

E. Franklin Wicker, 77, Moscow

Friday, March 21, 2008



Ed Franklin (Frank) Wicker, 77, passed away Thursday, March 20, 2008, at his home after a two-year battle against cancer.

He was born Aug. 21, 1930, in Upper Tygart, Ky., the third of 13 children of Leslie and Bessie Hamilton Wicker. He attended elementary school in Wheelersburg, Ohio, and graduated from high school in Portsmouth, Ohio. When not in school, he helped on the family farm. He enjoyed telling stories of those days - plowing with mules, hunting with hounds and working hard to get a large family through the Depression and war years.

In 1950 he joined the Air Force for four years and served during the Korean War. While stationed at McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma, he met Veneta Law in 1952. They were married in Port Angeles, Wash., on Dec. 20, 1953. He attended Washington State University in Pullman 1955-1963, earning a bachelor's degree in forestry and a Ph.D. in plant pathology.

He worked as a research scientist for the U.S. Forest Service from 1955-1992. His career took him to Moscow, Washington, D.C., and Fort Collins, Colo., where he retired as assistant director of research for the 14-state Rocky Mountain Region. He took his family along on two research sabbaticals to Europe and Japan in the 1970s.

He was a member in Moscow of the Elks, Eagles and Lions clubs.

After retirement, he returned with his wife to Moscow, where he enjoyed gardening, golfing, fishing, hunting and traveling south in winter and spring.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Veneta at their Moscow home; daughters and their families, Joel and Cynthia King and son Philip of Moscow, and Colin and Sonja Takatori and sons Jason and Lucas of Mukilteo, Wash.; brothers, Duke and Carl; sisters, Norma Nolan, Reba Ann Willis, LaVern Allen, Jinny Dundon and Alma Willis; sister-in-law, Winona Hutchison; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation with the family and viewing will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 24, and from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Short's Funeral Chapel in Moscow, with a graveside service at Moscow Cemetery to follow at noon Tuesday.

Memorial gifts may be made to Hospice of the Palouse, 700 S. Main St., Moscow, ID 83843; or Idaho Youth Ranch, 5465 W. Irving St., Boise, ID 83706.