

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/newsminer/name/beverly-severns-obituary?id=58251470>

Beverly Anne Severns

1930 - 2025



BORN 1930

DIED 2025

Memorial Service

Jun. 7, 2025, 4:00 p.m., Journey Christian Church

Beverly Severns Obituary

Beverly Anne Lindholm Severns was born at the Wichita Hospital in April 1930. She was the sixth of eight children born to Nora and Ernest Lindholm. Anne grew up on a farm in Cheney, Kansas, with her brothers and sister. They attended a one-room country schoolhouse until their eighth grade and then attended high school in Cheney, Kansas.

After high school, Anne attended Kansas State College, now K-State University. It was during a time that many students were going to college on the GI Bill, which overcrowded the universities. Kansas State had to add classes at 7 am to accommodate the influx. That early class is where Virgil and Anne met. Anne had drifted off to sleep, woke up and was trying to check the time and happened to see Virgil's watch. Dad had won this watch placing first in the high jump at the Drake Relays track meet. The numbers on the face of the watch were replaced with the letters "D R A K E, R E L A Y S." The watch started a conversation, and the rest is history.

Just before Christmas break, Anne saw the professor of the class. She informed him that she and Virgil were going to be married and he replied, "I'm glad you got something out of my class besides sleep!"

Early on in their courtship, Dad asked mom if she'd be willing to move to Alaska. Her adventurous spirit prompted her to quickly reply "Yes," and the engagement began. On Dec. 23, 1951, they were married in Cheney, Kansas.

After their honeymoon Virgil reported for duty in the United States Army at Fort Holabird, Maryland. Anne went back to finish her Bachelor of Science degree in home economics. As soon as she graduated, she joined Dad in Maryland. In 1953, Ronald Dean was born at Fort Hood, Texas, in the largest state of the union at that time. Kenton Leon was born in 1955 in Hoxie, Kansas.

Not giving up on the original question of moving to Alaska, they began writing letters to every high school located on the highway system in Alaska. In 1956, Virgil accepted a teaching position at the new

Lathrop High School in Fairbanks, Alaska. Thus began their 66-plus year adventure in Alaska.

In August 1956 they moved to Fairbanks in a pickup truck pulling a 30-foot house trailer. It took three weeks to make the trip.

That fall of 1956, Cyril Eugene was born in Fairbanks in the Territory of Alaska. The temperature was -44 degrees Fahrenheit. We call that 44 below.

In 1957 they purchased a homestead on Chena Hot Springs Road. This was home, where they enjoyed raising their children, gardening and living the true Alaska experience. Their nearest neighbors were a mile away. Mom embraced the challenges of living on the homestead with no running water, (yes that means an outhouse), no telephone, one car (which Dad took to work) and roads that became impassable during spring of the year. She kept Dad and the children in clean clothes, fed, lunches made, and ready for church, school or work, whatever the day may bring. Throughout the years Mom masterfully tended to the homestead and six children. God gave Mom the gift of hospitality. This always kept their dinner table open for traveling guests, church visitors and dad's colleagues. She always made room for one more. Mom loved to knit and crochet. She made coats, mittens, Christmas stockings, and she also made each grandchild an afghan for their high school graduation present.

In 1959, Jerome Dale was stillborn and was buried on Birch Hill in Fairbanks, Alaska, which is now the largest state in the union. When they lost Jerry and almost lost Mom, the doctors said it wouldn't be safe for Mom to have any more children because her uterus had ruptured during the birth process.

In 1961 they adopted Starla Jean and in 1962 they adopted Esther Arlene and by the grace of God they had Grace Anne born in the fall of 1967, during the cleanup after the big Fairbanks flood. So, they call Grace their flood baby. This completed their family, Mom always said God gave us a lot of children, but he didn't give us any extras.

Dad taught at Lathrop High School and later went to work for the University of Alaska where he worked as a Cooperative Extension agent until his retirement. The last five years with the university were spent in Nome, Alaska, another welcomed adventure of Iditarod Trail sled dog races, polar bear plunge challenges, food orders delivered by barge once a year, honey buckets, gold mining on the beach, mom working on the ambulance crew and many other unique experiences.

After retirement they continued living on the homestead, staying busy with gardening, farmer's market, grandchildren and traveling with mom's siblings. Among their travels were trips to Africa, Guam, Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia, Israel, Germany and a trip through the Panama Canal.

Mom and Dad celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary on Dec. 23, 2022. They both give credit to the Lord for their abundant blessings.

With confidence we believe that Anne - wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother - is at "Home" with God in Heaven.

1 Thessalonians 4:14. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.

Anne was preceded in death by her mother and father; six of her siblings; her son, Jerome Severns; and

daughter, Starla James.

Anne was survived by her husband, Virgil Severns; and children, Ron and Linda Severns, Kent and Cheryl Severns, Cy and Kittie Severns, Esther and Terry Howell, and Grace and Andy Knowlton; 20 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren; her brother, Norman Lindholm, and many nieces and nephews.

There will be a joint memorial service for Anne and Virgil Severns at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 7, 202, at Journey Christian Church 1201 Holselton Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/newsminer/name/virgil-severns-obituary?id=58251389>

Virgil Dean Severns

1929 - 2025



BORN 1929

DIED 2025

About

Memorial Service

Jun. 7, 2025, 4:00 p.m., Journey Christian Church

Virgil Severns Obituary

Virgil Dean Severns was born in a small tenant farmhouse in Norton County, Kansas, in March 1929. His mother almost died during childbirth. The town doctor came to their home daily to care for Irma. This was a burden Virgil carried in his heart throughout his life, thinking that his birth almost killed his mother. He was the second of three children born to Ross and Irma Severns. His older brother, Wilmer, was born in November 1924 and their little sister, Margaret, joined them in June 1940.

Early life brought many moves and changes as they moved as tenant farmers from one farm to the next in Norton, Kansas. While Virgil was in high school his parents bought a farm that they had worked for the Scott family. It became their family home for the next 30-plus years. Virgil continued to call it the Scott place throughout his life.

Virgil's father, Ross, figured if you had the energy to run around you had the energy to get some work done on the farm so neither Wilmer nor Virgil were allowed to participate in organized athletics. While Virgil was in high school, Wilmer, who was now in the United States Army during WW II, wrote their dad a letter and convinced him to let Virgil go out for the high school track team.

Virgil excelled in the high jump, middle distance and hurdles. Thirty years later his name was on the

walls of Norton High School, still holding some of the records that he had set.

Virgil continued his track career in college at Kansas State College, now K-State University. He was the first K-State high jumper to win a USA National Championship and represent our country in international competition, winning a gold medal at the inaugural Pan American Games in 1951.

Virgil met Beverly Anne Lindholm (Anne) while at K-State. As their relationship moved along nicely, Virgil decided he should pop the big question. "Would you be willing to move to Alaska?" Virgil had thought about moving to Alaska since he was a young boy, when a couple of his uncles had shown pictures to him and talked about their Alaska experiences. When Anne was game for Alaska he asked the real question. She said "Yes" to that question as well, and they were married in her hometown of Cheney, Kansas, on Dec. 23, 1951.

In the fall of 1951, the Army drafted Virgil. He had just completed basic training in time for their wedding and a short honeymoon. Then he went back to the Army in Maryland, and Anne finished her final semester at K-State.

Two years in the Army and two years in Hoxie, Kansas, teaching high school science brought two sons into their lives, Ron in 1953 and Kent in 1955.

One year back at K-State earning a master's degree on the GI bill brought them to a crossroads in the summer of 1956. Virgil applied for a teaching position at every high school on the road system in Alaska. Not hearing back from Alaska, he began looking for teaching positions in Kansas. When he went for an interview in Kansas, Anne said, "Don't sign a contract. We are still waiting for an Alaska job offer."

Virgil did receive a letter from Dr. Ryan offering him a teaching position at the newly opened Lathrop High School in Fairbanks, Alaska. So, in August 1956 they packed up a 30-foot house trailer and jumped in the cab of a 1953 Chevy Pickup. Virgil, Anne, who was expecting their third child, and their two young boys, Ron and Kent crowded into the cab of the pickup beginning their Alaska adventure with a 21-day trip up the Alcan Highway to Fairbanks.

Their son, Cy, was born that fall in the territory of Alaska. Virgil often remarked about seeing the bank thermometer on the way to the hospital reading -44 degrees Fahrenheit.

Virgil always wanted to homestead and farm in Alaska. Between teaching and a growing family, proving up on a homestead seemed impractical, so instead they opted to purchase a homestead on Chena Hot Springs Road. This was home, where they enjoyed raising their children, gardening and living the true Alaska experience. Virgil had the responsibility of digging an outhouse, hauling 5-gallon jugs of water (carrying them a mile through the impassable muddy roads) and keeping vehicles running.

In 1959, their son, Jerome Dale, was stillborn and buried on Birch Hill in Fairbanks, Alaska. The doctors told Anne it would be very dangerous for her to have anymore children.

Virgil taught for five years at Lathrop High School before moving to the University of Alaska to work for the Cooperative Extension Service teaching in the villages along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. He enjoyed working with the people in the rural communities teaching gardening, tanning and assisting with 4-H Clubs. As the villages were just getting electric power, he had the opportunity to teach them the basics of electricity. He developed many lasting friendships with the people in rural Alaska.

From his experiences working with Alaskan Natives, Virgil and Anne were excited to adopt two Alaska Native children who were without a permanent home. In 1961 they adopted Starla Jean, a Tlingit Indian, and in 1962 Esther Arlene, an Athabaskan Indian.

In the fall of 1967 by the grace of God they safely had Grace Anne. This was during the cleanup after the big Fairbanks flood, so they call Grace their flood baby. And their family was complete.

The last five years with the university were spent in Nome, Alaska. This was another adventure which included working with the reindeer herds, watching the Iditarod Trail sled dog races, taking part in polar bear plunges, panning for gold on the beaches in Nome, barge orders for groceries, and life with honey buckets.

After retirement, in 1985, Virgil and Anne spent summers in Fairbanks gardening and selling vegetables at the Tanana Valley Farmer's Market and in the winters, they went to Norton, Kansas, to care for Virgil's parents until their passing in 1996. In 1998, Virgil and Anne then came back to Fairbanks full time. Virgil volunteered his time delivering Meals on Wheels for 21 years and held a position on the board of the Carenet Pregnancy Center, now Fyndout Free Pregnancy Clinic. He was an elder and part of the mission board at Farewell Avenue Christian Church, and later was a member of Journey Christian Church. He sold vegetables at the Farmer's Market and will always be remembered as the tall farmer with the Stetson hat and a big smile.

Virgil and Anne enjoyed many family gatherings in their home. Virgil enjoyed reciting poetry and other readings. All those gathered listened with rapt attention, waiting for their favorite. Anne enjoyed serving delicious meals and playing board games, Skip-Bo, Dominoes and Rummikub with grandchildren and others. Virgil and Anne celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary on Dec. 23, 2022. They both gave credit to the Lord for their abundant blessings. Anne passed away in February 2023 leaving a big whole in Virgil's heart. For the next 19 months, Virgil enjoyed many visits from his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends. He loved catching up with what was going on in their lives. In November 2024, Virgil was reunited with Anne in Heaven.

1 John 3:2. Now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Virgil was preceded in death by his wife, Anne Severns, and daughter, Starla James.

Virgil is survived by his children, Ron and Linda Severns, Kent and Cheryl Severns, Cy and Kitti Severns, Esther and Terry Howell, and Grace and Andy Knowlton; 20 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

There will be a joint memorial service for Anne and Virgil Severns at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Journey Christian Church 1201 Holselton Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709.