

**Obituaries and other information for burials in Gravel Point Cemetery.**

**1934**

*The Columbian*

Monday, April 30, 1934

**PETER W. BODIN**

Succumbing suddenly to four years of poor health, Peter William Bodin, 69, died this morning at his home in Venersborg, where he had lived for four years, going there from Kelso.

Besides the widow, Mrs. Martha Bodin, survivors include two brothers, Adolph in Mayger, Ore. and one in Sweden; five sons, Fred and Richard Bodin at home, and Chester, Einer and Gustave in Longview; two daughters Miss Esther and Miss Hilda Bodin in Longview; and seventeen grandchildren.

The body is at Knapp's chapel pending funeral arrangements.

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**1953**

*The Columbian*

October 6, 1953

Legal Notice: In the superior Court of the State of Washington in and For the County of Clark. Notice to Creditors No. 13580 In the Matter of the Estate of **FRED W. BODIN**, Deceased. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed and has qualified as Executrix of the above entitled estate; that all persons having claims against said Deceased are hereby required to serve the same, duty verified, on said Executrix or her attorneys of record at the address below stated, and file at the same with the Clerk of said Court, together with proof of such service, within six months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the same will be barred. Date of first publication: October 6, 1953.  
OLLIE M. BODIN, Executrix of said Estate.  
Address: Route 1, Box 227-A,  
Battle Ground, Washington.  
HALL & LA LONDE, Attorneys for Estate,  
218 Blurock Building, Vancouver,  
Washington Oct. 6, 13, 20.

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**1954**

*The Columbian*  
Monday May 24, 1954

doctor lives approximately one block from the Hill home where the child died, Mylan said. The child was given no medical attention.

**HILL** – May 20 1954, at home. David Michael Hill of Battle Ground, Wash, aged 2 1/2 years. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hill at home; brother of Cathy and Lana Carol at home. Grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hill of Battle Ground and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Berg of Detroit, Mich. Great-grandson of Mrs. Emma Berg of Detroit, Mich. Resident of Clark County all his life. Born February 22, 1952 at Vancouver, Wash. Funeral services will be held at 3 P.M. Thursday, May 27, at the Chapel of the Evergreen Funeral Home. Rev. George Nelson will officiate.

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**FATHER HELD IN DEATH**

Fred A. Hill, 28, Battle Ground was being held in the Clark County jail today as a material witness in connection with the death of his 2 1/2 year old son Thursday night. A coroner's inquest was being held at the courthouse this afternoon to investigate the cause of the child's death and direct law enforcement officers in any further investigation of the case. Hill was arrested by Sheriff Clarence McKay after Coroner Paul Mylan called an inquest to probe the circumstances surrounding the child's death. Hill told the coroner that the youngster had climbed into the bathtub and turned on the hot water. The feet and ankles of the lad were badly seared and he was also scalded on his back, Mylan said. Coroner Mylan, who questioned Hill about the death prior to today's inquest, said he was told no doctor had been summoned for the child because the family was having financial difficulties. A

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**1976**

*The Columbian*

June 6, 1976

**AXFORD, Forest L.** – Age 78, June 1, 1976 at Woodland, Wash. Born July 25, 1897 at Harrisburg, Neb. Lived at 24119 NE 132nd, Battle Ground, for 30 years, a resident of Battle Ground for 56 years, and of Clark County for most of his life. He was a retired school bus driver and driver ed. Instructor for Battle Ground schools. Widow, Pearl, at home. Brother, Lyndon Axford of Dayton, Wash. Member of Meadow Glade Seventh-day Adventist Church. Funeral services Thursday, June 3 at 1 p.m. at Layne's Funeral Home Chapel, Battle Ground. Private interment in Gravel Point Cemetery in Battle Ground. Memorial contributions may be given to Worthy Student Fund if desired. Layne's Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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**1977**

*The Columbian*  
October 2, 1977

Ground, Wash. Layne's Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to the Horticulture Class at Battle Ground High School, in care of Mr. Tim Hicks, instructor.

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**STURGESS, N. Park** – Age 89, Oct 2, 1977 at Salem, Ore. Born Oct 9, 1887 at Grand Rapids, Ohio. Lived at 1085 Clearview Ave., Salem. He was a retired radio repairman and a one-time Clark County resident. Husband of late Josie V. Sturgess. Sons, Robert G. Sturgess of Santa Fe, N.M. and Wayne E. Sturgess of Salem, Ore. Brother, James A. Sturgess of Escondido, Calif. Three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. 50-year member of Pythian Lodge of Salem, Ore., and member of Salem Agate Club. Funeral services 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, at Barrick Funeral Home in Salem with Elder John Ford officiating. Graveside services and interment in Gravel Point Cemetery, Battle Ground, Wash., at 4 p.m. Wednesday. Layne's Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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*The Columbian*  
December 17, 1977

**PURA, Jennie E.** – Age 85, December 17, 1977, in Vancouver, Wash. Born October 28, 1892, in Fort Bragg, California. Lived the past 71 years in Clark County, residing at 12264 N.E. 154th St., Brush Prairie, Wash. Cousins, Waino Pietila, Brush Prairie, Wash.; John Pietila and Miss Eva Pietila, both of Portland, Oregon; Mrs. Hilda Martin of Chicago, Illinois. Member of Lutheran Church. Funeral will be Wednesday, December 21, 1977 at 2:00 p.m. at Layne's Funeral Home. Private vault interment at Gravel Point Cemetery, Battle

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**1978**

*The Columbian*  
Thursday, July 20, 1978

**ESTHER ESKELI**

Esther V. Eskeli, 73, a Battle Ground resident, died there Wednesday. Mrs. Eskeli was born April 10, 1905, in Ironwood, Mich. She last resided at Meadow Glade Manor, Battle Ground. She was a housewife and a member of the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church of Brush Prairie. Survivors include one son, Robert Wirtanen of Battle Ground; four brothers, William Korpela of Ashland, Wis., Edwin Korpela of Harbor City, Calif., John Korpela of Chicago, Ill., and Elmer Korpela of Salt Lake City, Utah; four sisters, Irene Thompson of Palm Springs, Calif., Mae Lachoff of Chicago Ill., Ruth Ovaska of Marengo, Wis. And Beeda Sundquist of Waukegan, Ill.; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. A funeral for Mrs. Eskeli will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Old apostolic Lutheran Church. Mr. Nestor Lindberg will officiate. Burial will be at Gravel Point Cemetery in Battle Ground. Layne's Funeral Home in Battle Ground is in charge of arrangements.

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**ESKELI, Esther V.** — Age 73, July 19, 1978 at Battle Ground, Wash., from natural causes. Born April 10, 1905 at Ironwood, Mich. Lived at Meadow Glade Manor, Battle Ground. She was a housewife. Son Robert Wirtanen of Battle Ground. Brothers. William of Ashland, Wis.; Edwin of Harbor City, Calif.; John of Chicago, Ill. And Elmer Korpela of Salt Lake City, Utah. Sisters Mrs. Irene Thompson of Palm Springs, Calif.; Mrs. Mae Lachoff of Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Ruth Ovaska of Marengo, Wis., and

Mrs. Beeda Sundquist of Waukegan, Ill. 12 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren. Member of the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church of Brush Prairie. Funeral services 1 p.m. Saturday at the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church. Mr. Lestor Lindberg will officiate. Burial at Gravel Point Cemetery in Battle Ground. Arrangements by Layne's Funeral Home.

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*The Columbian*  
April 21, 1978

**BURDETTE WEST**

Services will be 2 p.m. Saturday at the Hockinson Apostolic Lutheran Church for Burdette William West, a 30-year Clark County resident who died Wednesday at age 72. Mr. West was a retired maintenance mechanic for Washington Cannery. He was born June 21, 1905, in Hamlin County, S.D., and last resided at 2219 N.E. 199th St. in Ridgefield. Mr. West was a member of the Apostolic Lutheran Church. Survivors include a son, Gerald of Washougal; two daughters, Doris Matson of Battle Ground and Clara Matson of Yacolt; five sisters, Dora Hanson of Seattle, Jessie Wallway of Ridgefield, Vera Osgood of Brush Prairie, Sara Gerdes, Ruth Hanson and Grace Splinter of Watertown, S.D.; 19 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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**WEST, Burdette William** — age 72, April 19, 1978 at Vancouver, Wash. Born June 21, 1905 in Hamlin county, S.D. Lived at 2219 N.E. 199th St., Ridgefield, a resident of Clark County for the past 30 years. He was a retired maintenance mechanic for

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Washington Cannery. Son, Gerald West of Washougal. Daughters, Mrs. James (Doris) Matson of Battle Ground and Mrs. Donald (Clara) Matson of Yacolt, Wash. 19 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Sisters, Mrs. Carl (Dora) Hanson of Seattle; Mrs. Harry (Jessie) Wallway of Ridgefield; Mrs. Vera Osgood of Brush Prairie; Mrs. Harm (Sara) Gerdes, Mrs. Ruth Hanson and Mrs. Harry (Grace) Splinter, all of Watertown, S.D. Member of the Apostolic Lutheran Church in Hockinson, Wash. Funeral services will be at 2:00 P.m. Saturday, April 22, 1978 at the Apostolic Lutheran Church, in Hockinson, with Mr. John Rikkonen and Mr. Ray Hulman officiating. Vault interment will follow in Gravel Point Cemetery.

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**2007**

*The Columbian*  
February 28, 2007

### **WALLY RISTO**

Wally Risto, born in Gravel Point, WA (Battle Ground, Hockinson area), May 19, 1910, died February 23, 2007. He was born to Oscar Wilho Risto and Hilda Koistinen. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Walfird Risto, Battle Ground, WA, Verner Risto, Modesto, CA, and Vive Risto, Studio City, CA; sister, Vienna Risto, Portland, OR; and daughter, Anne Marie Risto, Battle Ground, WA (1969).

Survivors include his wife, Edna M. Risto, Battle Ground, WA; son, Donald Risto, Vancouver, WA; daughter, Elena Risto, Las Vegas, NV; and four grandchildren, Wendy Robson, Amanda Robson, Derik Robson and Eddie Risto.

Wally lived all of his 96 years in Battle Ground, WA. A graduate of Battle Ground High School in 1928, he was a member of the high school baseball team and in 1933 tried out in San Diego for a major league team. He was accepted onto a New York Yankee Farm team. He returned home, however, to help his mother on the farm for the harvest season, and ended up pursuing his career in music.

Wally met Edna Martenson in 1934 at a Grange Hall Dance in Venersborg, WA. He was the drummer and she was a piano player in her fathers band. They married September 15, 1942. He and his wife, Edna, worked their small farm near Gravel Point for 60 years raising sheep and hay. They sold the wool to Pendleton Woolen Mills for many years. In 1950, Wally went to work as a clerk in the feed department for Clark County Dairymen's Cooperative, which

eventually became Agco, Inc. In 1956 he became the manager of the hardware store and continued in this position until his retirement in 1972. Wally was considered the man to call if your well pump, milking machine or other farm equipment needed replacement at a critical time. He would stay at work until the problem was solved.

Wally was best known in Clark County for his dance band. He and Edna continued the family tradition of music and for over 60 years. You could hear them play their style of music (Big Band, Western Swing, and Scandinavian) in ballrooms, grange halls, private gatherings, senior retirement centers and nursing homes throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. In the early years they were known as Wally Risto's Orchestra. During the last 20 years they were most known as the Risto Kats. Many people over the years danced to the music of Wally Risto. Besides spending time with his family, Wally enjoyed visiting with people.

After retirement, his family knew that if he set off for Battle Ground for the feed store they may not see him for several hours. His great love of baseball continued throughout his life, and he was an avid reader of baseball books. One of his favorite afternoons would be spent in front of the TV watching any baseball team.

Graveside services will be held at Gravel Point Cemetery, Risto Rd and 194th Ave., on Saturday, March 3, 2007, at 2:00pm. A Reception will follow, at 3:00pm, at the Battle Ground Senior Center, 113 NE 3rd Ave., Battle Ground, WA. All are welcome to both functions. Sympathy cards can be sent to Layne's Funeral Home, P.O. Box 7, Battle Ground, WA 98604. Please make any donations to the charity of your choice.