



Ronald Ray Portnell, 82, of Manhattan passed away January 28, 2009. He was born December 17, 1926 in the old Deaconess Hospital in Bozeman to Tom and Bernice (McPherson) Portnell. He graduated from Gallatin County High School in 1944.

Ron worked for his father on the family farm on Cottonwood Creek. He and Gordon Hinz enlisted in the Army Engineers during the Korean War. Ron, however, was refused because of a heart murmur, so he returned to work on the farm. In 1949, he went to work for Louis and Maude Hersey on a ranch on Gooch Hill.

In October of 1950, he was drafted into the Army for two years. He served in the 95th Anti-aircraft Unit in Germany, stationed near Mannheim and Frankfurt.

In 1953, he met the love of his life, Betty Louise Sines, and they were married June 24, 1953.

Ron worked in pulpwood and logging with Maurice Dusenberry, and in 1969 got a chance to go to Bowling Machine Mechanic School in Culver City, California. He returned to work for Herb Hruska and Ray Stewart at the Bozeman Bowl. He later bought Ray Stewart's interest in the Bowl and Mike Hruska bought Herb Hruska's interest. Ron eventually sold out to Mike Hruska and bought Gallatin Valley Bait. Also in the early 70s, he partnered in the Arctic Cat Snowmobile Dealership with Pete Lewis and Bob Reiser.

Ron later worked for the City of Bozeman Water Department, retiring in 1989. He sold the bait farm property in 1991 and moved to Manhattan.

Ron is survived by his wife of fifty-five years, Betty Louise; sons, Steven E. Portnell and Clinton B. (Vivie) Portnell; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorial Services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 31 at Dokken-Nelson Sunset Chapel. A reception will be held at 12 p.m. at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center. Private family graveside service at Salesville Cemetery. Visitation at Dokken-Nelson will be from noon to 7 p.m. on Friday.

Memorials in Ron's name may be made to the Bozeman Deaconess Cardiac Rehab Center, 931 Highland Blvd. Ste. 3200, Bozeman, MT 59715. Arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service. www.dokkennelson.com