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Obituary Database Record

Name	Brainer Mears Jr ¹⁴³	Residence	Laramie, WY	Date of Death	03/30/2015
Age	94	Date of Birth	06/21/1921		

Obituary / Death Notice

Brainer (Nip) Mears Jr. March 30, 2015 Sign the Guest Book View the Guest Book Brainerd "Nip" Mears Jr. died on **March 30, 2015** at the Laramie Care Center after suffering many years from Alzheimer's type dementia. Born in Williamstown, MA on June 21, 1921, he was a Deerfield Academy high school graduate. At **Williams College**, class of 1943, he majored in Geology and was president of his fraternity, Theta Delta Chi. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II, fought in the Pacific and was promoted to Platoon Sergeant at the battle of Guam. Nip had been a past Commandant of the Laramie Marine Corps League. In 1946, as a graduate student at Columbia University (on the GI Bill), he attended the University of Wyoming Geology Summer Science Camp, where he met his future wife, Anne Carter. They were married in 1948. On completion of his PHD thesis (on the Oak Creek Canyon, Arizona) at Columbia in 1949, he was hired by the University of Wyoming where he taught for 40 years until his retirement in 1989. He chaired 37 masters and 8 doctorate degrees. After his mentor, Dr. S.H. Knight retired, Nip headed the U.W. Science Camp for several years. When a mammoth skull was discovered by a construction crew near Rawlins, WY, the U.W. Paleontologist wasn't available, so Nip monitored the excavation and preservation of this rare fossil skull (since nicknamed "Nip"). It had been displayed in several museums before returning to the U.W. Geology Museum. In the early 1950's, Nip and his Columbia roommate, Joe Hoare, traversed by foot and fold boat along the Kuskauin River in Alaska for the U.S. Geological Survey. Supplies were dropped by air at specified locations. At that time it was the longest survey of that river ever made. He was a long-time member of INQUA (International Quaternary Geology Association) and gave several papers over the years. His travels took him to seven continents. As the Sang Foreign Exchange Professor, he lectured in Australia and New Zealand. His publications included THE CHANGING EARTH, an elementary geology text (illustrated by his wife, Anne), used by many universities as well as U.W. The text was followed by an anthology THE NATURE OF GEOLOGY A COLLECTION OF CONTEMPORARY READINGS. He wrote many articles and publications for both the U.S. and State of Wyoming Geological Surveys. His work on glaciation and fossil ice wedges illuminated the geologic history of the Laramie Valley and surrounding Rockies. The Mears' community charitable contributions include providing Laramie's first center for retarded citizens (now called ARK) located by La Bonte Park, contributing to the reading area at the public library in memory of their son Brainerd Bartlett Mears, purchasing a paving stone and making other contributions to the Territorial Park Prison, the garage for the Eppson Center and the Vince Valdez bronze eagle statue by the entrance to the LCCC campus building. His final contribution was an endowment to save the University of Wyoming's Geology Museum. A gifted third generation college professor, Nip's enthusiasm encouraged a number of students who have gone on to distinguished careers in Geology. In 2003, he received one of the University of Wyoming's Outstanding Former Faculty Awards. The University has given him a happy career. To quote him, "If they pay you for doing something you love, it's wonderful." He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Whitney Mears, sisters Mary Louise King, Margaret Green and son Brainerd Bartlett Mears. He is survived by his wife Anne, daughters Alison Mears of Laramie, Carolina Carter of Arlington VA, Holly Cordary of Evanston WY, grandson Rodger Cordary of Laramie and numerous nieces and nephews. A celebration of his life will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 2 p.m. with military honors, at the Montgomery-Stryker Funeral Home. Contributions in his memory may be made to the University of Wyoming Geology Museum.

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