



James "Dale" Olson

October 18, 1935 - April 21, 2018

James "Dale" "Oly" Olson was born October 8, 1935, in a tiny corner of northeast Montana, where he would spend his formative years on the family farm in Dooley. He was one of seven children and attended school in Comertown. He graduated as the salutatorian in a class of three. (He liked to leave the class size out when he shared his expectations with us.) Being a Comertown Coyote was definitely on the highlight reel of his life.

On July 11, 1959, Dale married Rita Meyer, and over the next 7 years, they had 4 children, Sandy (Russ), Shelley, Sherry (Kevin) and Jim (Debbie). Dale had 8 grandchildren, Chad (Danielle), Melissa, Jeff (Tara), Casey (Lara), Molly (Darren), Ben, Mitch and Zac. He also had 12 great grandchildren: Bryson, Addi, Callum, Chase, Riley, Ethan, Aubrey, Evan, Khloe, Silas, Leah, and Asher.

In 1962, he moved with his family to Anaconda, Montana to pursue a Norge Village Cleaning business, knowing that in a mining town, there would be lots of dirty laundry.

As his family grew, Dale decided to go to work in construction, so in 1967, he began a trade that grew into a very successful lifetime career that he loved. His handiwork can be seen in the many homes, cabins, and buildings in Anaconda and surrounding areas. During this time, he also mentored and trained many young men in the community to do things the "Oly" way, both in construction and life.

When you met Dale, you knew you wanted to see him again. He was so interesting because he was interested in others. His smile lit up a room; everyone who met dad said, "I just love your dad," whether they'd spent 5 minutes with him, or 5 days.

In 1995, after a fun class reunion cruise, Dale said good bye to the love of his life. He spent 23 years without mom, and in his last days spoke of how excited he was to be reunited with her.

Dale retired in 2003 and headed to Plentywood to be closer to his mom, four sisters and a

brother. He spent the last 2 years of his mother's life having coffee with her every morning. Dad valued family over everything.

In 2009, he purchased a home in Tucson, a block from Sandy, and became a "snowbird." He loved the warmth of the sun, and he felt better physically. He would spend summers touring between Spokane, WA, Moscow, ID, Helena, MT and Plentywood, MT.

Dad lived through many health challenges, and in the end, his congestive heart failure combined with kidney failure, would not allow him to have the quality of life he desired.

Dad died peacefully in his Arizona home, and joined our mom in heaven on April 21, 2018. He is preceded in death by his parents, a younger brother, and many dear friends. Along with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, he is survived by his sisters Betty, Marge and her husband Luke, Vonnie, and Barb, and his brother Terry. Also surviving are mom's brothers Gene and Marv, her sister Charlotte, and sister-in-law Connie. Dad was a favorite uncle to many surviving nieces and nephews.

Please join us for a celebration of his life on Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church in Anaconda, Montana. A luncheon will follow. There will be one hour of visitation prior to the service at the church.

Events

MAY **Visitation**09:30AM - 10:30AM

12

Holy Family Catholic Church
217 W. Pennsylvania Ave., US

MAY **Mass of Christian Burial**10:30AM

12

Holy Family Catholic Church
217 W. Pennsylvania Ave., US

Comments



“ Sandy and family,
Your dad was a good and kind man. I was lucky to have been welcomed by your parents so many times when we were young. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.
Colleen McCarthy Riley

colleen riley - April 29, 2018 at 03:40 PM



“ I don't think I have seen Dale in 35 years now, but I remember him well. Dale and family lived next to my family, the Conlons for many years. I remember “hanging out” with Dale in the garage attached to his house. I suspect I must have been a pest to him but I never heard or felt that. I remember going with him Christmas tree hunting one year. We brought hoe trees for his family, my family, and Ruby across the street. I remember going to a drive-in movie with the Olson family in their 1968 blue/green Ford wagon. I remember our families traveling to Medicine Hot Springs out of Missoula for a few days of family swimming and probably fishing if my dad had anything to say about it.

Dale served as a role model for me and even though I was just a bratty little kid, I thought of him as my friend. He advised me a few times when I was in or about to be in trouble. I have many fond memories involving Dale. Dale was one of the good guys!!!

Bill Conlon

Bill Conlon - April 24, 2018 at 11:07 PM



“ Thanks for sharing Bill. It's so heartwarming to know others learned from dad. I have fond memories of your family and our adventures together as well. Shelley

Shelley Olson - May 06, 2018 at 11:01 PM