

Are Free Obits On Way Out?

We were saddened this week to lose the company sponsor of our free obituaries. Longtime readers have told me they appreciate *The Telegraph* printing obituaries.

The local daily newspaper, as do most newspapers, charge a fee, that frequently runs \$150-\$225, to print obituaries. The *Telegraph* has always printed them free, and could do that since some funeral homes advertised with this paper.

Now, without any funeral homes advertising to support this, we may have to consider charging for obits, and only printing "death notices" for free.

The Telegraph would appreciate your ideas, feedback and any suggestions for our dilemma: info@stjtelegraph.com

- Anderson, Alice - 69
- Banks, Mary - 87
- Berry, Betty - 68
- Blakesly, Dorothy - 83
- Chambers, Steven - 52
- Church, Charles - 79
- Higbe, Frances - 72
- Hillyard, Terry - 55
- McLean, Keaton - 2
- Mier, Floyd - 77
- Norman, Billie - 81
- Owens, Robert - 81
- Olerud, Ilef - 87
- Sanders, Phil - 64
- Shepherd, Bertha - 90
- Wrehe, Eudora - 88

ALICE (CROSS) ANDERSON

1940-2009 | Age 69

Alice Marie French (Cross) Anderson, born on May 28, 1940 in Trenton, MO.

The first few years of her life she lived in Eunice and Birch Tree, MO. She then moved to St. Joseph, where she lived most of her life. She also lived in Cosby, MO for 22 years and moved back to Trenton, where she resided until her death, January 22.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Hester Ann French and an infant daughter Theresa Kay Anderson.

She is survived by her daughter, Rita M. (Randy) Floyd; two sons, Robert D. (Eadie) Anderson, Jr. and Roger B. (Brenda) Anderson and nine grandchildren.

She was a Christian.

Graveside services Wednesday, Jan. 27 at Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Arrangements Heaton-Bowman-Smith & Sidenfaden Chapel. Contributions may be made in care of the funeral home.

Pallbearers: Bobby Anderson, Roger Anderson, Harley Myrick and William Bullock.

BETTY JO BERRY

1941-2009 | Age 68

Betty Jo Berry, 68, Savannah, MO, died Sunday, January 24, 2010 at her residence.

Mrs. Berry was born March 24, 1941 in Oregon, MO, the daughter of Shirley Frederick and Georgia Berniece (Narans) Thornton. She was also raised by Esa Mae Kurtz, her great aunt. Betty graduated from Lafayette High School in 1959 and attended Platt-Grad. She married Norman O. Berry on February 28, 1969, who survives of home.

She was preceded in death by her

parents; and great aunt along with several other aunts and uncles.

Mrs. Berry was an assistant at Fisher Clinic, custodian at Savannah High School and was a homemaker.

Betty was a member of the Savannah United Methodist Church.

(Survivors:) two brothers, Jerry Thornton (Nita) and David Dean Thornton (Robin) all of St. Joseph; aunt, Phyllis Narans; mother-in-law, Gertrude Lorene Berry; three nieces, Staci and Andrea Thornton and Elizabeth Koch (Matt); three great nieces; and one great nephew.

Memorial Services Thursday, Jan. 28 at Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory.

Online guests book and obituary at www.meierhoffer.com.

DOROTHY J. BLAKESLEY

1926-2009 | Age 83

Dorothy Jean Blakesley, 83, St. Joseph, died Sunday, January 31, 2010 at a local health care center.

Ms. Blakesley was born June 6, 1926 in Clearfield, IA, the daughter of Harry and Gertrude (Livingston) Blakesley, who preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her sister, Agnes Schrod, brother, Gilbert Blakesley; and great nephew, Nicholas Smith.

Dorothy came to St. Joseph in 1946 and worked at the A & P Store for twenty years. She also was an administrator for twenty years for St. Joseph Convalescent Center.

She was a member of the Missouri Board of Administrators, Missouri Nursing Home Association, and a member of the Eagles Auxiliary. She played basketball for Goetz Brewing Company for several years.

(Survivors:) nieces, Deborah Kulhman, Darla Bodfield, Marsha Smith, and Brenda Miller, all of Lincoln, NE and Lisa Smith, McCool Junction, NE; six great nieces; and three great nephews.

Services 3:00 P.M. Thursday, Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory. Entombment Memorial Park Mausoleum. The Family suggests memorial gifts to the Gower Christian Church Building Fund.

Online guests book and obituary at www.meierhoffer.com.

MARY I. BANKS

1922-2009 | Age 87

Mary I. Banks, 87, St. Joseph, died Saturday, January 30, 2010 at Heartland Regional Medical Center.

Mary was born June 26, 1922 in Akley, MN, the daughter of Elroy and Hattie (Palmer) Hiskey. She married Carl M. Banks, Jr., who preceded her in death on June 25, 2002.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Walter, Edward and Galen Hiskey; and sister, Florence Cunningham.

Mrs. Banks retired from Stevens Hat Company.

He was a member of the Trinity United Brethren in Christ Church

(Survivors:) three daughters, Carol Jean Silvey and husband, Lonnie, Shirley Shellenberger and Rosa Schiltz and husband, Tom all of St.

Joseph; brother, Wayne Hiskey, Savannah, MO; three sisters, Verla Jean Newton and husband, Roy, Wathena, KS, Marie Falkenbach and husband, Wilbur, St. Joseph and Laura Ripper, St. Joseph; 12 grandchildren; 27 great grandchildren; seven great great grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Service Tuesday, Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory. Interment Memorial Park Cemetery. The Family suggests memorial gifts to the American Cancer Society.

Online guests book and obituary at www.meierhoffer.com.

STEVEN D. CHAMBERS

1957-2009 | Age 52

Steven D. Chambers, 52, St. Joseph, died Saturday, January 23, 2010 at his home.

Steve was born November 26, 1957 in St. Joseph, the son of Ray and Betty (Roach) Chambers who preceded him in death.

He was a student at Hyde Elementary School, Spring Garden Middle School, 1976 graduate of Benton High School and attended Missouri Western State University.

Over the years, Steve worked in various capacities for Harold's Clothing, Clark Oil, Mead Corporation, Cook Paint, the St. Joseph School District, Ameri-Pac, Mid-America Distributing and Triumph Foods.

He loved baseball and particularly enjoyed discussing great records and interesting baseball trivia. He was a fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and the KC Royals. For several years he served as President of the Northwest Missouri Chapter of the St. Louis Cardinals Fan Club. During the 1985 baseball season, Steve was honored by the KC Royals as their two-millionth fan and threw out the ceremonial first pitch to Royals catcher, Jim Sundberg.

Steve also enjoyed following the KC Chiefs and was a standout tennis player during his years at Benton.

(Survivors:) sister, Linda A. James (Hal), St. Joseph; brother, Jerry R. Chambers (Jackie), Chesterfield, MO; nieces, Sandy Fetters (Pat), Stacy Rezek (Tony), and Jennifer Garthe (Kevin); nephew, Ryan Myers (Donna); great nieces, Jenna Fetters and Abby Garthe; great nephews, Ethan Fetters, Evan and Quin Rezek, Owen Myers and William Garthe.

Memorial Service. Saturday, Jan. 30 at Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory. Inurnment Memorial Park Cemetery. The Family suggests memorial gifts to Benton High School, St. Joseph, MO.

Online guests book and obituary at www.meierhoffer.com.

CHARLES M. CHURCH

1930-2009 | Age 79

Charles (Chas) M. Church, 79, Savannah, Mo., passed away Friday, January 29, 2010, at his home.

Charles was born on September 1, 1930, in St. Joseph, to John and Elise (Hagan) Church. He attended Central High School. Charles worked for Armour & Co. for several years, and then Monfort Pork Co., retiring as a USDA Inspector in 1993, after 43 years of service. He was a member of Duncan Hill Golf Club in Savannah, MO.

Charles married Shirley Jean View in St. Joseph. She passed away on

July 26, 1993. He was also preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Katie McClure and Esther Barnett and brother, John Church.

Survivors include two sons, Jon H. Church, St. Joseph, and Michael C. Church and wife Cindy, Wathena, KS; granddaughter, Ann Goodwin, St. Joseph; four great-grandchildren, Kyla Snodgrass, Angel Snodgrass, Sage Buckler and Mason Goodwin; his companion of twelve years, Rhonda Sturm; and Rhonda's three daughters, Becky Fisher, Jill Utech, Kathy, Burt and son Mike Russell; Joe Fisher and Lee Neber.

Mr. Church has been cremated. Memorial Service Tuesday, Feb. 2 at Heaton-Bowman-Smith & Sidenfaden Chapel. Inurnment at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions, in care of the funeral home, to help defray funeral expenses.

FRANCES L. HIGBE

1937-2009 | Age 72

Frances "Fran" LaVerne Higbe 72, of Saint Joseph, passed away Monday, January 25, 2010 at her home.

She was born June 29, 1937 in Evening Shade, MO, daughter of Wyona and Ray Kinnaird. She graduated from Plato High School and attended Southwest Missouri State University.

She married Melvin "Bud" Higbe January 17, 1962 and they shared almost 48 years of marriage together.

Fran started her banking career with the 1st Stockyards bank in 1961 as a teller, when she retired she was the Assistant Vice President and facilities manager of the First Bank of Missouri in south St. Joseph. Fran was a member and Past President of South Side Rotary, former Chairman of the South Side Fall Festival Baby Show, Active in the Southside Business Womens Association, and very active in School PTA. She was a member of the American Institute of Banking. She attended the King Hill United Methodist.

Fran was preceded in death by her parents, and a Brother Carroll Ray Kinnaird. Survivors include her Husband, Bud Higbe of Saint Joseph, two Daughters, Leah Lynn Higbe of Whalan, MN, and Dana D. Stumpff of St. Joseph, two Granddaughters, Denise Lynn Stumpff, and Ruth Frances Higbe, and a Grandson, Greyson Lee Higbe, three Sisters, Raona Wade of North Kansas City, MO, Eileen Meinsen of Springfield, MO, and Kathie Elaine Frederick of Winona, MO.

Funeral services were conducted on Friday, January 29, 2010 at the Rupp Chapel, Pastor Steve Sewell officiating. The Interment will be at the King Hill Cemetery.

online condolence and obituary at www.ruppfuneral.com

TERRY D. HILLYARD

1965-2009 | Age 55

Terry D. Hillyard, 55, Union Star, passed away Monday, February 1, 2010, from injuries sustained in an auto accident in Andrew County.

Terry was born on February 22, 1954, in Marshall, MO, to Ernest and Iva "Nadine" (Harrah) Hillyard. He was a graduate of Central High School. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and mushroom hunting. He worked as a heavy equipment operator for Operating Engineers Local #101.

VAN VICKLE MONUMENTS, INC.



1717 Frederick Ave. | St. Joseph, MO 64501
[816] 232-5882 | [877] 232-5882