

MEMOIRS

Richard A. Vickery, Jr., Editor

In loving memory of all the clergy and their spouses of the Rocky Mountain Conference who have died during this year, these memoirs are submitted. A sincere thanks is offered to family members and others, including the liaison work of Jayne Adams and Donna Hite, who share the information on which these memoirs are based.

Richard A. Vickery, Memoirs Secretary

CLERGY MEMBERS & SPOUSES

Name	Date of Birth & Place	Date of Death & Place
William Oba	April 14, 1920 Westminster, Colorado	May 21, 2007 Pueblo, Colorado
Raymond Mattheson	July 3, 1915 Lawrence, Massachusetts	May 31, 2007 Colorado Springs, Colorado
Janice Burrus	June 21, 1917 Zanesville, Ohio	July 21, 2007 Louisville, Colorado
Joanne Marian Carlsen	March 25, 1930 Rossie, Iowa	August 22, 2007 Casper, Wyoming
Alma L. Paulson	June 27, 1926 St. Joseph, Missouri	September 4, 2007 Lakewood, Colorado
Else Aarvold	August 27, 1921 Porsgrunn, Norway	September 9, 2007 Skien, Norway
Larry Victor Oman	December 4, 1941 Liberal, Kansas	October 4, 2007 Seattle, Washington
Eugene Dwight Worth	June 5, 1921 Claremore, Oklahoma	October 27, 2008 Boulder, Colorado
Binford W. Gilbert	August 15, 1928 Memphis, Tennessee	December 5, 2007 Canon City, Colorado
J. Omer Timmons	February 24, 1912 Williamstown, Missouri	January 13, 2008 Arvada, Colorado
Elly N. Ellzey	April 29, 1915 Vienna, Austria	January 16, 2008 Chicago, Illinois

CLERGY MEMBERS & SPOUSES

Name	Date of Birth & Place	Date of Death & Place
Ruth H. Grauberger	July 31, 1910 Sterling, Colorado	February 6, 2008 Loveland, Colorado
Mary Frances Smith	March 2, 1920 Denver, Colorado	February 17, 2008 Denver, Colorado
H. Robert DeLancey	October 19, 1921 Gordon, Nebraska	February 22, 2008 Wheatridge, Colorado
Barbara Kimbrough	February 18, 1934 Loveland, Colorado	April 3, 2008 Denver, Colorado
George E. Fort	February 14, 1915 Webb City, Missouri	April 7, 2008 Colorado Springs, Colorado
Mary Virginia Baker	October 21, 1919 Atchison, Kansas	April 12, 2008 Denver, Colorado

WILLIAM I. OBA

William I. Oba was born on April 13, 1920 in Westminster, Colorado.

Bill was admitted into the Colorado Conference on Trial in 1948 and in Full Connection in 1951. After completing school, he was appointed as Associate Minister to First Church, Greeley, 1951-1953. He was granted supernumerary status from 1953-1955, withdrew his credentials in 1955, but was readmitted into full connection in 1956 when he was appointed to Extension Ministry as a Professor at Adams State College, Alamosa, Colorado from 1956 until his retirement in 1987.

Bill died on May 21, 2007 in Pueblo, Colorado at eighty-seven years of age.

RAYMOND T. MATTHESON

Raymond T. Mattheson was born on July 3, 1915 in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Ray served his clergy career as a military Chaplain in the United States Air Force and rising to the rank of Colonel and appointed to the Office of the Chief of Air Force Chaplains.

Ray transferred in the retired relationship into the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference from the Southern California-Arizona Conference on June 15, 1975.

During his retirement years in Colorado Springs, Raymond was instrumental in the founding and situating of the Sunrise congregation. He died on May 31, 2007 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at ninety-one years of age.

JANICE V. BURRUS

Janice V. Burrus was born on June 21, 1917 in Zanesville, Ohio, to Curtis and Gladys MacDonald Kincheloe, a mechanic and homemaker. She married L. Gerald Burrus in Zanesville, Ohio on August 20, 1939, and together they shared fifty-eight years of marriage prior to his death in 1992.

To Janice and Gerry were born daughters Jeanne, Judith and Barbara, sons James, J. Stephen and David, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

When Gerry transferred into the Colorado Conference from the Evangelical United Brethern denomination in 1948, Janice provided parsonage support for pastorates at First Church, Golden; Montclair, Denver; First Church, Grand Junction; Washington Park, Denver; Christ Church, Salt Lake City; and First Church, Boulder, prior to Gerry's retirement in 1980. During the years of Gerry's service as a Chaplain in the United States Navy from 1950 until 1961, it was Janice who provided supervision at home.

Janice died on July 21, 2007 in Louisville, Colorado at ninety years of age.

JOANNE MARIAN CARLSEN

Joanne Marian Carlsen was born in Rossie, Iowa on March 25, 1930 to the farming family of Robert Lee and Lois Albertus (Bigler) Meredith. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree Magna Cum Laude in English Literature and Spanish from Morningside College in 1949. She received a Masters of Arts degree in Hard of Hearing and Deaf Education from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado in 1972.

Joanne was married to Carl R. Carlsen on December 19, 1948 in Spencer, Iowa. They are parents to: Craig Regan, Dean Eric, and Lynne Diane Barry, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Throughout her career in a variety of settings, Joanne taught those with hearing disabilities, retiring in 1992 from the Wyoming School for the Deaf. She was a life-time member of the National Education Association. Her civic involvements included membership in the American Association of University Women, serving on District Court juries, and supporting the arts and literature. Her personal interests included needle work, quilting, home-making, and genealogical research into the maternal and paternal branches of her family.

Joanne was known as a devoted wife, mother and friend who placed the welfare of others above her own achievements. She nurtured and enjoyed her love of literature and art. Joanne died in Casper, Wyoming on August 22, 2007 at seventy-seven years of age.

ALMA L. PAULSON

Alma L. Paulson was born in St. Joseph, Missouri on June 27, 1926 to Jerome and Christina Barber, the third of six siblings. Upon graduating from high school in 1944, she attended Westmar College, LeMars, Iowa.

It was while at Westmar that Alma met Del Paulson. They were married on August 16, 1945 in St. Joseph, Missouri and at the time of Del's death had shared over sixty years of marriage together. To them were born daughters Loretta and Cheryl, son Larry, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Alma shared Del's passion for ministry and blessed congregations through over forty years including: Faith Church, Denver, Eagle-Gypsum, Golden, Sterling, Casper, First Church, Fort Collins, Burns, Aurora; and, in retirement, Arvada, Christ Church, Salt Lake City, Heritage, Littleton, Central City and Eagle-Gypsum; as well as the Pueblo District. She taught Sunday School for over forty-five years. She was a devoted member of the United Methodist Women in leading, serving and organizing. She was a life-long participant in Church Women United.

Alma was involved in each of the communities in which she lived as a leader for Brownies, Cub Scouts, 4-H Clubs, the National Federation for the Blind and Meals on Wheels. Her self-giving was recognized formally as she was named "Citizen of the Month" by the Fort Collins Coloradoan in May, 1981 and as one of nine women named "Aurora Women: Sculptors of our Community" in March of 2000.

Alma will be remembered as a wonderful gardener and cook, an extraordinary seamstress (sewing all her own clothes), creator of wonderful embroidery and needlework. She loved music and enjoyed playing the piano. With Del, she enjoyed camping, boating and fishing with the family. Alma was soft-spoken, spiritually reflective and always quite a lady.

Alma died on September 4, 2007, in Lakewood, Colorado, at eighty-one years of age.

ELSE AARVOLD

Else Aarvold was born in Porsgrunn, Norway on August 27, 1921. As an exchange student in nursing, she met Norwegian born Ole Aarvold while he was a student at Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. The two were married in New York City in 1954 and shared forty-three years of marital life together at the time of Ole's death in 1997.

Together they served as parsonage family for churches in Wilboux and Butte, Montana, Burlington, Colorado and Julesburg, Colorado from which Ole retired in 1974. Together they returned to Norway in 1972, and together they continued to serve churches in Bornholm, Demark and Porsgrunn, Norway. Else will be remembered for her beautiful white hair, her charming dialectic, and her warm hospitality.

Else died on September 9, 2007 in Skein, Norway.

LARRY VICTOR OMAN

Larry Victor Oman was born on December 4, 1941, Liberal, Kansas, the oldest child to Mildred Light and Robert J. Oman. He graduated from high school in Monroeville, Indiana in 1959 and from DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1963.

Larry married Martha Stutsman on June 10, 1963. The couple spent the first two years of marriage in the Peace Corp in Columbia working with an educational television project. Larry received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School in 1969. He was admitted on Trial and ordained a deacon in the North Indiana Conference in 1967 and admitted into full connection and ordained an Elder in the South Indiana Conference in 1969. In Indiana, he served as Associate Pastor at the University Church, Indianapolis, 1969-1972; Faith Church, Princeton, 1972-1974; with the South Indiana Council on Ministries staff, 1973 – 1981.

Larry transferred to the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1984 to become Minister of Youth, First Church, Colorado Springs, until 1987; Associate Minister, First Church, Greeley, 1987-1991; Associate Minister, Lakewood, 1991-1996; and had a decade long pastorate at Steamboat Springs, 1996-2006, until taking incapacity leave in 2006.

To Larry and Martha were born two sons, Erik and Kyle, and two daughters, Kristin Piquette and Karin Oman-Mizzell and one grandson.

Throughout his life and ministry, Larry had a passion for human rights and justice by his work in community development and Habitat for Humanity projects. In Steamboat Springs he was an active Rotary Club member, organizing several "Rotary Days" which introduced Club members to the work of Habitat for Humanity. He was instrumental in founding the Routt County Habitat for Humanity Chapter. His civic contributions and caring commitment to the communities in which he served was appreciated.

Larry died in hospice care after a six year battle with cancer in Seattle, Washington, on October 4, 2007 at sixty-six years of age.

EUGENE DWIGHT WORTH

Eugene Dwight Worth was born in Claremore, Oklahoma, on June 5, 1921 to Frank and Hazel Collar. Later, Hazel married Louis Brady (Ted) Titsworth, who adopted Gene. In 1951 the family name was changed to Worth. Gene attended schools in Cheyenne, Wyoming, graduating from high school in 1930. He graduated from the University of Denver, Denver, Colorado in 1942 and from the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado, with a Masters in Theology, in 1946. While a seminary student, Gene served Denver Methodist Churches, Barnum, 1944-1945 and Simpson, 1945-1946.

In 1944 Gene married Marjorie Louise Stegman, and at the time of his death they shared sixty-four years of marital life. Together they parented three sons, Ted Jay, Richard Eugene, and Michael Kent, who preceded them in death in 2006; a daughter Susan Worth Jenkins, five grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

Gene was admitted on Trial into the Colorado Conference in 1944 and granted Full Connection and ordained an Elder in 1946. Together with Marge, he served appointments at Holly-Granada, 1946-1951; Salida 1951-1956; Associate at First Church, Colorado Springs, 1957-1959; Bethel Church, Pueblo, 1959-1964; Grace Church, Denver, 1964-1965; Montrose, 1965-1969; First Church, Golden, 1979-1970; Evanston Church, Denver, 1979-1981; Las Animas 1981-1984. He received retired status in 1984.

In the early retirement years Gene and Marge lived in Fort Collins where Gene was active in the Larimer County Office on Aging and the American Association of Retired Persons.

In January of 1996, Gene and Marge moved to the Frasier Meadows Manor in Boulder, Colorado. Gene enjoyed working with people, reading, photography, railroad history, and amateur radio, including the Military Affiliate Radio System. Within a year of his death Gene donated his ham radio equipment for use in the emergency communications station at the Conference Office. He was active in scouting and received the Silver Beaver Award.

Gene died on October 31, 2007 in Boulder, Colorado, at eighty-six years of age.

BINFORD WINSTON GILBERT

Binford Winston. Gilbert was born on August 15, 1928 in Memphis, Tennessee, to Paul Edgar and Johnnie Rea Gilbert, an accountant and a kitchen and food demonstrator. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Houston, Houston, Texas in 1955, with a Masters of Theology from the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado, in 1959; and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Denver, Denver, Colorado 1973.

Bin married his wife of sixty years, Lois, on September 2, 1947 in Liberty, Texas. and together they parented three daughters, Elizabeth Sue Gilbert Otsuka, Becky Lynn Gilbert Schiff, Bonnie Jan Gilbert, and a son, Bruce Winston Gilbert; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Admitted on Trial and ordained a deacon in 1955 in the Texas Conference, Bin served such Texas charges as St. James, Houston; and the Alto Circuit. He was received in full connection and he transferred to the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1958 and was ordained an elder in the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1959. As a seminary student Bin served such charges as Willard, Antelope Springs and Lyons.

He was appointed to Limon, 1957-1961, Grace Church, Denver, 1961-1964; Assistant to the Chancellor, University of Denver, 1964-1965; Assistant to the President, The Iliff School of Theology, 1965-1968; Coordinator of Religious Life and Professor of Religion, University of Denver, 1968-1974; Minister of Visitation, Trinity Church, Denver, 1974-1975; Alamosa, 1975-1979; First Church, Boulder. 1979-1982; Leave of Absence, 1982 - 1985; Director, Pampa Family Services Center, Pampa, Texas, 1985-1991; Bin took the retired status in 1991.

Throughout his active career, Bin was honored by the University of Denver as Outstanding Faculty member, 1970-1971, a published author of "Pastoral Care of Depression", and honored by the Boy Scouts Smoky Hill District. In retirement, Bin counseled youth at Boys Ranch, volunteered at Loaves & Fishes and served intern pastorates at various churches. He enjoyed woodworking, fly-fishing and working on Habitat for Humanity projects.

Bin died on December 5, 2007 in Canon City, Colorado at seventy-nine years of age.

-J. OMER TIMMONS

J. Omer Timmons was born on February 24, 1912 in Clark County, Missouri to Emory and Loretta Spurgeon Timmons. He was educated at Hannibal La Grange Junior College and graduated from William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri, in 1933. He graduated from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1946.

Omer married Daisy Dahlstrom on May 12 1939, in Peru, Nebraska. They parented four children, Teresa, Todd, Kay and Kim; four grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

As an American Baptist, Omer began his pastoral ministry in Peru, Nebraska, ministering to students at Nebraska State College. He was pastor for American Baptist Churches in Ohio and Montana before being received on credentials from the American Baptist Convention by the Colorado Conference and ordained an elder and received into full conference membership in 1951. He served in such pastoral appointments as Burlington, 1951-1953; Fort Morgan, 1952-1964; Montclair, Denver, 1964-1971; Westminster, 1971-1973; Grant Avenue, Denver, 1973-1978. He accepted the retired status in 1973. Omer was active in retirement serving part-time at Grant Avenue and Applewood Valley, Golden, until 1984.

Omer will be remembered for his impeccable dress his quiet, soft-spoken voice, his twinkling eyes, and his reserved manner. He died on January 12, 2008 in Arvada, Colorado at eighty-five years of age.

ELLY MARIA ELLZEY

Elly Maria Neugebauer Ellzey was born on April 29, 1915 In Vienna, Austria to an Austrian born Father, Alois and Hungarian born mother, Anna Neugebauer, the middle of three girls. Her father was a photographer and painter in oils. She immigrated to the United States as the Nazi regime was coming to full power in Austria. She met William Clark Ellzey while he was a graduate student at Duke Divinity School and they were married in August, 1939, at the LZ Ranch in Perryton, Texas.

Elly and Clark parented daughters Jane Ellzey Smith, Sandra Ellzey Carlson (who preceded her in death in March 2007) and a son, Bill; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. At the time of Clark's death in 1991, they had shared fifty-one years of marital life together.

With the children, Elly moved to Colorado Springs when Clark served as pastor of Wesley Methodist Church, to Enid, Oklahoma when Clark became a field director for the American Red Cross during the Second World War, to Columbia, Missouri, for twenty-five years when Clark was a faculty member at Stephen's College, and to Lubbock, Texas, when Clark taught at Texas Tech College and University.

Upon Clark's retirement in 1974 they returned to the LZ Ranch in Perrytown, Texas, and to her "vast American West", where she enjoyed study groups, reading, conversing and growing deeper spiritually in her maturing years. She had pride in her family's accomplishments. She will be remembered for her love of travel that helped her satisfy her insatiable curiosity about people and the world in which they live. She had a great command of English as a second language, mastering its rich and varied nuances. And she enjoyed a rich sense of humor.

Elly retired at last to Chicago, Illinois, where she died on January 16, 2008, at ninety-two years of age.

RUTH HEIST GRAUBERGER

Ruth Heist Grauberger was born on July 31, 1910 to the plains pioneer family of John and Mary Heist who homesteaded near Sterling, Colorado. She was the fourth of eight siblings. She graduated from Sterling High School.

Ruth was working as a legal secretary when she met Oscar L. Grauberger, a pastor in the Evangelical Church. Oscar had been raised on a farm not far from the Heist homestead and was serving the Evangelical Church in Leroy, Colorado. They were married in 1932 and shared thirty-six years of marital life together, prior to his death in 1968. They parented sons Bruce and Larry and daughter Beth; seven grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Together they shared their years of ministry to Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist Churches along the Front Range including Kelly, Loveland, Simla, Evanston, Denver; Berthoud, Bethel, Boulder; Bruner Park, Pueblo and Park Hill, Denver. A self-taught musician, Ruth played the piano and directed choirs for a number of the congregations they served. Upon Oscar's death, Ruth served on the staff of the Park Hill Church, Denver, for a decade.

Active in the ecumenical movement, Ruth served as the state treasurer for Colorado Church Women United. Active in each community in which she lived, Ruth served as a school board member for the Berthoud School District and was instrumental in maintaining that community's high school from being absorbed into a larger rural District. For the last twenty-five years she was a board member of Montview Manor where she resided. She will be remembered as an accomplished seamstress, a strong advocate, a caring and compassionate helpmate.

Ruth died on February 6, 2008 in Loveland, Colorado at ninety-seven years of age.

MARY FRANCIS SMITH

Mary Francis Smith was born on March 2, 1920 in Denver, Colorado, to Thomas W. and Margaret Lewis, a train conductor and a nurse. She graduated from Denver East High School and from the University of Denver in 1938 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. While an undergraduate Mary was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Mortar Board Club, Drama Club, Student Christian Movement, co-ed journalist, and President of the Young Women's Christian Association.

It was while on campus that Mary met The Reverend Kenneth M. Smith. They were married in Denver, Colorado, on July 26, 1943. To them were born four children: Ronald J., Dickie Roy, Ramona Carmichael and Donna Sherbenou; and eight grandchildren. Mary and Ken shared forty-eight years of marital life together prior to his death in 1992.

Mary was a very supportive pastor's wife, active in the congregations to which Kenneth was appointed including: John Collins, Denver; Epworth, Denver; Wesley – East Side, Colorado Springs; Sterling; and Loveland. Professionally, she taught drama, English and

career development in Denver, Loveland and Sterling. She was an award-winning member of Toastmaster's Club and a member of P.E.O.

During their lifetime together, Mary and Ken enjoyed Rocky Mountain National Park, camping, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and fulfilling their lifelong dream of retiring in Estes Park. In retirement, Mary devoted time to her passion for painting, stained glass and woodcarving. Her beautiful watercolors of Rocky Mountain National Park won regional recognition.

Mary Frances died on February 17, 2008, in Denver, Colorado, at eighty-seven years of age.

H. ROBERT DELANCY

H. Robert DeLancey was born on October 19, 1921, in Gordon, Nebraska to the farming family of Charles and Orpha DeLancey. Bob graduated from the University of California – Los Angeles with an undergraduate degree in 1946 and from Garret Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois with a Masters of Divinity degree in 1949.

Bob met and married Elizabeth on June 26, 1943 in Pasadena, California. Together they shared sixty-four years of marital life prior to his death. To them were born a son, Robert E., and a daughter, Monica D. Natzke, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Admitted on Trial and ordained a Deacon by the Southern California-Arizona Conference in 1948, Bob was admitted in full connection and ordained an Elder in the Colorado Conference in 1950. Having transferred to the Colorado Conference in 1949, Bob began four decades of service to local churches throughout the Conference boundaries including:

Hugo-Boyero, 1949-1951; Centenary, Salt Lake City, 1951-1956; Rawlins, 1956-1959; Cameron, Denver, 1959-1963; First Church, Ogden, 1963-1967; Highlands, Denver, 1967-1971; LaJunta, 1971-1978; Castle Rock; 1978-1981; Phillips, Denver, 1981-1984; Warren, Denver, 1984-1988. Bob was granted the retired status in 1988.

Along the way Bob participated in numerous Conference youth and camping ministries, was certified in The Art of Caring & Grief Symposium; and was named outstanding volunteer at the Easter Seals Warm Water Pool and Conference Human Relations Award.

In retirement Bob continued his involvements through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Jefferson County, Jeffco Action Center of Lakewood, and the Red Rocks Chapel. Throughout his life Bob enjoyed model railroads, stained glass, sailing, camping, hiking, singing and telling jokes and stories. He will be remembered for his big handclasp, broad smile and living witness.

Bob died on February 22, 2008 in Wheatridge, Colorado at eighty-six years of age.

BARBARA A. KIMBROUGH

Barbara A. Kimbrough was born on February 18, 1934 in Loveland, Colorado to William Milton Johnson, a boilermaker for the Union Pacific Railroad, and Helen Ann (Sargent) Johnson, a homemaker.

Barbara married Barry Kimbrough on September 3, 1955 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. To them were born two sons, Kevin Barry and Terence Alan and two grandchildren. With Barry, Barbara shared the parsonage life for such congregations as Lovell-Deaver; First Church, Cheyenne; Lander; Englewood, Longmont, and Littleton. Throughout this time Barbara was active in the local church, district and conference levels, serving as President of the Rocky Mountain Conference Ministers' Wives Association in 1972-1973.

Barbara was incredibly talented with a needle and thread, enjoying sewing, needlework and creating beautiful quilts. She was a staff member for the Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder.

Barbara died on April 3, 2008 in Denver, Colorado, at seventy-four years of age.

GEORGE E. FORT

George E. Fort was born February 4, 1916 in Webb City, Missouri, to John and Grace Hardey. At six years of age he was legally adopted by Everett and Hattie Fort. He graduated from Versailles (Missouri) High School, Colorado College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1946 and The Iliff School of Theology with a Masters of Theology degree in 1949.

George married Sara Katherine "Kaye" Cox on November 2, 1939 in Joplin, Missouri, and they had been married sixty-four years at the time of her death in 2003. To them was born daughter Phyllis Kaye Barron and one grandchild.

Admitted on trail and ordained a deacon by the Southwest Missouri Conference in 1946, George transferred to the Colorado Conference that same year, serving St. Paul's Church, Colorado Springs, 1946-1948; and Calhan Yoder, 1948-1949. Transferring to the Nebraska Conference in 1949, George was admitted into full connection and ordained an elder, serving the Wallace-Grainton Charge, 1949-1950. That year he transferred to the California-Nevada Conference and served Arcata- McKinleyville, 1950-1952; and College Avenue, Palo Alto, 1952-1955.

In 1955 George became a Chaplain in the United States Army and served in Korea, Germany, Turkey and various assignments across the United States culminating with that of Staff Chaplain for the Army Signal School at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He retired from the United States Army in 1972 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and received the National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and Meritorious Medal. In 1973 George retired from the California-Nevada Conference. He transferred in the retired relationship to the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1979.

For eight years, George was a member of the Senior Victim Assistance Team of the Colorado Springs Police Department and volunteered as photographer for TROA for

eighteen years and provided monthly slide shows for four senior residences for eight years. He was a member of a number of fraternal and professional associations.

George died on April 7, 2008, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at ninety-three years of age.

MARY VIRGINIA BAKER

Mary Virginia Baker was born on October 21, 1919 in Atchison, Kansas, to Chester Lloyd and Jessie (Pickett) Weekes, the youngest of four siblings. She attended school in Ord, Nebraska and graduated in 1973 from the Aims-Poudre School of Nursing, Fort Collins, Colorado. In 1935 she married Lyle Smith and with him parented son, Wayne, and daughters, Marilyn Emblem and Phyllis Purvis, who preceded her in death.

After Lyle's death, Virginia married Henry Herschel Baker on June 9, 1974 in Fort Collins, Colorado. As part of this blended family, Virginia was mother to twelve children, grandmother to thirty-seven grandchildren, great-grandmother to sixty-five great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandmother to six great-great-grandchildren.

Professionally, Virginia was a charter board member of the Larimer County Visiting Nurses Association. In the Fort Collins community, she was a member of the Red Cross; the first Colorado Governor's Committee on the Status of Women; the Aspen Club, Coruscate Club, League of Women Voters, and PEO Chapter HZ. She held offices in local, district and Conference Church groups. In 1993 she received the Francis Asbury

Award for her work with the Conference Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry.

Virginia's family and her faith were the passions of her life. She presided over numerous family weddings, baptisms and reunions. To all persons with whom she had contact she offered unconditional love and support.

Virginia died on April 12, 2008, in Denver, Colorado, at eighty-eight years of age.