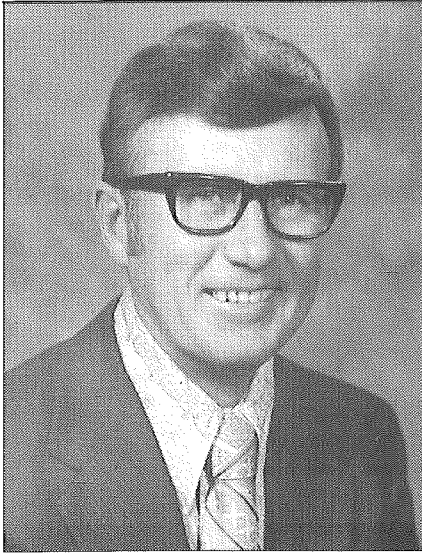


# Boardman "higher ground pioneer" Dewey West passes away



Dewey West

Photo contributed

Dewey Walter West Jr., a longtime resident and former mayor of Boardman, Oregon, was born on May 9, 1921 in Arlington, Oregon to Althea Delworth Wetherell West and Dewey West Sr. He died on December 23, 2009 at his home in Boardman, Oregon at the age of 88 years. Dewey graduated from Arlington High School in 1939, and married Irma Jean "Jeanne" Beeks on May 22, 1942. He worked for the Union Pacific Railroad in the young family's years, and later owned and operated Boardman's Chevron station.

Dewey served on Boardman's City Council for nearly 5 decades. In 1963 Dewey was elected mayor of Boardman and he continued to function in that capacity until 1976. Mayor West facilitated the relocation of Boardman's town site to "higher ground" as the John Day Dam was completed and the Lake Umatilla rose. When Morrow County schools joined into one county-wide district, Dewey served on the local school board, as Boardman and Irrigon high school students consolidated to attend Riverside High School beginning in 1959.

Several year's ago at a Port of Morrow celebration Larry Lindsay stated "It was the dreams, vision and dedication of two men in particular that changed the course of Morrow County history in 1959 that Dewey West and Gar Swanson acted to establish a port for Mor-

row County." A "charter member" of this endeavor, Dewey remained an active commissioner and participant on the Port of Morrow's Board until 1977.

In the process of planning for the town's relocation and advocating for Boardman as a rural community, Dewey became active in the League of Oregon Cities, a membership lasting 45 years culminating with Dewey's election as president of the League of Oregon Cities in 1972.

Dewey and Jeanne West were owners and managers of Boardman's Chevron station for more than fifty years. In addition they co-owned and operated the C&D Drive In with in-laws, Carroll and Shirley Donovan from 1966 until 1978. During this time the Wests invested in property south of Boardman which Dewey dubbed, "The Broken Rafter Ranch." In the late 1970's a local horticulturist, Ed (F.E.) Glenn, joined with Dewey and Vern Russell in a partnership that came to fruition under the label of "La Casa De Vin."

Dewey lost his high school sweetheart, wife and mother of his children, Larry and Dewena, in 1997, when Jeanne passed away after a prolonged illness. The following year, he married Jeannette Long at Boardman's Community Church.

Over the years Dewey was honored by numerous agencies and organizations expressing appreciation for his community service: These include the League of Oregon Cities, East Central Oregon's Association of Counties, Boardman and Heppner's Chambers of Commerce and the Port of Morrow. Dewey and Jeanne acted as Parade Marshals for the community's 4th of July celebration and were honored as "Boardman Pioneers" in 1956. Dewey is listed as a charter member of the Hermiston's #1845 Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He enjoyed fishing, traveling, and

the coast.

Dewey is preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws, Sam and Lela Beeks, his wives Jeanne and Jeanette, and by dear friends and neighbors Evelyn and Ronald Black and by cherished friends John Walker and Bill Garner.

Dewey is survived by his son, Larry Dean West, and wife Carol, Gresham, OR; his daughter Dewena Rae Bates and husband Frank of Boardman, OR; four grandchildren: Shauna Rae Bates, San Diego, CA, Dewey Colin West, Gresham, OR, Robert Dawson Kaj West and wife Michelle, Stevenson, WA, Morgann Alexandra Johansen, and husband Erik, Portland, OR; one great grandchild, Kaj Christian Dawson West, Stevenson, WA; 3 sisters, Evelyn Russell Locy, The Dalles, OR, Shirley Donovan, Boardman, OR, and Lois Hutson, Warrenton, OR; Dewey is further survived by numerous nieces, nephews, friends and relatives here in the United States as well as relatives in Denmark.

Baptized July 2, 1933, at the Methodist/Episcopal Church in Pendleton, Dewey joined the local Community Church when his family first settled in Boardman. A graveside service will be held at Riverview Cemetery in Boardman on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 10:30 A.M.. A celebration of Life Service for Dewey West Jr. will follow on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. at Boardman's Community Church with Joel Chavez officiating.

Contributions honoring Dewey's memory can be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospice, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836, the Boardman Community Church, P.O. Box 233, Boardman, OR 97818, or Boardman's Senior Center, P.O. Box 1062, Boardman, OR 97818.

Larry and Dewena wish to convey their heartfelt "Thanks" and gratitude to Pioneer Memorial Hospice and to the many in-home staff who provided such wonderful support and care, including: Minnie "My Angel" Hernandez; Jessie Davila; Rita "Tinkerbell" Moreno; and Lupe "Princess II" Bipes.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon is in care of arrangements.