

## **Don Barnes**

Rapid City Journal November 26, 2009

“Rapid City – Donald Sidney Barnes, 94, died Monday, Nov. 23, 2009, at Golden Living Center-Bella Vista.

He was born May 23, 1915, to Cedric Albert and Edna Almetta (Hastings) Barnes in Grinnell, Iowa.

At both Grinnell High School and Grinnell College, he ran track in the 400m, 800m, and 1600m relay. His high school record in the 400m stood for 63 years, from 1931 to 1994. Don earned degrees in chemistry and physics, graduating in 1936. Upon his graduation, he worked at Wholesale Radio Service Company and Collins Radio Company.

He married Faith Althea Knowles Oct. 18, 1936, at Crown Point, Ind., (the closest place they could find to marry on a Saturday so they would not have to miss work), because at the time you couldn't get married in Chicago on a Saturday.

After a brief stint in St Louis, he and Faith moved to South Dakota in 1941 where he began working for the FAA (then the CAA) at the airstrip in Philip, being drawn here by his parents who were then living in St. Onge. They came to live in the Canyon Lake area of Rapid City in November 1943 and Don began working at the Rapid City Airport. Don and Faith were instrumental in founding the Canyon Lake Methodist Church.

Don was active in the Western Dakota Gem and Mineral society, the Black Hills Stamp club, the Minneluzahan Historical Society, South Dakota Historical society and The Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research. In his early years in Rapid City, he sang in the Elks Chorus and enjoyed fishing and hunting with friends. Don was a founding member of the Amateur Radio Club in 1953. He also enjoyed attending concerts of the Black Hills Symphony Orchestra. He was a longtime supporter of South Dakota Public Television.

After the 1972 Flood destroyed their home, Don and Faith built a new home in Rapid Valley. He bought a CAPP home and put it up mostly by himself. It used all of the talents he had to do that. Don and Faith were members of the Rapid Valley Methodist Church.

After his retirement from the FAA in 1973, Don and Faith read cemeteries throughout western South Dakota. Don spent many hours indexing county histories and microfilming mortuary records. He acquired voter registration records, tax records, city directories and other materials, which have since been donated to the State Historical Society for other researchers to use.

Don and Faith were extraordinary gardeners all of their lives in South Dakota and gardening was a passion for both of them. Faith grew flowers and Don grew vegetables that they both froze and canned. Their children learned at a young age how to do both. Additionally, they found time to travel to New England to visit the locales that were the homes of their own ancestors. They were also very involved in the lives of their grandchildren and their nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents in 1967; his brother Paul in 1974; and his wife Faith in 1998.”