

PAFFORD, Birdie Pafford

(Abstracted from information received from John Pafford, one of Elmer's Genealogy Corner's friends)

October 14, 1920 - February 19, 2014

Birdie B. Pafford "Mema" of Burnet passed away February 19, 2014. Birdie was born October 14, 1920 to Eva and Dave Barton. She was married for 48 years to her loving husband Olan Pafford until his death in 1986. Birdie was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ. She worked many years for Burnet Butane, but her passion was homemaking. She loved to sew and quilt and belonged to the Bertram Quilting Club. Each year Birdie and Olan planted a huge garden. Birdie always enjoyed working in their garden, canning, and cooking for her family. Birdie was a woman of faith and spent many hours at Seton hospital near her home visiting ill friends and family. Birdie was a special mother, mema, neighbor, and friend to so many. She will be forever missed. Birdie is preceded in death by her parents Eva and Dave Barton, husband Olan Pafford, sister Seleta Barton, and daughter Shirley Pollard. Birdie is survived by her 2 children Linda McDaniel and Jerry Pafford, grandchildren Jim and John David Pollard, Heather Cokendolpher, Marissa White, Heath and David Pafford, and Kelly Zinser. Her great-grandchildren Dylan and Bradley Pollard, Jimmie White, Selleck and Fletcher Cokendolpher, River Pafford, Kolby Zinser, Zoe and Tesla Pafford. The family would like to extend their sincere thanks to Seton Highland Lakes Hospital, especially the dietary staff, where Birdie ate many lunches and always looked forward to their company. Sincere gratitude to Linda Martin for always caring for Birdie as if she were family. Special thanks to Seton Highland Lakes Home Health and Hospice for their loving care during her final days. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Friends of Seton Highland Lakes Hospice at PO Box 1843 Marble Falls, TX 78654. Services will be Saturday February 22, 2014 at Clements-Wilcox Funeral Home in Burnet, TX; interment to follow at Post Mountain Cemetery.

PAGE, Patti Page

(Abstracted from the (Durham, NC) Herald-Sun, January 4, 2013)

NASHVILLE — Unforgettable songs like "Tennessee Waltz" and "(How Much Is That) Doggie in the Window?" made Patti Page the best-selling female singer of the 1950s and a star who would spend much of the rest of her life traveling the world. When unspecified health problems finally stopped her decades of touring, though, Page wrote a sad-but-resolute letter to her fans late last year about the change. "Although I feel I still have the voice God gave me, physical impairments are preventing me from using that voice as I had for so many years," Page wrote. "It is only He who knows what the future holds." Page died on New Year's Day in Encinitas, Calif., according to publicist Schatzi Hageman, ending one of pop music's most diverse careers. She was 85 and just five weeks away from being honored at the Grammy Awards with a Lifetime Achievement Award from The Recording Academy. Page achieved several career milestones in American pop culture, but she'll be remembered for indelible hits that crossed the artificial categorizations of music and remained atop the charts for months to reach a truly national audience. "Tennessee Waltz" scored the rare achievement of reaching No. 1 on the pop, country and R&B charts simultaneously and was officially adopted as one of two official songs by the state of Tennessee. Its reach was so powerful, six other artists reached the charts the following year with covers. Two other hits, "I Went To Your Wedding" and "Doggie in the Window," which had a second life for decades as a children's song, each spent more than two months at No. 1. Other hits included "Mockin' Bird Hill," "Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte," and "Allegheny Moon." She teamed with George Jones on "You Never Looked That Good When You Were Mine." "I just loved singing with Patti and she hit notes I never dreamed of," Jones said Wednesday in an email to The Associated Press. "We cut some songs together and it was a great time. She'll be missed by lots of folks and everybody needs to know how great she was. Patti was a wonderful singer with a real special voice." So special, Page managed to maintain her career when most singers of her generation and their more innocent songs were shoved aside by the swinging hips of Elvis Presley. Page proved herself something of a match for the nascent rock 'n' roll crowd and its obsession with sex, continuing to place songs on the pop charts into the 1960s and the country charts into the '80s. Page never kept track, but was told late in life that she'd recorded more than 1,000 songs. That's not what she had in her mind growing up as young Clara Ann Fowler. "I was a kid from Oklahoma who never wanted to be a singer, but was told I could sing," she said in a 1999 interview. "And things snowballed." She was popular in pop music and country and became the first singer to have television programs on all three major networks, including "The Patti Page Show" on ABC. In films, Page co-starred with Burt Lancaster in his Oscar-winning characterization of "Elmer Gantry," and she appeared in "Dondi" with David Janssen and in "Boy's Night Out" with James Garner and Kim Novak. She also starred on stage in the musical comedy "Annie Get Your Gun." Her death came just a few days after the conclusion of the run of "Flipside: The Patti Page Story," an off-Broadway musical commemorating her life. In 1999, after 51 years of performing, Page won her first Grammy for traditional pop vocal performance for "Live at Carnegie Hall — The 50th Anniversary Concert." Page was planning to attend a special ceremony on Feb. 9 in Los Angeles where she was to receive a lifetime achievement award from The Recording Academy. Neil Portnow, the Academy's president and CEO, said he spoke with Page and she had been "grateful and excited" to receive the honor. "Our industry has lost a remarkable talent and a true gift, and our sincere condolences go out to her family, friends and fans who were inspired by her work." Page was born Nov. 8, 1927, in Claremore, Okla. The family of three boys and eight girls moved a few years later to nearby Tulsa. She got her stage name working at radio station KTUL, which had a 15-minute program sponsored by Page Milk Co. The regular Patti Page singer left and was replaced by Fowler, who took the name with her on the road to stardom. Page was discovered by Jack Rael, a band

leader who was making a stop in Tulsa in 1946 when he heard Page sing on the radio. Rael called KTUL asking where the broadcast originated. When told Page was a local singer, he quickly arranged an interview and abandoned his career to be Page's manager. A year later she signed a contract with Mercury Records and began appearing in nightclubs in the Chicago area. Her first major hit was "With My Eyes Wide Open I'm Dreaming," but she got noticed a few years earlier in 1947 with "Confess." She created a distinctive sound for the music industry on that song by overdubbing her own voice when she didn't have enough money to hire backup singers for the single. "We would have to pay for all those expenses because Mercury felt that I had not as yet received any national recognition that would merit Mercury paying for it," Page once said. "Confess" was enough of a hit that Rael persuaded Mercury to let Page try full four-part harmony by overdubbing. The result was "With My Eyes Wide Open I'm Dreaming." The label read, "Vocals by Patti Page, Patti Page, Patti Page and Patti Page." "Tennessee Waltz," her biggest-selling record, was a fluke. Because Christmas was approaching, Mercury Records wanted Page to record "Boogie Woogie Santa Claus" in 1950. Page and Rael got hold of "Tennessee Waltz," convinced that a pop artist could make a smash hit out of it. Mercury agreed to put it on the B-side of the Christmas song. "Mercury wanted to concentrate on a Christmas song and they didn't want anything with much merit on the flip side," Page said. "They didn't want any disc jockeys to turn the Christmas record over. The title of that great Christmas song was 'Boogie Woogie Santa Claus,' and no one ever heard of it." "Tennessee Waltz" became the first pop tune that crossed over into a big country hit. The waltz was on the charts for 30 weeks, 12 of them in the top 10, and eventually sold more than 10 million copies, behind only "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby at the time. She received the Pioneer Award from the Academy of Country Music in 1980. She also is a member of the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. In her later career, Page and husband Jerry Filiciotto spent half the year living in Southern California and half in an 1830s farmhouse in New Hampshire. He died in 2009. Page is survived by her son, Daniel O'Curran, daughter Kathleen Ginn and sister Peggy Layton.

PARISH, Herbert O. Parish

(Abstracted by courtesy of the Fort Wayne (IN) News-Sentinel October 5, 1990)

Herbert O. Parish, 75, died Wednesday in St. Joseph Medical Center. The Wyandot County, OH, native retired from the trucking industry. He was a member of Mizpah Shrine and Fort Wayne Transportation Club. Surviving are a daughter, Carolyn Payne of Carmel; son, William of Hicksville, OH; sisters, Mildred Oriens of Upper Sandusky, OH, and Helen Heffelfinger of Indian Lake, OH; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Services are 2 p.m. (Ohio time) Tuesday in Old Mission Cemetery, Upper Sandusky. There is no calling in Brown Funeral Home, Hicksville.

PAULIK, Lorenz John Paulik

(Abstracted from <http://obits.mlive.com/obituaries/kalamazoo/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=180284704>)

Lorenz John "Larry" Paulik, 5/16/1942 - 6/7/2016 of Kalamazoo, age 74, died on Tuesday, June 7, 2016. He was born in Chicago, IL and has been a resident of Kalamazoo for the last 35 years. He was an active member of St. Thomas More Student Parish and was devoted to his spiritual life, which manifested in commitments to peace, social justice and non-violence. He was spiritually enriched by his love of nature and spent as much time as he could outdoors. Above all else, he adored the love of his life, his wife Barb, as well as his four children and four grandchildren: Susie and her husband, George Babka and their two children; Annie and Will; Mark and his wife, Robin Zeleznik and their daughter Noelle; Katie and her husband, John Januario, and their daughter Sumbi; and Joe, and his wife, Stacey Yen. Other members of his family include his sister, Margaret Kassen; a sister-in-law, Mary Paulik, and several nieces and nephews. Mass of the Resurrection will be Wednesday at St. Thomas More Student Parish, 421 Monroe St. Memorial contributions may be made to the Catholic Relief Services El Salvador Program, Clean Water for the World and Peace House. Arrangements by Life Story Funeral Homes, Betzler Kalamazoo; 6080 Stadium Drive (375-2900).

PEACHES, Alfred James Peaches

(Abstracted from interest sources)

Flags will be lowered across the Navajo Nation in honor of another Navajo Code Talker who has died. Tribal officials announced Wednesday that Alfred James Peaches died Saturday January 16, 2016 at a Flagstaff hospital at age 90. Tribal President Russell Begaye commended Peaches for defending the United States in World War II, using a code based on the Navajo language that stumped the Japanese. Born in Shonto, AZ, Peaches was among hundreds of Navajos who served as Code Talkers. He was part of the 6th Marine Division from 1943 to 1946. Peaches is survived by his wife Jeanette, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. A memorial service is scheduled Saturday at Leupp First Presbyterian Church. Begaye has ordered flags flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset on Saturday.

PERRY, Harold O. Perry

(Abstracted from Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Homes)

Harold O. Perry, 91, died August 9, 2013 peacefully surrounded by family at Charter House in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Perry was born on November 18, 1921 in Rochester and spent his entire life in his beloved hometown. Harold was educated in the

Rochester Public School System. He was enthusiastic in his pursuit of knowledge and took his studies seriously, as evidenced by his election to the National Honor Society in high school. Harold attended Rochester Junior College from 1939-1942 and graduated with an AA degree. He attended the University of Minnesota and earned his B.S. Degree in 1944. Harold entered medical school at the University of Minnesota and was awarded his M.D. Degree in 1946 after interning at the United States Naval Hospital in Oakland, California. He was on active duty in the Navy from April 1946 until June 1948. In 1951, Dr. Perry joined the Naval Reserve Medical Unit at Mayo and served as Commanding Officer from 1967-1969. He retired as a Captain from the Naval Reserve in 1981. Dr. Perry entered Mayo Foundation Graduate School of Medicine in 1949 and received his M.S. Degree in Dermatology from the University of Minnesota in 1953. He was appointed a Mayo Consultant in Dermatology in 1953. Dr. Perry advanced through the academic ranks to become a professor in the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine (1970) and the Mayo Medical School (1980). He served as Department Chairman from 1975-1983 and held the Robert Kieckhefer Chair in Dermatology at Mayo from 1978-1983. Dr. Perry was a highly respected teacher who was voted Teacher of the Year on three occasions by the Dermatology Fellows at Mayo Clinic. He became a member of the Teacher Hall of Fame for his efforts. Along with his gifts as a teacher, Dr. Perry will be remembered for his significant and enduring contributions in the field of Dermatology. He was highly valued throughout the world for his astute clinical skills. In addition, Dr. Perry's achievements in research and innovation have been recognized both nationally and internationally through countless honors. Dr. Perry was a revered leader in many professional organizations. Throughout his storied career, he served as President of the Minnesota Dermatological Society, the Noah Worcester Dermatological Society, the American Academy of Dermatology, the American Dermatological Association, and the American Board of Dermatology. Upon his retirement in 1986, Dr. Perry became a lifetime member of the Academy and was a recipient of the Gold Medal of the Academy, the highest honor conferred by that organization. Other highlights of Dr. Perry's career included establishment of the Harold O. Perry Lecture by the Noah Worcester Dermatological Society in 1984, selection as a "Master of Dermatology" by the American Academy of Dermatology in 1985, and the Mayo Foundation "Distinguished Alumnus Award" in 1995. In 1998, the Mayo Department of Dermatology honored Dr. Perry with an endowment of the Harold O. Perry Lectureship. Dr. Perry's love of learning will be continued through the establishment of the Harold O. Perry Scholastic Award from the Department of Dermatology. True to his humble nature, Harold always appreciated the opportunities he received at Rochester Community and Technical College. Along with his wife, Loraine, Harold established a scholarship at RCTC as a way to give students a chance to access educational opportunities. Although legendary in the field of Dermatology, Harold will be most lovingly remembered by his family for his roles of husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Together with his wife Loraine, Harold created strong family ties grounded in mutual respect, togetherness, and tradition. Harold especially enjoyed gatherings at the family cabin on Half Moon Lake. Harold and Loraine graciously entertained guests and anyone who visited their home was treated to their generous hospitality. Throughout his laudable career, Harold remained humble in his accomplishments and grateful for the opportunities he received to pursue his life's work. He has created a legacy of achievement for his family based on pursuit of excellence, love of learning, appreciation for blessings and strength through adversity. Harold's family feels blessed by his presence in their lives and will never forget his wisdom, wit, generosity and guidance. Harold is survived by his wife of 68 years, Loraine (Moehnke) Perry. He is also survived by his children Preston Perry, Oliver Perry (Susan), Ann Perry, John A. Perry (Joslyn); also by grandchildren Nicole (Brion) Bawek, Brenda Perry, John O. Perry, Erica (Shawn) Koval, John Onwuaju, James Onwuaju, Kirsten Perry, Reid Perry, and great-grandson Riley Bawek. Harold was preceded in death by his parents, brother Oliver, a sister Appolonia Kruse, and infant daughter Brenda. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 am on Thursday, August 15, 2013 at Charter House. Burial will be held in Oakwood Cemetery on Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the staff on the 4th floor Supportive Care Unit at Charter House. Harold received care that was competent, loving, attentive, and personal. Mere words are inadequate to thank this exemplary group of people. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the following organizations: Mayo Clinic, Department of Development, 200 1st St. SW, Rochester, MN 55905 designated to the Harold O. Perry Endowed Lectureship Foundation or to the Harold and Loraine T. Perry Endowed Scholarship Fund in care of RCTC Foundation, 851 30th Ave. SE., Rochester, MN 55904. Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Homes, 5421 Royal Place NW, Rochester, MN 55901, 507-289-3600

PETERSEN, Kenneth L. Petersen

(Abstracted courtesy of Susan Petersen, one of Elmer's Genealogy Friends - this is her father - he wrote his own obit two years ago)

Kenneth L. Petersen, 87, died Saturday, November 30, 2013. Born July 21, 1926 in Nora, NE Kenneth was a lifelong resident of Lincoln, retired from Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. with 32 years of service, life member of Goodyear Foreman's Club and Goodyear Sportsman's Club. A 50 year member of American Legion Post No. 3, Lincoln, NE; Past Commander, American Legion Post No. 173, Greenwood, NE; 50 year member, Lincoln Liberty Lodge No. 300, A.F. & A.M.; World War II U.S. Navy Armed Guard Veteran, served in North and South Pacific Theaters of War; member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church; graduate of Lincoln High School, former athlete in football and baseball, a member of Lincoln High School "L" Club; Inducted to Lincoln High School Athletic Hall of Fame as a member of the 1943 state championship football team; Member of the Lincoln Trap and Skeet Club. He is survived by a daughter, Susan M. Petersen. Preceded in death by wife, Glynda and former wife, Patricia.

Memorials to St. Mark's United Methodist Church, American Legion Post 3 Baseball Program or Capital Humane Society. Cremation. No visitation. Memorial service will be at a future date.

PILLIOD, Michael G. Pilliod

(Abstracted from info received from Elmer's genealogy friend Jana Sloan Broglin)

Michael G. Pilliod, age 74, of Louisville, KY, formerly of Swanton, Ohio, died Thursday, March 10, 2016. He had been in declining health since suffering a stroke a year ago. Mike was born December 26, 1941, to George and Nelle Pilliod, and was a 1959 graduate of Swanton High School. Mike was Former Vice President of The Pilliod Cabinet Company in Swanton and Former Vice President of Higdon Furniture in Quincy, FL. Mike's hobbies included golfing, bowling, fishing, playing cards, and he was an excellent pool player. He was also an avid collector of several "hot rods" and custom cars. Mike will be remembered as a person who loved having a good time and was the life of the party. He will be greatly missed by his children, Michelle (Eric) Martin, Michael II (Ann) Pilliod, Beth (Eric) Lynch, Valerie Gordon and Mark Pilliod; 11 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; and siblings, Janet Pilliod, Linda (Chrys) Sharples, Pete (Sandy) Pilliod and Bill (Cami) Pilliod. Mike was preceded in death by his parents, George and Nelle Pilliod, and his wife, Barbara. Graveside services will be private, with a memorial service planned in the Spring. In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to a local hospice organization of your choice. Weigel Funeral Homes is handling the arrangements.

POLAKOV'S, Helen Michelle Polakovs

(Abstracted from information received from Teresa Martin Klaiber, one of our friends on Elmer's Genealogy Corner)

Helen Michelle Polakovs, 50, of Catlettsburg, died March 1 in Cabell Huntington Hospital. She was born Sept. 12, 1963, in Sarasota, FL. The funeral will be Thursday at Kilgore & Collier Funeral Home-Panola Street in Catlettsburg. Burial will be in Rose Hill Memorial Garden in Ashland. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to American Cancer Society, 4324 13th Street, Ashland, KY 41102 or cancer.org.

PONDER, Joseph Cameron Ponder

(Abstracted from the 13 September 2015 Coffey and Chism Funeral Home webpage)

Trooper, Joseph Cameron Ponder, age 31, of Rineyville, KY passed away in the line of duty on Sunday, September 13, 2015. Trooper Ponder was a member of the Church of Christ, Elizabethtown, KY. He was stationed at the Kentucky State Police at Post #1, Mayfield, KY and he was a combat veteran with over 5 years of service in the United States Navy. He was an avid hunter & fisherman who loved the outdoors. Survivors include his father, Joseph Ponder of Radcliff, KY; his mother, Brenda Tiffany & her husband, Allan of Rineyville, KY; a sister, Kelly Ponder of Elizabethtown, KY; 2 brothers, Damon Tiffany, Travis Tiffany; his grandma, Erika Shook of Vine Grove, KY; a niece, Mahlea Starks of Elizabethtown, KY; and a host of other family members. Funeral services for Trooper, Ponder will be Friday, September 18, 2015 at the Severns Valley Baptist Church, 1100 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. Burial with military honors will be at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY following service. There will be no visitation prior to the service on Friday. The family asks that expressions of sympathy take the form of gifts to Supporting Heroes, P.O. Box 991547, Louisville, KY 40269-1547, or Concerns of Police Survivors, P.O. Box 23404, Lexington, KY 40523.

POWELL, Juanita Tomlinson Powell

(Abstracted from the Atlanta (GA) Journal-Constitution, September 8, 2009)

Juanita Tomlinson Powell, 94, of Valdosta - a good woman who led a good life - died at Langdale Hospice House Saturday, September 5, 2009. She was married for 54 years to the late Franklin Benjamin Powell Jr. and for 65 years lived in the same house on East Park Avenue where they reared four daughters. They were committed to ensuring that their daughters were well-educated, well-mannered, responsible, caring and independent. Mrs. Powell was born Aug. 15, 1915, in Alamo to Joseph Patrick and Abbie Hill Tomlinson. She was the oldest living descendant of Enoch and Jemima Giddens Tomlinson of Clinch County. Reared in Adel, Mrs. Powell moved to Valdosta as a teenager and worked for Judge Harley Langdale before joining Roberts Insurance Agency, which became Blanton & Cross Insurance Agency. She was secretary-treasurer of Blanton and Cross and was unquestionably acknowledged as the person who knew more about insurance than anyone else in Valdosta. She retired in her early 70s and became a member of the South Georgia Medical Center Auxiliary where she volunteered well into her 80s. She had the time in retirement to enjoy membership in the Literary Guild and Lowndes County Historical Society. Mrs. Powell was a founding member of Park Avenue United Methodist Church where she held several leadership positions. She was a longtime member of the Elks Aidmore Auxiliary of Valdosta Elks Lodge #728 where Mr. Powell was a Past Exalted Ruler and she was a Bingo night regular. She was constant in attending Valdosta High School Wildcat football games, never passed up a good game of poker and taught many a child how to win at the game. She was godmother to Johnathan Sellars of Brunswick and Lauren Sellars Prince of St. Simons Island. Though she traveled throughout Europe and North America, Mrs. Powell took the greatest delight in sharing her home in Valdosta and house at Cherry Lake with family and friends, her children and their friends, her

grandchildren and great-grandchildren, friends' children and their grandchildren and sometimes even strangers. In fact, after she was widowed, there were 13 toothbrushes in her bathroom, all kept there by people who regularly enjoyed her company. She evolved into a great cook who turned out a dinner every Sunday then-determined by how much she had cooked - invited whomever she ran in to to join the family table after church where lively, sometimes six-way conversations ensued. Though a frugal woman, Mrs. Powell was generous with her hospitality and private acts of charity, compassion and friendship. She held to traditional values but was progressive socially and politically. She accepted with grace whatever circumstances befell her and adapted to life changes. Her oldest daughter, Juanita Ann Powell, 49, died of breast cancer in 1991, and Mr. Powell died in 1993. Survivors include three daughters, Kay Powell of Smyrna, Martha Coppage of Valdosta and Mary Frank Wingate of Quitman and Mrs. Powell's beloved son-in-law, Joe Wingate; a sister, Carolyn Harris of Adel; two grandsons and their wives, Joseph Lyle Coppage and Kelli Coppage of Telluride, CO, and Benjamin Powell Wingate and Holly Wingate of Quitman; and three great-grandchildren, Holden Coppage of Telluride and Mary Anne Wingate and Monroe Wingate of Quitman. The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at the Carson McLane Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Sunset Hill Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Langdale Hospice House, 2251 Pineview Dr., Valdosta, GA 31602. Condolences may be conveyed online at www.mclanefuneralservices.com.

PRINCE, Jack Prince

Jack Prince, born Jack Trevathian Upchurch on January 19, 1920 in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA. Jack died January 8, 1994 in Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. Jack Trevathian Upchurch was trained in singing at an early age and appeared in many Broadway musicals in the early 1950s. In 1954, he broke into the television scene singing on "The Colgate Comedy Hour" and later on the Johnny Carson Show. He is most remembered for his role as Rafe Hollister on "The Andy Griffith Show". He is buried in Hillside Memorial Park Redlands, San Bernardino County, California.

PROENNEKE, Richard Proenneke

(Abstracted by courtesy of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (AK), April 29, 2003)

ANCHORAGE--Dick Proenneke, who lived alone in a remote cabin and kept journals published as the classic Alaska memoir "One Man's Wilderness," has died at age 86. Proenneke died Easter Sunday in California. Until 1998, Proenneke lived alone in a cabin he built at Twin Lakes in what is now Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. "I call him a modern-day Henry David Thoreau," said John Branson, a Lake Clark park ranger and historian who was a longtime friend of Proenneke's. "Thoreau lived at Walden for only one year. Dick lived there for 30 years." Proenneke moved permanently to Twin Lakes in 1968 at age 52 after retiring as a diesel mechanic and heavy-equipment operator in Kodiak. Branson said Proenneke wanted to live deep in the wilderness out of a need for simplicity rather than to escape his fellows. "He was not to be misconstrued as an end-of-the-roader or anti-social at all," Branson told the Anchorage Daily News. "He was extremely hospitable and gracious to visitors." "One Man's Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey" was first published in 1973, attracting visitors to Twin Lakes, 20 miles north of Lake Clark in the Alaska Range. "A lot of people all over the country know him, and a good bit of the world," said younger brother Raymond Proenneke in Hemet, Calif., where Dick lived for the past five years. "He'd have visitors from Denmark, Germany, Sweden and different countries like that. Some of them would return every year." Dick Proenneke was a daily journal keeper, filling scores of stenographic notebooks and calendars with wildlife observations, weather notations, the details of erecting his cabin and cache and reflections on the simplest of lifestyles. "What a man never has, he never misses," Proenneke writes in "One Man's Wilderness," the record of his first year at Twin Lakes, when he was living in a friend's cabin and building his own. "I learned something from the big game animals. Their food is pretty much the same from day to day. I don't vary my fare too much either, and I've never felt better in my life. I don't confuse my digestive system, I just season simple food with hunger." The book was reissued in a new format in 1999 and won a National Outdoor Book Award. It may have sold as many as 75,000 copies over the years, a best seller by Alaska standards, said Sara Juday, regional manager for Alaska Northwest Books, the publisher. "It has a kind of cult status. It has changed people's lives," Juday said. Richard Proenneke was born and raised in Iowa, one of seven children. He served in the Navy during World War II and moved to Alaska in 1950. Proenneke never married, never had children and never talked about any of it, his brother said. He left Twin Lakes at age 82 when his health began to fail and the winters got tougher for him. In the last several years, he'd had a progression of strokes, his brother said. A few years ago, Dick and his brother donated to the Park Service the mass of steno notebooks he kept as well as photographs and films he'd made at Twin Lakes. The agency intends to have a historian comb the journals to publish another book or a series of books, said Jeanne Schaaf, the park's chief of cultural resources.

PURDY, Mike Purdy

(Abstracted from internet sources - Purdy was one of Elmer's guides in Alaska)

The body of 24-year-old Michael Purdy was recovered Sunday along a trail in Denali National Park. The National Park Service had said Purdy had gone on a hiking trip but never returned. Purdy, from Portland, was supposed to start a summer job with Denali ATV Tours in Healy, Alaska but didn't show up for his first day. It was going to be Purdy's second year with the tour company. Early indications are that Purdy, an experience hiker, had left the trail to do some scrambling on higher terrain and

fell and died of a head injury. His car was found nearby with overnight backpacking gear and food. "Friends, family and co-workers describe Mike Purdy as an adventurous and experienced backcountry hiker familiar with the park," the park service said in a statement.