



WARREN JAY YELEY
May 14, 1928 – June 8, 2008

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arren Yeley, 80, of Bozeman, peacefully went to heaven, Sunday, June 8, 2008, with his loving family by his side.

Warren was born May 14, 1928, in Marshall, Illinois to Ella May and Jay Townsend Yeley. He grew up on the family farm hunting rabbits and squirrels. He met the love of his life, Mary Crumrin while in high school. They married on July 22, 1950. From there they travelled to Washington, DC where Warren served at Ft. Belvoir and taught surveying in the Army Corp of Engineers. Their first son, Bob, was born in DC. After serving in the Army, Warren and Mary moved to East Chicago. During their time there, their second son, Mike, was born.

The family packed up and headed west to Denver, Colorado where Warren attended gunsmithing school. Upon graduation, Warren and Mary pulled out a map and selected several locations as prospective cities to settle in. After travelling over 1,000+ miles pulling a U-Haul trailer, they decided on Bozeman, Montana even though Warren was told he couldn't make a living in Bozeman as a gunsmith.

Warren did gunsmithing out of his basement during the evenings and worked during the day for Haggerty Messmer. Warren's past history of walking around the top of silos as a boy came in handy as he volunteered to set the roofing ring in place on the top of the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse/Worthington Arena. Their third son, Marc, was born in Bozeman.

In the early 60s, Warren managed the Beaver Pond. Designing and building custom firearms was a true love of his which continued even after leaving the Beaver Pond.

In 1967, Warren and Mary bought Williams Texaco located on the corner of Grand and Main. Warren didn't like Texaco green, so he painted the building candy striped red and white. After selling the station in 1976, Warren was a partner in Yelew Builders and built houses for a few years. Seeing the opportunity of selling homes rather than building them, he pursued his real estate license. Shortly after receiving his license, Warren and Mary started Summit Realty Century 21. They sold the business and retired in 1998. Not one to sit idle during retirement, Warren kept busy with Falcon Storage.

Warren was involved in many community service organizations including: Kiwanis (Past President), Bobcat Booster Club, Elks Club, Masonic Lodge (Past Worshipful Master of Lodge #6), Gallatin Shrine Clowns, Scottish Rite, York Rite, and Algeria Temple.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, RVing, boating with his family, restoring cars and building planes. One hunting trip will always be remembered as Warren, his son Mike and longtime friend, Martin, and his son, came home in their Volkswagen Bug with a moose tied around the rear bumper, a deer tied to the front bumper and coyote in the trunk.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Martha Jones and Faith Sharp, brothers Max and John Yeley, and grandson, Brandon Yeley.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, of Bozeman, sister Doris Moyer of St. Charles, MO, sons Bob Yeley (Jeanne) and Marc Yeley (MaryKay) of Bozeman, MT and Mike Yeley (Debbie) of Jefferson City, MO and grandchildren Sami, Chris, and Colter Yeley of Bozeman, MT, Sean Yeley of Missoula, MT and Nick Yeley (Melissa) and great granddaughter Laila of San Diego, CA.