



With sad hearts we announce the passing of James Cecil Boyd (Jim or Cec), a devoted husband, father, and grandfather at the age of 93 on Saturday, December 19, 2009.

Jim was born to Loren and Aldora Boyd on October 11, 1916 in Dalkena, Washington, the 6th of 7 children - all of whom have preceded him in death. At the age of 10, a freak farming accident near Deer Park, Washington could have made his life story very short. While putting up hay with his father, he fell between the wagon and two runaway draft horses. He was dragged until he was knocked away by a tree stump. Thanks to the skill of an old country doctor, he survived.

Jim graduated from Deer Park High School and went on to get his undergraduate degree at Washington State University. He worked his way through school milking cows, but also found time to letter in wrestling. After graduating he worked as a Milk Sanitation Specialist in the eastern Washington area. A short time later he was back at school earning his Master's Degree from Montana State College. During his time in Bozeman he met and dated his future wife, Marianne Davidson of Helena.

In 1943 he graduated from Montana State College and enlisted in the Army. They used his extensive laboratory skills in the Medical Corps running cultures for injured and sick soldiers. He was stationed in New Guinea, The Philippines, and Luzon. Discharged in 1946, he married Marianne in Seattle, Washington, where she had worked for Boeing during the war. They moved to the Bay Area where he went to work for Golden State Dairies. Their first child, Carolyn, was born in Oakland in 1946.

The next several years were extremely active. In 1947 he took a teaching job at the University of Idaho. Son, Jim, was born in Moscow in February 1950. His reserve unit was called up and deployed to Korea in 1951. Upon discharge from the service, he moved the family to East Lansing, Michigan where he obtained his PhD. They returned to University of Idaho in 1953, where daughter Barb was born in October. In 1956 the family moved to Bozeman where he became the Head of the Dairy Department at Montana State College.

A huge impact on the family at this time was Marianne being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Apart from Jim's professional career, he experimented with, and put into use, many innovative solutions for dealing with the day-to-day realities of caring for Marianne. He was a devoted caregiver and worked very hard to give the family as normal a life as possible. After 23 years, Marianne succumbed to her illness and passed away in 1976.

Jim always had a love for farming and owned a series of "Gentleman Farms" where he raised hay and small herds of cattle. These real estate ventures led to some very successful land development projects.

After Marianne's passing, he married Helen McCarthy in 1977. Helen actually typed his Master's thesis at Montana State College before the war. After Jim and Helen retired they headed out to see the world. They traveled to Ireland, Scotland, Italy, Argentina, Australia, and Alaska. They also took one of the last transcontinental train rides across Canada.

Always the handyman and woodworker, Jim made countless toy cars and trucks that he donated to children in the Bozeman area and overseas. Jim was also an active member of the local Kiwanis club.

Jim is survived by his wife, Helen; children: Carolyn (John Berg), Jim (Kate McAnally), Barb (Bill Berg); 7 grandchildren: Sam (Colleen Rau) and Libby Berg, Megan and Ryan Boyd, Victoria (Gordon Pehringer), Greg Lozano (Dana Burkett) and Weston Berg; and 6 great grandchildren: Riley Rau-Berg; Jada Thompson; Isaiah and Gavin Pehringer, Dominic Berg and Davis Lozano. He is also survived by his sister-in law, Jane McCarthy and numerous nieces and nephews.

Always the teacher, he donated his remains to WWAMI so others could learn. During this time of giving, Jim would have donated to the fight against MS, to local Kiwanis activities and to the scholarship fund at the MSU College of Agriculture.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held this spring.