

Abraham Franklin Bartsch
1933-2009

Abe's life on Earth ended just 16 days short of his 76th birthday. Now he is with his Lord. He was one of ten children born to Peter H. Bartsch and Susie (Wiebe) Bartsch in Delft, Minnesota. At age eight, he moved to a farm in Reedley, California, and graduated from Reedley High School, Fresno State College and Springfield College. He taught grades 4-6 in Reedley and Fresno for 33 years, enjoying gifted, choral groups and storytelling. He retired in 1991.

He was preceded in death by Paul and Blanch Bartsch, Polly Duerksen, Si Bartsch, Susie Kornelsen, Pete Bartsch, Jim Bartsch, Marty Romsdahl and three nephews. He is survived by Becky Bartsch, his wife of 43 years.

(excerpt from The Fresno Bee)

Ruth Edmiston
1924 – 2008

Ruth Elaine Edmiston died Saturday, November 22, 2008, at her Woodlake home. She was 84. Ruth was born October 16, 1924, in Fresno. She was raised in Woodlake and attended Woodlake schools. On March 1, 1947, she married Richard Edmiston. In 1984, Ruth was named Woodlake's Woman of the Year.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Richard. She is survived by her four children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

(excerpt from The Kaweah Commonwealth)

Lewis Alvin Gress
1936-2009

Lewis Alvin Gress, father, husband, businessman, house boater and car lover, passed over into the hands of God on April 8, 2009, to the great sorrow of his family and his many friends. Like so many things in Lew's life, his death was unexpected, the result of a brief and unexplained illness.

After moving to the valley from his home state of Oregon, he bought a one-truck garbage company in Visalia. Over the years, Lew grew his company, Allied Disposal, into a successful business with thousands of customers. He and his wife ran Allied Disposal together until 2000, when he sold the company and they returned to Portland.

(excerpt from The Oregonian)

Lew Gress

Lew was introduced to Wilsonia in the 1970s, when he contracted with the NPS to pick up the trash inside the parks and campgrounds. In the early years, he rented the Medina cabin, then purchased 83829 Sierra Lane, named "Pasatiempo". Immediately, that was changed to the name it is known by today – "Camp Wasted". To know Lew was in the "garbage or waste" business would help you understand the naming of the cabin. For many years, he sponsored at the end of the season "The Garbage Man's Ball", a large intoxicating party for everyone.

Lew was on the WVI Board of Directors, and I believe at one time served as President. He took me in as a partner in 1985, and later sold me his other half of Camp Wasted, which I now own. The name will never change, nor the sign over the cabin door, which reads: L. Gress – E. Costa, "One good deal after another". One of his favorite sayings, in memory of him. Those who knew Lewie loved and respected him, and those who did not missed a chance of a lifetime. He was truly a great guy and a wonderful friend.

Respectfully submitted,

Eldon Costa, Camp Wasted

Ernest Nelson Mobley
born Nov. 1, 1914
died Mar. 10, 2009, 90 years old

He served in the U.S. Army in five major campaigns across Europe. He was in the Normandy Invasion and the Battle of the Bulge. His service was recognized with the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and three Purple Hearts. He retired as a Colonel in the U.S. Army; and then served in the California National Guard Reserve to the rank of Brigadier General.

He served as Fresno County Administrator, Santa Monica City Administrator; and served from 1967-1976 in as California Assemblyman in the 33rd and 31st districts. Agriculture and water were some of his main concerns.

In 1971 he and his wife Lillian bought a cabin at the corner of Cedar and Lily Lanes in Wilsonia. He served on the Wilsonia board, and was concerned with the Carter-era in-holder "cabin clearances" by the NPS.

He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on June 16, 2009 with full military honors.

contributed by Norm and Jill (Mobley) Gustafson