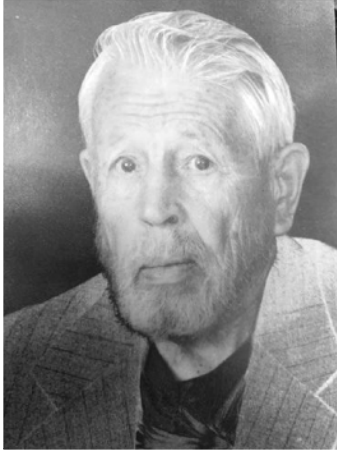


In Memoriam

Clyde Melvin Johnson

1928-2023



Clyde Melvin Johnson was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on Sept. 7, 1928, to Clyde M. and Lillian (Sohbert) Johnson. Clyde's parents, along with his brother Dale and sister Mary, lived in Sioux City, Iowa.

When he was young, Clyde sold newspapers, but was caught by his father selling them to drunks and that was the end of his newspaper business. At age 15, Clyde was a Golden Gloves Boxer. The local newspaper remarked that he was a very scrappy fighter.

As a young man, Clyde went to find work in Washington where they were building the atomic bomb. You couldn't work in Washington unless you were eighteen, so he traveled to Pocatello, Idaho, where he worked for a while. He finally landed in Colorado, where he went to work on the Denver C&S train, working as a flagman and climbing poles, stringing wire from Denver to Houston, Texas.

On April 10, 1947, in Niwot, Colorado, Clyde married the love of his life, Margaret Carton, whose family had immigrated from Belgium. Clyde and Margaret traveled around in a small trailer with their dog, Queeny, wherever work took them. Clyde had many work experiences, including demolition work at Coors; Mr. Coors was so happy with Clyde's work he offered him a job but Clyde declined. He worked many tunnel jobs, including the Alva B. Adams Tunnel near Granby, a nine-mile tunnel in Jimtown near Parshall, the Cheyenne Mountain Complex Tunnel near Colorado Springs, Hagerman Tunnel between Leadville and Basalt, Aurora Rampart Range Tunnel, the Waterton Tunnel, the Eisenhower-Johnson Tunnel and of course, the Harold D. Roberts Tunnel, where Clyde was believed to be the last member of that crew. He was also involved with the Cabin Creek project where eight men were injured in a dynamite blast. He told his family that he still felt like he had rocks and gravel embedded in his scalp.

In 1956, Clyde and Margaret moved to Bailey and raised their children, Marilyn, Marlene, Clyde and Marcia. They fished, had a pony, cats, dogs, belonged to

various clubs and enjoyed their life. Clyde often said he took care of everything outside the house while Margaret took care of everything inside. Clyde remained living in his home until his death; he was extremely adamant about that.

Clyde was a member of the Local 9 Operating Engineers for 57 years, was a Bailey volunteer fireman, a member of St. Mary of the Rockies Catholic Church. In fact, when Clyde went to the church behind Bailey Propane, which stands today, he remembered when Tom Mann was an altar boy there. Clyde was a member of the Knights of Columbus. If you had ever been to his house you would know he was a Betty Boop collector.

Clyde always had something good to say about others, he was a hard worker, a good, kind person. Maybe a bit set in his ways, but you just couldn't help but like the guy.

He will be missed by his four children, 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grand children and one great-great-grandchild and many, many friends and acquaintance "but" hopefully Clyde Melvin Johnson, you will be remembered in Bailey, Colorado, history forever.

Clyde passed away Feb. 2 at Lutheran Hospice in Wheat Ridge, Colorado.