



Hu N. Williamson passed away Saturday, October 18 at Mountain View Care Center. He had been a resident of the care center for the past months after a fall and a broken leg had rendered him unable to care for himself. Hu entered this world August 14, 1922 at a Catholic hospital in Miles City, Montana after a Model T trip from his family home in Terry, MT. He was the son of Albert and Meta Williamson. Albert and his brother Fred had homesteaded in the Terry area and while there Albert met Meta Krueger, a local school teacher, whom he married shortly thereafter. Before Hu arrived, Albert and Meta had a daughter, Hope and a son, Albert (Monte), who were both born at home in Terry.

Soon after Hu's birth, the family moved to Missoula, Montana, where Hu attended Paxson Grade School and Missoula County High School. During these early years, summers were spent on the east shore of Flathead Lake clearing land and planting cherry trees on approximately 60 acres of land. This place was eventually sold in 1942 when it became

too much to care for.

After one year at the University of Montana (formerly Montana State University) in Missoula, Hu enrolled at the Boeing School of Aeronautics in Oakland, CA to become a meteorologist. Shortly thereafter (December 7, 1941) World War II began. Boeing converted four engine B-24 bombers to cargo carrying C-87's and United Airlines, who owned the school of aeronautics, furnished the flight personnel to fly the planes. However, there were no trained navigators. Hu and other students of the school were offered conversion training to air navigators. After brief training, Hu was assigned to a crew that made 15 trips across the Pacific to Australia via Hawaii, Canton or Christmas Island, Fiji and New Caledonia. These trips were all accomplished using celestial navigation.

In the spring of 1944, Hu was drafted into the Army and given a commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He was assigned as an air transport navigator to lead combat crews from the United States to the European war zone. These trips included England, Italy, Africa, and India. After each trip he was able to return to the U.S., while the combat crews remained to fight the war.

After his discharge in 1945, Hu returned to continue his education in accounting at Montana State University (formerly MSC) in Bozeman. After six months in 1946, he decided to return to the University of Montana in Missoula. However, during his short time in Bozeman at MSU he met Elaine Fouse and they were married on December 28, 1946.

Shortly after, son, Steve, was born (December 18, 1947), Hu graduated in accounting and moved to St. Paul, Minnesota for his first job. After two years in St. Paul, the family moved to Sidney, Montana and Hu became the town's first CPA. Hu would continue practicing public accounting in Sidney for 50 years.

During those years of public accounting in Sidney, Hu was very active in community and civic affairs as well as one of the founders of the Sidney Golf Club. He served on the Sidney School Board, the Sidney Chamber of Commerce Board and was director of the Richland County Economic Development Corporation. He was a charter member of the Sidney Jaycees and was elected its first President in 1955 as well as being recognized with the Jaycee Distinguished Service Award and Boss of the Year Award. Hu was involved in the formation of the Sidney Elks Lodge and instrumental in forming and funding numerous charitable foundations. Hu was a great vocal supporter and contributor to the University of Montana and a charter member of its council of 50. In May 1999, Hu received the University of Montana Outstanding Alumnus Award from the School of Business Administration.

Hu was preceded in death by his first daughter, Shelley; his parents, Albert and Meta Williamson; sister, Hope Gillette and her husband, Eugene; brother, Albert (Monte) Williamson and his first wife, Laura.

Survivors include his wife, Elaine, of Bozeman; daughter, Brooke (Cliff) Everest of Bozeman; sons, Bill Williamson of Helena, Eric (Jane) Williamson of Anchorage, AK, Steve (Georgiann) of Bozeman; and grandsons, Nathan and Lige of Anchorage, AK.

In accordance with Hu's wishes, cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held in Sidney, MT at a later date followed by interment at the Sidney Cemetery. Hu always greeted his friends with a ready smile. Hu was a fine man and he will be missed.