

Joe L. Marker (1917-2004)

"Chief Joseph Historical Marker"

[Post Register, Dec. 21, 2004]

Joe Lundquist Marker, 86, of Idaho Falls, passed away Dec. 16, 2004, at Life Care Center in Idaho Falls.

Joe was born Dec. 22, 1917 in Idaho Falls, the son of James Alma Marker and Bertha Matilda Lundquist Marker. His twin brother James, died at the age of 18 months from convulsions. Joe attended Idaho Falls schools. His first grade teacher at Emerson Elementary School was Ethel Boyes. His journalism instructor in the old high school on 7th Street was Clair E. Gale.

AS a kid he worked after school in John Hart's Home Bakery on Broadway. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1942-45 in Germany, France and Belgium. He finished as a Corporal at Ford Ord, California.

His first newspaper job was working as an assistant to Carl E. Hayden in the Idaho Falls bureau of the Salt Lake Tribune on Park Avenue. Later, when the Deseret News of Salt Lake City opened a bureau in Idaho Falls, also on Park Avenue, the Jaycees managed to get the job of manager and editor for Joe. He continued in this capacity until the bureau was closed when he went to work for the Post Register as a reporter in 1939. Later he became valley editor and still later, farm editor, religions editor, business editor and historical editor at the age of 70.

Marker received many accolades for his newspaper work including the Idaho Conservation Writer of the Year, bestowed on him by the three Idaho Falls Kiwanis Clubs; Grand Marshall of the Idaho Falls 4th of July Celebration Parade in 1982 and as Grand Marshal of the American Legion War Bonnet Roundup in 1985.

The Mayor's Committee for the Handicapped and Elderly awarded Joe the Older Employee of the Year Award. The "Book of Golden Deeds Award" was presented to him by the Idaho Falls Exchange Club for "reminding Idaho Falls of its rich

heritage." The Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce presented Joe with a plaque reading: "to Chief Joseph Historical Marker," for his excellent news coverage of the organization.

Marker was a Charter Member of the Idaho Falls Jaycees, serving as chairman of its 4th of July Parade in 1947. He also served as chairman of several other committees and in the State Jaycees organization.

Joe served as chairman of the Idaho Falls Salvation Army Advisory Board and President of the Eastern Idaho Agricultural Hall of Fame. He was an organist having played for many events, and public gatherings here and elsewhere, including the annual Community Service of Thanksgiving and the annual Christmas in Eagle Rock program. Joe enjoyed photography, history, writing and gardening.

He was affiliated with the Mormon and Methodist Churches. He frequently responded to the question of what church he belonged to with "I belong to the Round Church--the devil can't corner you."

He is survived by two sisters, Fern Bareswill of Idaho Falls and Kaye (George) Werner of Pocatello; and a nephew, Kenneth Hewitt of Idaho Falls, whom Joe and his mother raised. He was preceded in death by his parents, his twin brother, James, and two sisters, Clara and Flora.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on what would have been his 87th birthday, Wednesday, Dec. 22, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 237 North Water Ave. in Idaho Falls, with the Rev. Thom Larson officiating. The family will visit with friends for one hour before services.

Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery under the direction of Wood Funeral Home. Military Rites will be performed by the Bonneville County Veterans Team.

{Note: Joe Marker was a grand-nephew of Pioneer Alma Marker.}