



WILLIAM BERT CALTON

(August 9, 1932 – June 17, 2010)

Bill was born August 9, 1932 in Ten Sleep, WY. He went to school in Ten Sleep and Powell, WY. He received his B.A. degree from Eastern Montana College of Education (now MSU-Billings) in Billings, MT and his Masters Degree from the University of Oregon. He also did graduate work at USC finishing all the coursework but not completing his dissertation. Bill married Shirley Lee Simonis of Plentywood, Montana on December 28, 1954 and was a lifelong educator, beginning his teaching career in 1954 at Lockwood School in Billings and continuing after moving to CA in 1960 in the Hudson and Rowland School Districts. He served briefly as a teacher before becoming a curriculum specialist, focusing on math and reading programs. He and his wife Shirley and their two oldest boys traveled through South America in 1968 for about a month teaching math workshops in Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, and Chile while also visiting Brazil and Peru.

He was appointed Assistant Superintendent in the Cypress School District in Orange County and a year later he became Superintendent - a position he held for 25 years until his retirement in 1993. The district office was named the "William Calton Administration Office". His leadership was highlighted by the creation of the Cypress Education Foundation, which benefits the district to this day. It was his genius with this Foundation that has provided the district with a steady income stream for many years and will continue in perpetuity. He continued his work with the Cypress Education Foundation and Cypress School District as a consultant for about fifteen years after his retirement, giving him great satisfaction that the district he loved would be in great hands for many, many years. He knew everyone in the district by name, meeting with each one regularly and treating everyone the same. His life and character were an inspiration to so many colleagues.

Bill continued to do the things he loved in retirement - splitting time between Hacienda Heights, CA and Ten Sleep, WY, entertaining family and friends at his log house on Canyon Creek. Many associates from his years in the Cypress School District took advantage of his generous invitation to visit this beloved retirement home in Wyoming. His children and their children (and now his great-grandchildren) continue to enjoy their annual visit to this refuge from everyday life.

He had many hobbies, but his greatest hobby of all was people. He enjoyed a positive outlook on life no matter the health challenges he faced suffering from severe rheumatoid arthritis since his late 20s and many other maladies over the years. He was so positive about life and just made everybody feel that things would always work out. His keen sense of humor, acceptance of all and work ethic are among the many qualities that mark his legacy among family and friends.

Bill's cremains were scattered in the Big Horn Mountains.

Submitted by Terry Calton