



Clarence Walter Curdy passed away Dec. 14, 2007 at Elsie's Assisted Living in Belgrade where he received wonderful, loving care.

Clarence was born just inside the Gallatin County line on the homestead on Miles Creek near Clyde Park on March 17, 1918. He was the third son of six children born to James and Emma (Christie) Curdy. He grew up there where he rode horses to school with his brothers and sisters. They raised sheep, milked cows and farmed on the home place. Summers were spent with numerous cousins coming to Curdy's place to play, work and spend time with all the kids. He graduated from Gallatin Co. High School in 1938.

In 1941 he moved to Santa Monica with his brother Everett to work in the defense plant at Douglas Aircraft. On Jan. 1, 1942, he married Edith Buffington. In Nov. 1942 he enlisted in the Navy and went to boot camp at Farragut Island, near Coeur D'Alene, ID. He was sent to San Francisco and eventually attached to a squadron (Bombing-Fighting 87<sup>th</sup>) that was assigned to the aircraft carrier Ticonderoga. He was an Aviation metal smith first class. His job was to repair the airplanes after they returned from battle. He was in Tokyo Bay when the armistice was signed to end WWII.

After the war he returned to Bozeman and he and Edith started their family of two girls, Suzanne and Beverly. He was a carpenter for a while but eventually took classes to learn how to lay linoleum, carpet, install counter tops and ceramic tile which he did for 50 years in Bozeman. He was a craftsman that enjoyed his work and found great delight in doing a good job for someone in their home.

In 1972, his wife Edith, was killed in a tragic car accident which he survived but was severely injured, and eventually recovered. In 1976 he was married to Irene Eisenbeis Mitchell and was happily married until her passing in 1999.

He built his own home in the four corners area on Cobb Hill Road and lived there until 2006, when his poor health required him to move to assisted living.

He was a life member of the First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman. He was a member of Bozeman Lodge # 18 AF&AM, Bagdad Shrine Temple, Butte, and was a clown with the Gallatin Shrine Club.

He also enjoyed camping in his RV and was an active member of the Gallatin Good Sams.

He was preceded in death by his wives and a special friend Irma Fritts, his brothers, Roy and Everett, a sister LaVera Lutes, and his parents.

Surviving are his daughters and their husbands, Suzanne (Jim) Bratsky of Bozeman; and Beverly (Charles) Brown of San Dimas, CA; four Grandchildren, Jake (Dagny) Kleimer of Belgrade; Shawn (Matt) Maierle of Portland, OR; Kevin Bratsky of Andong City, South Korea and David (Erin) Bratsky of Havre, MT; five great grandchildren, Nicholas, Nathaniel and Nolan Kleimer, Maggie and Ethan Maierle; and step-daughters, Sharon Driessen of Weiser, ID and Pam (Terry) Van Slate of Coeur D'Alene, ID; step grandchildren, Shawna (Randy) McKinnis of Imbler, OR; Lee John Driessen of Weiser, ID.

Gretchen (Todd) Ray of Post Falls, ID and Ben Van Slate, Iraq and six step-great grandchildren. Also surviving are sisters, Hazel and (Don) Durham of Belgrade, and Ruth McGinnis of Butte and numerous nieces and nephews and cousins.

A funeral service will be held at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, Dec 19 at First Presbyterian Church. Interment will follow at Sunset Hills Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Shriner's Hospital for Children, PO Box 2472 Spokane, WA 99210 or to the Rockhaven Camp Scholarship Fund, c/o First Presbyterian Church, 26 West Babcock, Bozeman, MT 59715.