

# Obituaries



## Willard Plush

Willard Plush, 95, of Nampa passed away peacefully on May 22, 2009 at a local hospital. A funeral service was held on Saturday, May 30, 2009 at Cloverdale Funeral Home. Burial followed at Cloverdale Memorial Park.

Willard was born April 28, 1914, near Hazelton, North Dakota. His family had a farm in Sioux County near Selfridge, North Dakota where he and his brothers helped his father farm several hundred acres of wheat and raised Black Angus cattle.

On November 30, 1941 Willard married his sweetheart, Muriel Nultemeier, and they had 67 wonderful years together. They moved to Idaho during the blizzard of 1949 where they owned

and operated a farm for 55 years southeast of Kuna.

Willard loved to till the soil and the smell of fresh plowed ground or new mown hay was like perfume to him. It was a joy for him to see the grain pouring into the granary when combining time came. He retired at the age of 90 and they moved to Nampa where they have resided since 2004.

Willard loved animals and had horses and cattle his entire life. He raised, trained and raced many quarter horses and won many ribbons and trophies through the years. He was a lifetime member of the Kuna Kave Riding Club.

Music was the joy of his life. Willard made his first guitar at the age of 5 from apple box slats bending them by soaking them in a water tank. He obtained used strings from a neighbor and that was the beginning of a lifetime of music. He played many instruments including banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, saxophone, steel guitar, and nearly any instrument he held.

At the age of 14 he rode to town on a horse carrying his banjo and played in a dance band for one dollar a night.

He was honored as oldest fiddler for three consecutive years at the age of 92, 93, and 94 at the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest in Weiser, Idaho. He was a lifetime member of District 5 Idaho Old Time Fiddlers.

Willard played banjo at Shakeys pizza parlor in Boise for many years and in several bands throughout the valley.

He was preceded in death by his parents William and Mary (Krausch) Plush; brother Samuel Plush of Oregon; Ralph Plush (Irene) of North Dakota; sisters Violet Hardy (Wilbur) of Washington; and Irene Howard (Roy)

formerly of Nampa, Idaho.

Willard is survived by his wife Muriel Plush; three daughters, June Miller (Robert) of Melba, Idaho; Donna Woodall of Halfway, Ore.; and Barbara Daniel (Jimmy) of Casa Grande, Ariz; three grandchildren, Shannon Grenz, Pamela Reyes, Michael Grenz and one great-grandchild, Miranda. In addition he is survived by one sister Betty Schober (Wesley) of Nampa, Idaho.

Condolences for the family can be submitted online at [cloverdalefuneralhome.com](http://cloverdalefuneralhome.com).



## District 9 Campout

Third Annual Idaho Old Time Fiddlers District Nine Campout & Fiddle Show, August 21, 22 & 23, 2009.

Three Rivers Resort, Lowell Idaho, 50 miles east of Orofino.

Cabins, motel, A-frames, RV and tent campsites.

Swimming, rafting, hiking, jacuzzis, fishing.

Friday, August 21: Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m.; Jam following dinner.

Saturday, August 22: Music workshops & jam at 9:30 a.m.; Fiddle Show at 2 p.m.

Sunday, August 23: Breakfast. Camping Reservations: 888-926-4430 <http://www.threeriversresort.com>.

Anyone who plays an acoustical stringed instrument or enjoys listening to old time music is welcome.

Additional information: Dave Bezdicek: [bezoc@pullman.com](mailto:bezoc@pullman.com).



## Copy Deadline

Copy Deadline for  
the July Issue of The  
Idaho Fiddler is  
July 5, 2009

All material **MUST** be in our hands by the above date to be included in the July issue.