

Obituary

Died: Sunday, May 6, 2012

Loading...

STEVENSVILLE - Jack was born Aug. 6, 1916, in Stevensville to John A. and Cora Cook Emerson. He was a native son who spent his entire life in Stevensville, except for eight years spent in Spokane and military service during World War II and three years in Stevi's younger suburb, Missoula. Jack was a good student, class officer and athlete on championship teams in the Stevensville High School Class of 1934, of which he was the last surviving member. He was an outdoorsman and an avid Yellowjacket and Griz fan throughout his life.

On March 8, 1941, he married Jean Sperry in St. Ignatius at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Sperry. Jack and Jean were a devoted team through her death in 2005.

Jack worked for Richfield Oil Corp. (now ARCO) in Spokane from 1938 until 1946 when the family moved back to Stevensville and he replaced his father as local service station and delivery agent for Conoco. In 1957, he became Stevensville postmaster and remained in that position until he retired in 1980. Jack and Jean lived in Stevensville, except for a pleasant three-year sojourn to senior living in Missoula this past decade. They returned to Stevensville in 2005, shortly before Jean's death. He remained a faithful member of the Stevi Drug "Old Geezers" coffee club through late 2011 and was a daily fixture on Main Street walking to and from his residence until his 95th birthday.

Jack was a member of the Methodist Church and was church treasurer for 10 years. He was past president of the local Civic Club. He was member and officer of the Stevensville Fire Department for 25 years and a radiological monitor. For several years he was a director of First State Bank in Stevensville; and he was a lifetime member of the Elks Lodge in Hamilton. He enjoyed travel throughout the U.S., and he particularly enjoyed the family cabin at Flathead Lake. Excellent at his job, he enjoyed traveling with Jean on special assignments exploring Montana and instructing new Montana postmasters in their duties and responsibilities.

Survivors include his son, John Michael Emerson (Jane) of Seattle; three grandchildren, doctors Jennifer (Al) of Seattle and Geoffrey (Lynda) and Vaughn (Katie) of Minneapolis, Minn.; and seven great-grandchildren; plus a niece Terri (Del) Lawton of Lake Cavanaugh, Wash. In later years we all learned and enjoyed new stories about his pioneer family, who arrived in Stevensville in the early 1880s.

Jack was a charter member of that group known to the rest of us as "the Greatest Generation." He contributed more than he received. He was a good citizen and great friend and neighbor, deeply beloved by his family. He remained in good health until his 95th birthday; and we will miss him.

A memorial service to celebrate Jack's life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 2, at the Stevensville United Methodist Church. The family suggests memorial donations may be made in Jack's name to Aspen Hospice, the Methodist Memorial Fund or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Read more:

<http://missoulain.com/news/local/obituaries/john-c-jack->

[emerson/article_000fc972-9f55-11e1-a482-001a4bcf887a.html#ixzz1v2p5zUIS](http://missoulain.com/news/local/obituaries/john-c-jack-emerson/article_000fc972-9f55-11e1-a482-001a4bcf887a.html#ixzz1v2p5zUIS)

Service Summary

- Service details not available -