton. George Jones, Norton, was backing out of a driveway when his vehicle struck a vehicle being driven by Ashley Millan, Norton, as she was driving west on east Wilton. Damage was listed as less than \$1,000. Zach Otter was listed as a passenger in Mr. Jones's vehicle. Courtney Kaus was listed as a passenger in Ms. Millan's vehicle. No injuries were reported.

Wednesday, Dec. 17 — Sheriff Deputy Scott Bohl responded to a one-vehicle accident on Highway K-9. Ethan Long, Oberlin, was driving west on Highway K-9 when he went off onto the shoulder and over corrected. He then went into the ditch on the other side of the road, over an embankment and caused damage to his vehicle. No damage was listed. Mr. Long was listed as injured and transported by private vehicle to the Norton County Hospital.

Coconut and mice win

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkans.com

Harriett Gill's Chocolate Coconut Bars won first place in the adult category in the Norton Telegram's Second Annual Cookie Contest held on Friday, Dec. 12. She won an apron made and donated by Stitch Up A Storm, a trophy donated by The End Zone, and a six-month subscription to The Norton Telegram.

A close second were Amber Brown's classic Chocolate Chip Cookies. Mrs. Brown took home a set of ceramic measuring cups and a Junior's Cheesecake Cookbook, both donated by Destination Kitchen.

Third place in the adult category also went to Harriett Gill, who also went home with an American Profile Cookbook, donated by The Norton Telegram, and three premier movie passes donated by The Norton Theatre.

In the children's category, Libbi Puga took first place with her

mouse cookies. Libbi won a child-sized apron made and donated by Stitch Up A Storm and an American Profile Cookbook, donated by The Norton Telegram.

Corbin Puga took second place with his reindeer cookies and won a measuring cup and ceramic measuring spoons donated by Destination Kitchen and the Everything Kids cookbook donated by the Norton Telegram.

Nic Koch's whippersnapper thumbprints took third place in the kids' category. Nic won three premier movie passes to the movies donated by the Norton Theatre and the Kids Cook cookbook donated by the Norton Telegram.

The winners were determined by votes. It cost a quarter to cast a vote for an entry, and there were no limits on the number of votes a person could cast. The Telegram office staff also accepted non-perishable food items to be given to God's Pantry. In total, \$168.33 was raised for God's Pantry.

Strangers join family feast, get gifts

The telephone jangled early on Christmas Eve afternoon and as I listened to Mama's side of the conversation, I was not very happy. It seemed some cousin and her son were coming into town on the bus and wanted to stay overnight with us. On Christmas Eve! They would be picked up next day by some family from Lakin but... Christmas Eve with people I didn't even know?

Mama called Dad at the store and told him to go to the bus stop at the Staatz Hotel to bring the guests home after he closed the store. "And, Arthur, if you could round up a few more oysters to stretch the stew? Yes, yes, I know, dear, but this is family. What else could we do?"

Now the bustling around began. Round up bedding and make up the basement bedroom for Roger and then clean his room for guests.

"Why should Rog have to sleep down there? Why can't they?" I sulked, upset that Roger had to give up his room.

"They're guests, Liza Beth," Mama said patiently, "and guests get the best we can provide."

Next Mama searched through her cedar chest and came up with a flat pink box containing four fancy embroidered handkerchiefs folded in tissue. "Isn't it lucky I still had these new," she said, "so Nettie will have a gift to open tonight." Traditionally our family opened one gift after supper on Christmas Eve, saving the rest for after church on Christmas Day. The handkerchiefs had been

Child of the 40s Liza Deines



a gift to Mama from her sister, saved back for "best," but by now I was past being surprised at Mama's unstinting generosity.

"Now I wonder what I can find for Edwin? Let me think..." She went off mumbling to herself. With a sinking heart I realized what she had in mind even though I knew she wouldn't ask. Slowly I went downstairs and looked at my toys lined up on the shelves under the stairwell. No doll dishes for a boy or paper dolls and I had no unused coloring books or crayons. I rummaged with a grudging heart. My eye came back again and again to my recent birthday gift from Aunt Frona in California. It would do fine, just fine. And at last I picked it up and went to find Mama. The look on her face when she saw what I carried was almost worth the loss of my favorite new toy. Almost.

When Dad arrived with Cousin Nettie and Edwin the house was warm and cozy, smelling delicious, festive with Christmas tree lights. We dined on oyster stew with the special round crackers while catching up on family news. When we gathered around the tree later our guests were both surprised when a gift appeared for each of them. Edwin's face lit

up as he unwrapped my beloved kaleidoscope and, turning it to the lamp light, I showed him how to view the shifting colors and shapes. He gasped with wordless delight as the patterns changed within the turning tube to ever more beautiful designs. Suddenly my sullen heart was light as a feather. His joy was also mine and although I was ashamed that I had been so reluctant to give, I rejoiced that I, too, had chosen to give the best I had to offer.

Christmas Day, Nettie and Edwin were picked up early, headed for their family's holiday celebration in southwestern Kansas.

The most amazing thing happened to me later that day during Christmas service. For the first time ever, I heard something in the course of the sermon that caught my attention. The minister, speaking on Christmas customs, said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." I tugged at Mama's sleeve even though I knew I wasn't supposed to whisper in church. This was important. "Mama, that's TRUE, it really, really is -- I didn't know church stuff was really, really true!"

Mama's blue eyes smiled down at me and, unbelievably, she whispered back, right during church. "Yes," she replied, "all this church stuff is really, really true."

Blessed Christmas to all of you from one who learned that "church stuff" is really, really true today, always, and forever.

FYI

Please join Edwin Trueblood in celebrating his 90th birthday!

His children and grandchildren will host a reception at First United Methodist Church in Norton from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Jan. 3, 2009.

If you cannot attend, please send Edwin a card: 11999 US Hwy 36 Norton, KS 67654.

The Norton Telegram...
News you need!

COME CELEBRATE
NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE
Cardinal Bar & Grill
Wednesday, December 31

Featuring Ribeye or T Bone Steaks
Served from 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Music will be provided by
"Country Plus" (Jackson's) from 8-12:30

RSVPS APPRECIATED, BUT NOT NECESSARY

Merry Christmas
from
**Garden Gate
Florals, Etc.**

Friday, Dec. 26 & Saturday, Dec. 27
75% off Holiday Merchandise
And Always... "Fresh" Flowers
for Every Occasion

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Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
W. Highway 36, Norton
Next to Dairy Queen
www.flowersatgardengate.com
785-874-5125 or
Toll free 866-873-2252

Please Join Our Family
on this Joyous Occasion —
the 50th Wedding Anniversary
Open House of
Bill and Janice Beale
Wednesday, December 31, 2008
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Norton Christian Church
208 North Kansas
Norton, Kansas

Dec. 24-
Dec. 31

Showing at the
NORTON THEATRE
YES MAN
(PG-13) Premiere, 1 Hour, 47 Minutes
BEDTIME STORIES
(PG) Premiere, 1 Hour, 51 Minutes - in Digital Surround Sound
Thurs.-Fri.-Sat: 7:00 and 9:05 p.m.
Sunday: 5:00 and 7:05 p.m.
Mon., Wed. 7 p.m.; Tues. 5 p.m.
FOUR CHRISTMASSES
(PG-13) 1 Hour, 37 Min.
Wed Christmas Eve Only

Let's Go to the Movie

Since both movies are premieres, only premiere passes accepted

BOTH MOVIES ARE THE PREMIERE PRICE OF \$7-\$6 (NO DISCOUNTS THIS SUNDAY)

Check the Theatre website for Upcoming Events
website:nortontheatre.com

This ad is brought to you by The Norton Telegram