



George L. Lemon, 91, of Gallatin Gateway passed away on October 30, 2010. George was born in Galion, OH on May 11, 1919 to Royal Burt and Pearl Lemon. At the young age of three months old he decided he did not like Ohio, so he headed west to Montana. George was raised at the Halfway Inn along the Gallatin River, which is now the Rainbow Ranch in Gallatin Canyon. George lived there with his family ranching and logging with cross cut saws and horses. They ran the family saw mill which was powered by steam. They also ran the family store and gas station. George guided hunters for the family for many years in the Gallatin drainage.

He entered the army on April 3, 1943 and proudly served in the Tenth Mountain Division (Ski Troopers), 126 Combat Engineers, stationed at camp Hale, CO. Overseas time was spent in France and Italy in WWII. He was wounded in combat with shrapnel in his eye but returned to combat. He was honorably discharged Valentine's Day, Feb 14, 1946. Medals and honors included, American Campaign Medal, European- African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal and WWII Victory Medal.

After he was discharged, George worked at the Idaho Pole Yard in Bozeman for several winters. George married Clara Lou Barnes in 1950; they just celebrated their 60th anniversary on October 20 of this year. George and Clara Lou lived in the Gallatin Canyon in the log home across from the family ranch. The log house they built was built from logs that he cut. He worked for the Montana State Highway Department for 22 years plowing thousands of miles on 191 in his years of service.

They had two daughters, Donna and Verna. George had a passion for the mountains. He loved fishing the Gallatin River and the surrounding alpine lakes that he packed fish to for the forest service. He was a member of the per-diem guard for the forest service, hotshot fire fighting with a water backpack and Pulaski. He caused many sleepless nights for his wife taking off on multiple day trips on wooden skis in the middle of the winter to tackle some mountain top in the Gallatin Range including Lone Mountain before it was ever a resort.

After he retired from the Highway Department, he spent his time mentoring his two grandchildren in the mountains skiing, hunting, trapping, mountaineering, and taking care of his family. George and Clara Lou moved to Gallatin Gateway in 2000 where he spent the remainder of his time.

George is survived by his wife, Clara Lou; his daughter, Verna and her husband Royce Sene; as well as his two grandchildren and their wives, Brandon and Jessi and Dustin and Brooke Sene; and his great grandson Daniel; as well as several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers and sisters, and his daughter.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, November 5, at 11am at Soldiers Chapel Cemetery in Big Sky.

Should friends desire, memorials may be made to Eagle Mount, 6901 Goldenstein Lane, Bozeman, MT 59715.

Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service