

B. J. 14.02

Francis Bird

Francis L. "Frannie" Bird, 64, Benton, died March 6, 2002, at Veteran's Hospital, Madison.

Francis was born Feb. 28, 1938, the son of Joseph and Elva (Raisbeck) Bird. He married Kathryn "Kay" Spillane on April 9, 1960, in Cuba City. She preceded him in death on March 4, 1999.

Frannie enlisted in the United States Air Force from 1955 to 1958. He received his high school diploma in 1956. After release from the U.S. Air Force, Frannie attended MATC in Madison and obtained an Associate Degree in marketing in 1966, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and Economics from UW-Platteville in 1973. Frannie worked at various jobs throughout his life, but the careers he engaged in most extensively were a housing contractor for Dodgeville Rural Housing and later a self-employed contractor with his own business, Bird Construction.

He lived a full and eventful life. He treated people with the utmost respect and believed there was good in everyone. He had a gift of understanding the struggles of others and a sense of compassion that was unending. His gift of giving continues to be apparent with his donating his

organs to those in need. His insightfulness and compassion for others, and his warm sense of humor are indicative of why so many hold him in high esteem. His lessons on life are ones that we will cherish forever and hopefully reflect upon for the rest of ours. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Survivors include five daughters: Linda Lawrence, Benton; Rebecca Lawrence Burns (special friend Phillip Houtakker), Shullsburg; Rhonda Bird (Tim) Wildes, Benton; Jackie Bird (Jerry) Bennett, Cuba City; and Mary Jo Bird (Steve) Hoffmann, Leadmine; three brothers: Lawrence (Bonnie) Bird, Reno, Nev.; Kenneth "Butch" (Janice) Hammill, Benton; and Dennis (Pam) Hammill, East Dubuque, Ill.; two brothers-in-law, Bill (Deb) Griffin, and Keith (LaVonne) Spillane, both of Benton; nine grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by a grandson, Joel, a brother Paul, three brothers-in-law, Donald and Daniel Spillane and Joe Griffin.

Services were held March 8, 2002, at Casey Funeral Home, Benton. Burial of the remains will be in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Benton, at a later date.

Casey Funeral Home, Benton, served the family.

Velda I. Bills A.G.

Velda I. Bills, 86, Shullsburg, died Oct. 27, 2000, at Lafayette Manor Nursing Home, Darlington.

She was born Nov. 11, 1913, at New Diggings, the daughter of John and Jennie (Hall) Edge. She was a graduate of New Diggings High School in 1931. Velda married Leonard Bills on Oct. 17, 1936. They farmed most of their lives, and when they retired they moved to Shullsburg.

She enjoyed gardening, sewing and baby-sitting.

She is survived by two sisters: Eileen Laird, Oconomowoc; Jean Edge, Shullsburg; a brother, Bill Edge, New Diggings; a sister-in-law, Jen Edge; a brother-in-law, Arthur Hancock; many nieces and nephews; great-nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard, on June 24, 1969; her parents; a brother, Lyle Edge; two sisters, Dorothy Edge and Audery Hancock; two nephews, Jack Laird and Ron Hancock; and a brother-in-law, Allen Laird. 1-9-13

Funeral services were held

Oct. 30, 2000, at the Centenary United Methodist Church, Shullsburg.

The Furlong Funeral Home,

Dorothy Besand

RJ 87
Dorothy E. Besand, 64, Argyle, died Friday, Feb. 17, 1989, at St. Clare Hospital, Monroe.

She was born in Lafayette County, June 16, 1924, the daughter of Maurice and Mabel Gilbertson Ulsrud. She graduated from Argyle High School. She married Robert Besand in February,

1949, in Rockford, Ill. She was an employee of Advance Transformer, Monroe, for 20 years until her retirement in 1986.

She lived in the Argyle area except for five years when she was a Rockford, Ill., resident.

A member of the Argyle Lutheran Church, she was on its church council, active as a Sunday School teacher, a member of its WELCA, treasurer of the Argyle American Legion Auxiliary and of the Argyle Homemakers Club.

Survivors include two sons, Robert L., and Roger E. Besand, both of Argyle; three sisters, Mrs. Ruth Breisath, Monroe, Mrs. Robert Florinda Wittwer, Monticello, and Mrs. Denzil (Mavis) McCombs, Elma, Washington; one grandson; and one step-granddaughter.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 21, from the Argyle Lutheran Church with burial in the Adams Lutheran Church Cemetery.

The Erickson Funeral Home, Argyle, was in charge of arrangements.

Bidlingmaier

Mrs. Edward H. (Louise) Bidlingmaier, 84, Rt. 1, Argyle, Adams Township resident, died on Sunday, Dec. 5, in St. Clare Hospital where she had been admitted on Dec. 1. Mrs. Bidlingmaier had been a patient at Pleasant View Nursing Home since March 25, 1976. Death was due to complications of old age.

Born in Monroe Township, Green County, on Aug. 17, 1892, she was the daughter of Gottlieb and Elisa Wuethrich Boss.

R. J. Besand - other 12-9-76

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