

NO PHOTO

Cuthbertson, Dr. Arlynn A

Elko, NV

9<sup>th</sup> Recon Troop

Longtime Elko veterinarian, Dr. A.A. "Gus" Cuthbertson, founder of Elko Veterinary Clinic, died at home early Saturday morning, March 31, 2007. He would have been 85 on June 3, and he was practicing almost until the day he died. "He loved what he did," his wife explained. "He was always glad to be a veterinarian."

He was born in Sterling, Kan., in 1922 to the first Dr. A.A. Cuthbertson, also a veterinarian, and Lillie Ann Conard Cuthbertson. The family moved from Kansas to Mississippi to California, where their two children received most of their educations.

Arlynn enlisted in the early hours of World War II and served from 1942 to 1946. He started with the mounted cavalry at Fort Riley, Kan., where he was given the nickname of "Gus" by a recruit who pronounced the last name "Gus-bertson."

Subsequently, he spent the war in the South Pacific with the 96th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop Mechanized on Leyte and Okinawa, including one assignment in the Philippine Islands, where he was sent to find a route through the jungle that would be passable for repatriated U.S. Army mules - an impossible task

After the war, he returned to the United States and was discharged as a second lieutenant. Floyd Slagowski of Pine Valley and John Barringer of Boise, Idaho, are two of his World War II friends who also served in the horse cavalry.

After the War, Cuthbertson continued his schooling at Fresno State in California where he met Carol Main in the campus library. They were married between semesters in 1948. After his graduation, he was accepted into the second class at the Veterinary College of the University of California at Davis and was graduated from there in 1953.

He and his young family came straight to Elko, then the "cow capital" of the west, where "Gus" went to work for Dr. Kennedy, a friend of the elder Dr. Cuthbertson. Within a year, Cuthbertson and a California classmate, Dr. Smart, bought a practice from Dr. Holbert in Elko and continued a mixed large and small animal practice at its present location at 1850 Lamoille Highway.

In a few years, Smart sold out to Arlynn, leaving him the only large animal practitioner to cover many miles for many years. So he bought a "tail dragger" airplane that could be landed in hayfields and pastures or on dirt roads adjacent to distant ranches whose owners had called for help. He learned to fly from Ralph Scott at El Aero in the early 1950s, and he continued to fly and to ride jumping horses for the next 30 or more years.

A bad airplane wreck in 1986, the last of several lesser accidents, put him back on the ground permanently, but after he could walk again, he continued to practice medicine out of his truck while his son, the third Dr. A.A. Cuthbertson, worked with him in the practice.

Arlynn has been an elder in the Presbyterian Church and served two terms as a county commissioner. He

was appointed to the Nevada State Board of Health by the governor, was the track veterinarian at the Elko County Fair race meet until sometime in the 1990s, was on sifting committees for the Elko and Fallon Bull Sales every year, and served on the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners for four years. He also taught some classes at Northern Nevada Community College before it was renamed Great Basin College, and he belonged to many other animal health organizations, as well as being chairman of the Elko Hospital Board.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years and their five children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Another great-grandchild will be born in September.

The children are, Chris (Jim) Miller of Virginia City; Laurie (John) Porter of Stevensville, Mont.; Leslie (Lawrence) Nuti of Smith Valley; Paula (Jerry) Mastelotto of Sparks; and Dr. Alan Alexander Cuthbertson (Cheryl) of Lamoille.

The grandchildren are Jennifer (Chris) Wigfield of Reno, Alicia (Scott) Shaw of Fernley, Jessie Porter of Utah, Kim Porter of Sparks, Jamie (Jeff) Howell of Reno, Ben (Stephanie) Nuti of Iowa City, Seth Nuti of Smith Valley, Nicole and Alexander Cuthbertson of Lamoille.

The great grandchildren are Tyler and Wyatt Shaw, Tealia and Nicholas Nuti, and Aloryn Howell. Arlynn is also survived by his sister, Millie Alexander, of Fresno, two nephews and a niece.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church, 1559 Sewell Drive.

The Rev. Pat Mecham will preside, and a reception will follow in the church hall.

The family asks that people who wish to share memories and anecdotes about Dr. Cuthbertson write them down and put them in a basket to be provided at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the "Community Cares Program" at Elko Veterinary Clinic.

Community Cares is a program to render medical assistance to the abused, abandoned and neglected animals, and after the animals are restored to good health, suitable homes are found for them.