



Jack Milton Behnke

November 9, 1916 - December 10, 2010

Jack Milton Behnke, a Siskiyou County native and Yreka resident, passed away peacefully in the Madrone Hospice House in Yreka on December 10, 2010, at the age of 94. He was the last remaining male Behnke descendant of his generation.

Jack was born in Edgewood, California, on November 9, 1916, to George and Gussie (Chastain) Behnke.

During the 1930s & 1940s, Jack worked on a gold dredger on the Klamath River. At the age of 29, he voluntarily enlisted in the Navy and served in the 58th U.S. Construction Battalion building airstrips in Okinawa during the Second World War. Upon returning to Yreka, he went to work for the Siskiyou County Road Department, retiring as a foreman after a thirty-one year career. Jack was a talented athlete and musician and a lifelong hunter and fly-fisherman. In tennis, he won three county championships while in high school. He played minor league baseball for the Yreka Indians (which awarded him a lifetime pass to any major league baseball game). He began playing golf in the 1950s and continued playing regularly into his 90s. He played alto saxophone in his brother's dance band, The Cascadians, during the 1950s along with his first wife, Velma, who played piano.

Jack is survived by his daughter, Lynnette, of Yreka; his two granddaughters, Melody Behnke and Amber Behnke of Portland, Oregon; his daughter-in-law, Carolyn; his step-granddaughter, Cynde; and two ex-wives, Mary (Miki) Behnke and Helen Behnke. Jack is preceded in death by his first wife, Velma;

his son, Danny; and his brother, Warren (Pop) Behnke.

Girdner Funeral Chapel is assisting the family. Charitable donations in Jack's memory may be made to Madrone Hospice (255 Collier Circle, Yreka, CA 96097).