

AUSTIN D. WEIKERT, 89

February 11, 1982

Austin D. Weikert, 89, who lived at the Montana Veterans Home, died Thursday in Whitefish.

He was born January 5, 1893 in Helena, a son of Andrew J. and Elizabeth Weikert. He was raised and educated in a number of towns near Helena. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1917 and served in World War I. After his discharge, he returned to Montana. In 1920 he moved to the North Fork where he was one of the earlier homesteaders. He worked for the Forest Service for several years.

He worked in Glacier National Park, where he built log cabins, bridges, ranger stations, and shelter cabins for the park, many of which are still standing. He built log homes throughout the valley for many years. From 1931 to about 1970 he worked for James Sherwood at his summer home on Lake McDonald. He worked for Superior Lumber Co. in the late 1950s.

He entered the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls in 1974.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, and one sister.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth of Tacoma, Wash.; four daughters, Barbara Weikert of Tacoma, Wash., Betty Davis of Great Falls, Mildred Connelly of Ridgefield, Wash., and Mary Cay [Catherine] Utterback of Great Falls; one son, James A. Weikert of Bozeman; and 15 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Monday at 10 a.m. at the Van Leuven Funeral Home in Columbia Falls. Rev. Howard Hunter of the United Methodist Church of Columbia Falls will officiate. Burial will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

The family has suggested that memorials be made to the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.