



John (Jan) Hofman, age 88, of Manhattan, Montana, died on February 25, 2008. He was born January 4, 1920 in Slappeterp, Friesland, The Netherlands, the youngest son of Simon and Pietje Bruinsma Hofman. He attended schools in Friesland and as a young man won several medals in Dutch ice skating competitions. In 1947 Mr. Hofman immigrated to Montana and lived in the Manhattan area until his death. He met Marie deJong in 1957 and they were married in Churchill in 1958. The couple raised four children and resided near Amsterdam at their address on Stagecoach Trail Road for 48 years until 2006, when they relocated to the Parkhaven Retirement Community

in Manhattan.

Initially he was employed by several farmers in the Amsterdam area and later became self-employed and raised potatoes. Other employers were Northern Pacific Railroad, Fisher Body Shop, Yellowstone Pine; and in 1985 he retired after 16 years of employment with Montana State University. Mr. Hofman was known throughout the community for his bicycle repair skills, a hobby he enjoyed and continued until he was in his 80's. Other hobbies included his vegetable and flower gardens and reading. He taught himself to speak and read English in his late 20's and was an avid reader. Well known for his storytelling and sense of humor, he was a modest unassuming man who valued people, their friendships, and enjoyed catching up with friends over a cup of coffee.

Mr. Hofman was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Simon and Pete Hofman; survived by his wife of 49 years, Marie Hofman of Manhattan; daughter Anne (Theodore) Medenblik of Hillsborough, North Carolina; son Simeon (Sherry) Hofman of Belgrade; daughter Peggy (Howard) VanderMeer of Waterdown, Ontario, Canada; and daughter Mary (Daniel) Corr of Spokane, Washington; 12 grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews.

He was a member of First Manhattan Christian Reformed Church.

The family wishes to express their appreciation to the staff at Parkhaven and the staff at Rocky Mountain Hospice for their care and kindness, and to friends and relatives for their support and prayers.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at the First Manhattan Christian Reformed Church. Interment will be in the Churchill Cemetery, and there will be a time of fellowship and refreshments for family and friends in the church fellowship hall following the interment. Visitation hours with the family will be from 7 to 9 pm Wednesday evening at the Dokken-Nelson Chapel. Memorials may be made to the Bible League, P.O. Box 28000, Chicago, Illinois 60628 (bibleleague.org) or to a charity of one's choice. Funeral arrangements are by Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service.