



## Bill J. Patterson

July 10, 1916 - July 16, 2009

Bill J. Patterson, son of Clarence and Hattie Patterson passed away July 16, 2009. Bill was born in Springfield, Colorado on July 10, 1916. He married the love of his life, Violet Ohlson in Fort Collins on March 17, 1939. Their remarkable 70 years of marriage was filled with dancing, traveling, wonderful friends and family. Bill was a devoted and respected social studies teacher at Cheyenne Mountain High School for 35 years until his retirement in 1979. He was active in the water ski club and taking students to the Southwest. In his retirement he continued an active life as a drummer in many dance bands. Bill is survived by his wife, Violet, two children, Bonnie Graham and Billie Jo Patterson Alene of Fort Collins, three grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and two great great granddaughters. All who met Bill were touched by his love for music, teaching, history and fun. A celebration in honor of Bill Patterson's life is scheduled for 12:00 noon, August 15, 2009 at Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Center, 1118 West Cheyenne Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906. Donations can be made to the Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Center in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Ft. Collins, CO 80524.

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ *The Pattersons were the best of our Cheyenne Road neighbors. I was in Mr. Patterson's U.S. History class when his lesson was interrupted with sounds from radio news over the P.A. system. Within minutes, we learned of the assassination of President Kennedy. His response to that news was a lesson in itself and a great comfort to me. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

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**Roberta Bender** - August 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *Dear Vi, Lois Adams was kind enough to send me the clipping about Bill's passing and I have sent the news to Roberta. She and I were in Colorado Springs about this time last year. One thing we did was to walk around the block from our house to yours and that made for good memories of the Pattersons. It is, of course, thanks to Bill that she and I have REAL Christmas music from CMH. My thoughts are with you, Donna Bender Hood*

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**Donna Bender Hood** - August 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Dear family of Bill Patterson, I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences to Violet, Bonnie, Billy Jo, and all the grandchildren. I knew him as a neighbor and social studies teacher. I admire his contributions to the community and his many achievements throughout his lifetime. With deepest sympathy, Joan Vollbracht McCarty*

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**Joan Vollbracht McCarty** - August 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Mr. Patterson was instrumental in my deep interest in history. My strongest memory of him though is his incredible patience as he taught me to water ski in a pond in Colorado Springs. I never made it around the "pond" and fell so often that my legs were bruised until the following year when I was determined to succeed at this nightmare sport. I am so grateful that he didn't give up on me and he let me return to "ski club" the following year. His acceptance and encouragement has been instrumental in my life, enabling me to persevere as I have encountered other difficulties. Who would think that water skiing would be an opportunity to have a life changed for decades because I did learn to persevere on a pond in Colorado Springs and so embarrassed because I failed for one whole summer in front of my friends. Mr Patterson was a great teacher and a wonderful man who influenced many young people in many ways. I hope that his family remembers the good things that made Bill a man of influence not just to them but to others as well.

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**Joyce Renner Knab** - August 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Bill was a wonderful, sincere person and educator. I envy that I didn't have him as one of my teachers in high school when I was younger. I first met Bill when I worked in a quartermaster warehouse in then Camp Carson. Bill was a supervisor. He was sorely missed when he left for a teaching position. What a pleasant surprise I had when I learned that he would be my principal when he and Jack Chamney interviewed me for a teaching position. His standards for teaching should be emulated by every aspiring teacher. God bless Vie, Bonnie, and Billie for your sorrow. With sincere sympathy,  
Bruce and Marcella

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**Bruce & Marcella Sinclair** - July 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM