

In Memoriam

'90s

'94 and '97 Ronald Vanderholm, 44, BA international affairs and MED curriculum and instruction, died Dec. 15, 2005. The Moses Lake resident had been a teacher at Royal City High School since 1997.

'93 Gerald McDermott, 58, BA social work, died Nov. 16, 2005. The Victoria, B.C., resident was remembered at a gathering at the Kalispel Community Center on the Kalispel Reservation near Usk.

'92 Samuel Stockton, 37, BS physical therapy, died June 19, 2005, in Seattle. He had been a physical therapist at Virginia Mason Hospital and was on the Washington State Board for Physical Therapy.

'91 and '95 Margaret E. "Betty" Davis, 74, BA liberal studies and MS communications, died Dec. 1, 2005. The Stevensville, Mont., resident worked at the JFK Library and in the publications unit at Eastern in the 1990s. She worked for Montana radio and TV stations and was a certified ceramics teacher.

'90 and '92 Robert L. Evans, College of Fine Arts with a BA in studio art and art history, died recently in Las Vegas. A professional artist, Robert worked as a teacher for the Las Vegas school district.

'90 Miquette Gilson McCanna Seimears, 39, BS dental hygiene, died Feb. 12 in Spokane Valley.

'80s

'88 Dirk A. Bible, 47, BA health administration and community health education, died Jan. 22, 2005 in Alaska.

'87 Bonita L. Rutherford, 42, BA radio-television, died recently in Tri-Cities. She worked in radio-television, but writing and theater were her passions. She also was an award-winning photographer.

'84 David Faire, 43, BA professional accounting, died Jan. 2 in Spokane. He worked as an accountant throughout his career, most recently for the Spokane Regional Health District as finance director.

'82 Stewart G. Ailor, 76, BA education, died Feb. 2 in Spokane Valley.

'70s

'79 Glen E. Bradwin, 53, BA and MA in education and college instruction, died Feb. 14 in Spokane. He worked as the head athletic trainer at EWU before selling insurance. He returned to math education, his first love, teaching in the Spokane Valley and Ephrata schools.

'76 and '04 Robert M. Fenno, 56, BA sociology and MSW, died Jan. 2 in Spokane. The former Okanogan resident worked with children at the Department of Social and Health Services in Spokane.

'76 Andrew W. Berg, 80, BS geology, died Feb. 12 in Spokane. He worked as a geologist for the U.S. Bureau of Mines until he retired in 1996. He was a member of the advisory board for Eastern's College of Science, Math and Technology.

'76 Tilton Hutson, 72, BA general accounting, died Jan. 8 in Spokane Valley. He had been proud to serve his country during the Korean War.

'74 William Specker, 54, BA theatre, died Dec. 13, 2005, in Spokane. He worked at the Coliseum, the Spokane Arena and Opera House for 30 years and was a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

'74 Christopher Tollackson, 53, BA professional accounting, died Jan. 8. A lifelong resident of Spokane, he had been chief financial officer for United Health Services Credit Union.

'72 and '79 Irene Kay (Atwood) Knight, 68, BA education-childhood development and MED early childhood education, died Jan. 6. She taught kindergarten and first grade in Spokane for 29 years.

'70 and '75 Robert L. Nolan, 59, BA education-mathematics and ME education, died Jan. 5 at his home in Wilson Creek. He retired at the end of December as superintendent at Wilson Creek, culminating a 35-year career in education.

'60s

'68 Clifford Hitomi, 60, BA business administration, died Jan. 23 in Spokane. He worked as a counselor for Washington's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for 30 years.

'67 and '68 Winifred McGrew, 90, BA and MA communication disorders, died Jan. 15 in Spokane. She was instrumental in creating the Speech Pathology Department at Eastern State Hospital.

'66 Joyce Anderson, 63, BA English, died Nov. 30, 2005, in Phoenix. She taught for nearly 40 years, the past 20 years in the Kyrene School District in Phoenix.

'66 Howard Waterman, 62, BA education-biology, died Dec. 14, 2005, in Spokane Valley. He taught school for 30 years at Central Valley High School, retiring in 1996, and going on to teach workshops for science teachers until 2004.

'65 Rae Kessler, 90, BA education, died Feb. 22 in Clarkston. She worked as a substitute teacher in many area schools.

'62 and '67 Robert Fisher, BA elementary education and MA school administration, died Nov. 30, 2005, in Olympia. He taught in Spokane schools, was president of the Spokane Education Association, government relations specialist for the Washington Education Association and retired as WEA's director of government relations and chief lobbyist.

'61 Betty Mortensen, 69, BA education, died Nov. 28, 2005, in Spokane. She taught in Alaska and Washington and later was a caseworker for adoptions and foster care placement for the Department of Social and Health Services.

'50s

'58 Ernie Franks, 77, BA physical education, died Nov. 23, 2005, in Chewelah. He lived in the Springdale area most of his life and taught and coached in the Mary Walker School District until retirement in 1985.

'57 John Patrick McGee, 71, BA industrial technology, died Dec. 18, 2005, in Everett. The former Marysville resident and GTE employee lived in Mill Creek since 1996. He was a founder of Marysville Seniors Against Crime.

'57 Beatrice (Feiring) Saldin, 92, BA education, died Jan. 21 in Spokane. She taught school for 18 years, 15 of which were in the Home Economics Department at Sacajawea Middle School.

'55 Selma Meyer, 90, BA early childhood education, died Jan. 9 in Spokane. She taught in Spokane schools until retirement in 1976.

'53 Marilyn G. Prekeges, 74, BA elementary teaching, died Feb. 13 in Kirkland, Wash. She was a Tawanka.

'51 Dale Veach, 76, BA early childhood education, died Dec. 27, 2005. He played basketball at Eastern and went on to a career as a life insurance underwriter, retiring in 1997.

'50 Glen Ryan, 82, BA general accounting, died Nov. 11, 2005, in Spokane. He was employed in accountancy positions in Ephrata, Yakima and Spokane and retired as a field auditor for the Washington Department of Revenue in 1992. He was an active ski instructor through 2002.

'50 George Veach, 86, BA early childhood education, died Jan. 4. He taught for 27 years

in the Spokane School District and retired to his Priest Lake, Idaho, home in 1977.

'50 Gilbert Doran, 77, BA psychology, died Jan. 13 in Spokane. He was an investment banker and vice president at Murphy Favre.

'50 Thomas E. Tyrrell, 79, BA education, died April 23, 2005, in Yakima.

'40s

'49 Geraldine Sutton, 94, teaching certificate, died Aug. 31, 2005, in Spokane. She began teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in Colorado and spent a lifetime in the teaching profession.

'48 Phillip H. Coble, 90, BA early childhood education, died Feb. 18 in Spokane. He served as a principal in several school districts throughout the state before retiring in 1973 to enjoy golf, fishing, camping and boating.

'47 Mary Jeanette Cunz, 80, BA early childhood education, died in Spokane Nov. 5, 2005. She taught for 34 years, retiring in 1986.

'47 Lawrence H. Kerns, 91, BA education, died Dec. 16, 2005. A resident of East Wenatchee, he taught and coached in central Washington communities for many years and was principal at Peshastin-Dryden High School until retiring in 1976. He played basketball at Eastern.

'30s

'39 Seth Huneywell, 88, BA education, died Dec. 7, 2005, in Spokane, where he lived all his life. He had been an elementary school principal.

'37 and '61 Loma A. Saunders, 92, BA education-social science, died Feb. 1 in Ritzville. She worked as a teacher in the Ritzville School District until retiring in 1971.

'34 Lorraine P. (Stiles) Overmyer, 97, BA education, died Jan. 19 in Stockton, Calif.

'36 Kathryn L. Turk, BA English, died Feb. 8. Kathryn was a homemaker, active volunteer and 70-year member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

'20s

'27 Lois Harriet Sampson, 104, BA education, died Feb. 13 in Spokane. She worked as a teacher for 18 years before retiring in 1966.

'27 Bertha E. (Gering) Graber, 101, BA music, died Feb. 22 in Ritzville. She worked as a teacher 24 years at Soap Lake. She later operated the Tourist Court from 1950 to 1967 with her husband, Joseph.

'26 Elizabeth Fairchild Iverson, 98, education, died June 16, 2005, in Everett. She taught for many years in Seattle, lived in Panama for seven years, traveled extensively and made her last trip through the Panama Canal in 2002.

Faculty/Staff

Darlene Ritter, 65, died Dec. 13, 2005, at her home in Cheney. The wife of Peck Ritter, professor of chemistry/biochemistry, she worked at Eastern for 18 years, leaving her position in Dining Services in 1992.



'50 Steve Spacek, BA education-PE

Time Well Spent

In March, retired professor Steve Spacek passed away after battling cancer. A fixture at Eastern for more than 40 years, he will be sorely missed.

He began teaching in Eastern's Department of Education in 1958 and continued until he retired in 1997.

Yet Spacek's presence was appreciated on the basketball court as well as in the classroom. For more than 600 college basketball games, Spacek had the best seat in the house — floor level, exactly at midcourt. And no one could steal it, either. Reason: Steve was manning the score clock in Cheney's Reese Court as a devoted volunteer. He was never paid a dime.

That amounts to nearly three decades of timekeeping, second by second, while young legs pounded the boards.

Since 1989, Steve's wife, Jan, operated the scoreboard by her husband's side during most Eagle basketball games. The two were honored for their combined 44 years of loyal service at a reception following the Feb. 4 home game against Northern Arizona.

After serving in the Korean War, Steve earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado (1963) and a doctorate from University of Idaho (1976).

An unabashed sports fan, Steve was the timer for all 136 Big Sky Conference home games of the men's basketball team.

Raised in Tekoa, Wash., Steve weighed 112 pounds and rose to a height of 5-foot-6-3/4 when he played high school basketball. His team's shorts engulfed him long before baggy was cool.

"I remember my mom saying, 'I have to work on those,'" said Steve. "'They're just a little too long.'"

A final, fond farewell to Steve. Thanks for all the good times!