

**MERL H. BIGELOW**

**Owned Merl's Garage in Shavertown for over 49 years**

Merl H. Bigelow, 81, of Shavertown, passed away at home Monday Feb. 26, 2007. He was born in Bowman's Creek and was the son of the late Harry C. and Mary Eva (Lutes) Bigelow. Merl attended Beaumont High School.

Mr. Bigelow served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. He served in the Pacific Theater of Operation. He fought at the battle of Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands, where he was wounded and was awarded the Purple Heart for his wound he received.

Merl was the owner and operator of Merl's Garage in Shavertown for over 49 years. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting with his son and playing golf. He especially loved his grandchildren's many activities.

He was a member of the George M. Dallas Lodge No. 531; Scottish Rite Valley of Bloomsburg; Irem Temple A.A.O.N.M.S.; former member of the Arab Patrol; Irem Golf Association; American Legion

Post 672, Dallas, South Mountain Land Association; and The Long Point Gun Club, Noxen. He was also a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Dallas.

He is preceded in death, in addition to his parents, by his brother, Charles Bigelow.

He survived by his wife of 62 years, Norma Myers Bigelow; son Merl C. (Butch) and his wife, Carole, of Evans Falls; daughter Jan and her husband, Dr. Bruce Goeringer, Dallas; granddaughter Holly Beth Bigelow and her husband, Matthias Oliver, Vera Cruz, Pa.; granddaughter Megan C. Bigelow Zimmer and her husband, Mark, Greenwood, Ind.; grandsons Eric A. Goeringer, Brian M. Goeringer, Adam M. Goeringer, all of Dallas; his brother, Wilbur C., Ann Arbor, Mich.; and sister Lois Devine, Barnegat Light, N.J.

Memorial donations may be made to Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Eastern PA Chapter, 225 City Line Ave. Suite 104, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

**JANIS JONES**

**Ardent advocate for the environment**

Janis Platter Jones, of Dallas, passed away at home on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2007 after a long illness.

Born on Jan. 25, 1938, in Tacoma, Wash., she married attorney Merton E. Jones, Forty Fort, in 1957. She moved to Forty Fort shortly thereafter. After Merton's death in 1984, she moved to Victorville, Calif., where she remained for almost 10 years.

She later lived in Frankfort, Ky., and returned to the Wyoming Valley in 2004. She was an ardent advocate for the environment and social justice, supporting many affiliated organizations for years. A truly generous individual, she devoted her life to caring for others, and was widely considered to

be "everyone's favorite mother."

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Merton E. Jones; infant son, Christopher; mother, Virginia Tennant; and father, Gilmore Platter.

Janis is survived by son, Morgan Jones and his wife, Margi, Bagdad, Ky.; daughter, Rebecca Mooney and her husband, Kevin, Dallas; son, Matthew Jones and his wife, Tracy, and their son, Riley, Portland, Ore.; stepmother, Lois Platter; sister, Diane Winkelman, of California; nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews and cousins.

Expressions of sympathy should be made to the Huntington's Disease Society of America.

**IRENE GRABOSKI**

**Worked at Sands Casino in Atlantic City**

Irene Katherine Graboski, 78, of Dallas, passed away Monday, Feb. 26, 2007 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born in Kingston, she was a daughter of the late Reese and Ethel Merel Jones.

She resided in Larksville before moving to Dallas.

Mrs. Graboski was employed by the Sands Casino in Atlantic City, N.J.

She was preceded in death

by her husband, Daniel; daughters, Linda and Cheryl; and a granddaughter, Lori Ordway.

Surviving are sons, Daniel Jr., Luzerne; David, Shavertown; and Charles, Lamar, Ark.; daughters, Diane Hendershott, Harveys Lake; and Kim Graboski, Shavertown; 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Interment, Denison Cemetery, Swoyersville.

**FLORENCE 'TIL' WEAVER**

**Worked at Commonwealth Telephone Co. for 48 years**

Florence I. "Til" Weaver, 100, of Schoolhouse Road, Center Moreland, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007 at her home.

A life resident of Center Moreland, she was the daughter of the late Jacob C. and Ida Brunges Weaver.

She attended the Greencastle school in Northmoreland Township.

Before retiring she was employed as a clerk by Commonwealth Telephone Co. for 48 years.

She was a member of Center Moreland United Methodist

Church and its United Methodist Women.

She served a church financial secretary for 45 years.

She was preceded in death by sisters Ruth Schoonover, Mary LaBar, Ethel Jackson Keller, Nora Erb, Henrietta Zack; brother Jacob C. Weaver Jr.

Surviving are nieces and nephews.

Interment, Marsh Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Center Moreland United Methodist Church 1244 SR 292, Tunkhannock, PA 18657.

**RICHARD MATTIE**

**Member of St. Therese's Church, Shavertown**

Richard Mattie, of Shavertown, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007, at the Meadows Nursing Center where he had been a guest.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, he was a son of the late John and Mary Marko Mattie.

He was a member of St. Therese's Church, Shavertown.

He was a member of the IBEW Union Local 1319, working for various electrical contractors as a licensed explosive blaster.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 644, Swoyersville.

He was preceded in death by brothers John and George. Surviving are his wife, the former Alice Gordon; brothers Robert and Albert, both of Swoyersville; Michael, Forty Fort; and Joseph, Kunkle; sisters Rosemarie Mattie, Philadelphia; and Arlene Lepo, Maryland.

Interment, Chapel Lawn Cemetery, Dallas.

**RUSSELL L. THOMAS**

**Trustee at Dallas United Methodist Church**

Russell L. Thomas, 91, a resident of Greenbriar, Dallas, passed away Sunday, Feb. 25, 2007 at his residence.

Born in Laurel Run, June 12, 1915, he was the son of the late Joseph and Abi (Fassett) Thomas.

He was a graduate of James M. Coughlin High School, Wilkes-Barre, and had attended Bucknell Business College.

He had served in Europe during World War II with the United States Army, having held the rank of Master Sergeant.

Mr. Thomas had been employed by the Glen Alden Coal Company and later served on the staff of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus.

He was a member of the Dallas United Methodist Church, where he served as a trustee, as well as on the Administration Board.

He was also a member of the Irem Temple A.A.O.N.M.S., the Scranton Consistory, Lodge 442, F.& A.M. and the American Legion, Dallas.

He was preceded in death by three sisters and four brothers.

Surviving are his wife of over 50 years, the former Bette Stubbs; several nieces and nephews.

Interment, Mt. Greenwood Cemetery, Trucksville.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 71 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

**ALMA BOROFSKI**

**Member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church**

Alma Kapic Borofski, 90, formerly of Hunlock Creek, the Honey Pot section of Nanticoke and Lake Silkworth, passed away Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007 at Guardian Elder Care Center, Sheatown section of Newport Township.

She was born in Nanticoke on Sep. 13, 1916.

She was the daughter of the late John and Lillian Washiewicz Kapic.

She was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Lake Silkworth, Lehman Township.

She was preceded in death by her husband Frank, in 1993; son, Edwin, in 1976;

and sister, Lillian Kowalski, in 1999.

Surviving are a daughter, Ann Marie Havey and her husband George, Honey Pot section of Nanticoke; three grandchildren, Michael, Georgeann and Ann Marie; four great-grandchildren; sister, Edwina Niezgodna, Hunlock Creek; several nieces and nephews.

Interment, parish cemetery, Lehman Township.

Alma's family would like to thank the staff and administration of the Guardian Elder Care Center and Hospice Community Care for their care and dedication to her during her five-year stay.


**MORE OBITUARIES**

See page 9.

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