

## Obituaries

### Wilma Jean VanHatten

North Pole resident Wilma Jean VanHatten, 61, died Friday, Aug. 10, 2001, at the Medical Center in Bowling Green, Ky., after a long, courageous battle with cancer.

Wilma had many interesting jobs in Alaska. She was a partner in the Robin's Nest Cafe in North Pole, and Uncle Bo's Donut Shop. She also worked for Doyon Inc., and drove a pilot car.



Wilma loved the simple life. She enjoyed camping and dancing. Some of her many hobbies included crocheting blankets for friends and family, playing cards and learning to use her new computer.

Wilma never knew a stranger and always had a smile. She was her niece Sheri VanHatten's greatest softball fan. Her encouraging way and magical hugs will always be remembered by everyone she touched.

Wilma was the daughter of the late Anthony Hillard "Charlie" Jagers and Mary Hughes Byrd. She also was preceded in death by a brother, William Leslie Jagers.

Survivors include her husband and companion of 25 years, Jack "Bud" VanHatten of North Pole; seven children, Billy Meredith, David Meredith, Michael Meredith, Lisa Meredith, Mary Limbocker, all of Kentucky, Steven Meredith of Texas and James Meredith of North Pole; one brother, Jim Byrd of Phoenix; two sisters, Debbie Byrd of Terre Haute, Ind., and Doris Metters of Lake Tahoe, Nev.; 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Wilma will also be missed by her many

friends and family members in Alaska.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Aug. 12, at Winn Funeral Home Chapel in Horse Cave, Ky., followed by burial at Horse Cave Municipal Cemetery.

### Alfred J. Lomen

Lifelong Alaskan Alfred J. Lomen, 82, passed away in Seattle, Aug. 11, 2001, of heart complications.

He was born to Mildred (Lehmann) and Alfred Lomen in Nome, on Sept. 5, 1918.

Al always recounted with relish the adventures of growing up amid the activities of the pioneer Lomen family. Al attended Nome High School for three years, graduating from Broadway High School in Seattle in 1935. He went to the University of Washington graduating in mining engineering in 1939, and was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, where they nicknamed him "Reindeer."

During World War II, Al had the good fortune of being stationed in Nome—great duty for a hometown boy. Following the war he continued working in the family's lighterage business in Nome until the late 1940s. After four years in Seattle, in 1954, he and his family moved to Fairbanks where he was the local manager and part-owner of Yukon Equipment Co. until his retirement in 1985. In 1995, Al and his wife Mary Elizabeth relocated to Seattle to be close to family, but his heart always remained in Alaska. Special joy was a 1998, family reunion of 40-plus members of the Lehmann-Lomen families celebrating 100 years in Alaska with a charter flight to Nome and visits to the families' "stomping grounds."

Al will be remembered for his quiet unassuming manner, honesty and integrity in all his business dealings, and care for others through public service. In Fairbanks, he was a longtime member of the Fairbanks Rotary Club and active with the Chamber of Commerce, United Way, YMCA, Boy Scouts and Golden Valley Electric Association board of directors. His public service continued after retirement in Seattle, where he served on the board of trustees of Ho-

rizon House and several committees.

Al is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Elizabeth; sons, Gil Lomen of Issaquah, Wash., Jim Lomen of Eagle River, and daughter Julie Derry of Homer; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in memory of Al to the University of Alaska Foundation, P.O. Box 755080, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5080 or the Horizon House GEM Fund, 900 University St., Seattle, WA 98101.

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