

CLIFF & BERNIECE SYDBO

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

AGNES LOUISE
SYDBO

Agnes Louise Sydbo passed away at Grande Prairie on Friday, Jan. 16, 1981, at the age of 42. She was born in Sexsmith and was a resident of the LaGlacé district and Grande Prairie for the past eight years.

She is survived by her husband Clifford; son Shane of Grande Prairie and two daughters: Shirley (Mrs. Jim Gayse) of Chetwynd, B.C., and Joan of Grande Prairie; grandchildren Travis and Trina Gayse; her mother Mrs. Joan Warncke of Chetwynd; three sisters: Rose (Melvin) Vigen of Grande Prairie, Karen (Ernie) Jensen of Athabasca and Kristine (Ken) Mann of Grande Prairie; five brothers: Billy, Fred, Alex and Les Warncke all of Chetwynd, B.C., and Sonny Warncke of Revelstoke, B.C.

She was predeceased by her father Werner Warncke in 1975.

Funeral service for the late Agnes Louise Sydbo will be held on Wednesday at 10 a.m. from the Oliver Funeral Chapel with Rev. Ben Coltvet officiating. Interment to follow in the Tuscola Mountain Cemetery, Chetwynd, B.C., at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Funeral arrangements by Oliver Funeral Chapel

People



Top loggers

Some of the top winners in this year's edition of

the logging sports competition, held during the county fair, included Cliff Sydbo (photo left) of Grande Prairie and Jack Brown-John (photo right) of Williams Lake, B.C. Miss Grande Prairie Rosalie Ward presented the Ted Goodison Memorial Award for the best Peace Country competitor to Mr. Sydbo and the pentathlon trophy to Mr. Brown-John.

The Daily Herald-Tribune

[Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Thu, Aug 6, 1981 Page 16](#)

Loggers' skills dazzle fairgoers

By KATHY MURRIE
Herald-Tribune staff

When the sawdust and wood chips finally settled on the Loggers' Bowl last night, several thousand fans had witnessed some of the best loggers on the continent in action.

Normand Gagne, a 47-year-old logger from Canal Flats, B.C., earned the world-champion Super Logger trophy and \$1,500 in prize money for the gruelling five-event pentathlon.

It was a homecoming victory of sorts for Gagne, who lived and worked here for two years in 1975.

"I was at the first competition (logging sports) in Bear Creek Park in 1974. This one was great, it has improved every year. The people do a super job," said the Quebec-born champ who is spending the summer between competitions at B.C. Place in Expo demonstrating logging skills.

The pentathlon includes a standing block chop, swede saw event, obstacle pole bucking, chokerman's race and cross-cut sawing — all run consecutively. Only nine loggers took part, and the top three were just five seconds apart.

Gagne's time of 2:42.35 bested a field that included Jack Brown-John of Williams Lake, B.C., at 2:44.22, 1985 event winner Eyler Adams of Kalispell, Mon., at 2:47.28, and 1984 winner Glenn Erickson of Slocan, B.C., at 2:56.38.

Grande Prairie's George Barnes collected several awards: Bull of the Woods trophy as best novice/intermediate level competitor and Ted Goodison Memorial award as best Peace Country competitor.

Barnes also won the Canadian championship accuracy cut, and Alberta Lumberjack titles in open class swede saw, novice underhand

chop and under 80 cc stock powersaw bucking.

Adams earned the Logger of the Day trophy and prizes worth \$300.

Stealing the show though was Copper Canyon Sal (also known as competitor Art Williams) cavorting atop the new 90-foot-tall climbing poles in the bowl. In a 10-minute show each day, Sal, in a dress and carrying a bottle of "climbing juice," did a slow ascent and kibitzed with the crowd and commentator Les Head. Once up he did a little jig and a handstand on the summit before a heart-stopping descent down a guy-wire over the crowd.

Williams, a 48-year-old logger from Likely, B.C., developed his hair-raising act over 20 years ago as a "topper" — lopping the tops off trees at MacMillan-Bloedel's Vancouver Island logging camp.

"I used to sit on top of the trees, then I started standing and gradually came up with the act," said Williams. "I borrowed some of my mother's stuff for the costume — she wouldn't watch me for the first three years I did it."

Winners in other events were:

Single Bucking — novice, Dale Quinn in 38.93 and open, Jack Brown-John;

Double Bucking — novice, Doug Horning and Leo Perry in 15.58 seconds; local novice, Rick Holmes and Brian MacDonald in 14.91; open, father-and-son team of Bob and Carson Bosworth in 9.03;

Swede Saw — local novice, Cliff Sydbo in 19.66;

Standing Block Chop — novice, Sydbo in 56.56; open, Carl Bischoff in 23.25;

Albert Labbe memorial accuracy cut for local novices — Shane Sydbo in 21.48;

Underhand Chop — open, Eyler Adams in 19.87;

Powersaw Bucking stock 81-100 cc — Ed Braun in 15.60; 101-140 cc open — Braun with 16.58; unlimited — Bischoff in 10.30;

Chokerman's Race — Braun in 15.14;

Springboard Chop — Jack Brown-John in 1:04.50;

Axe Throw — Carson Bosworth;
Canadian championship obstacle pole bucking — Glenn Erickson in 12.53;

Jill and Jill crosscut — Bonnie Wakelin and Suzanne Quinn in 33.48; female chokerman's race — Cathy Wakelin in 17.40.

The Daily Herald-Tribune

Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Tue, Aug 5, 1986 Page 1



From the Canfor album...

Clockwise from above: George Sterr, father of Canfor employee Tom Sterr, hauling logs by horse-drawn sleigh in the late 1930s; The cookshack at the old Borden sawmill, north of Demmit, with Wilma Seabrook (sister of Canfor's Cliff Sydbo) at left and Ruth Sharky (nee Swanson); Horse logging was common 50 years ago, but this photo was taken in 1984 of an experimental logging show by Lavalle Contracting at North Crooked Creek; Celebrating a safety achievement at the plywood division in July 1966 are (from left) Bob Bickell, general superintendent, Nick Tarnowski, Bruce Rycroft, Romana Gliege, Ben Thiessen and Orville Christianson; Roy Bickell (right), general superintendent of Grande Prairie Lumber during the mid-60s, now president of Canfor; Unidentified loggers at the Buffalo Lake bunkhouse, north of Sexsmith, in the late '30s; Hauling rough-cut lumber from the Camp 1 sawmill, around 1949; Mel Jones's shift at the plywood mill celebrating 500 days accident-free in September 1969; Loading logs in 1978.

The Daily Herald-Tribune

[Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Thu, Jun 16, 1988](#) Page 17

Beatrice Mable Fells



August 25, 1918 -
Feb. 9, 2005

Beatrice Mable Fells, longtime resident of Bezanson and Grande Prairie, Alberta passed away peacefully on February 9, 2005 at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Grande Prairie at the age of 86 years, surrounded by family and friends.

Bea was born in Grande Prairie, Alberta to Edwin and Florence Robideau on August 25, 1918.

Bea married Jim Fells December 28, 1936. They homesteaded in the Fitzsimmons area. They moved to Bezanson in 1945, and raised four children.

Bea will be sadly missed by her family; Larry, Bev, Rod, Glenn, Colleen, Tyler and Dallas Fells; **Bernice and Cliff Sydbo**; Sandy and Keith Seewalt, Carlee, Jason, Ashlee and Austin Bradley; Jody, Dave and Jannell Matwichuk; Lorna, Maygan and Dana Welander; Darcie Dube, Tarri Thompson,

Step-grandchildren; Shirley, Jim, Travis, and Trina Gayes; Joan Sydbo; Shane, Karla, Catlin, Ashlee, and Carl Sydbo; Peggy, George, Jim, Berk, and Sarah Ross; Tracey, Frank, Colten, and Brayden Vant

Erve; Marylou, Paul, Ron, Michelle, and Josh Podulsky; Lisa, Roland, Erica, and Lucas Glatz; Shawn Eckstorom,

Sister and best friend Louise Kimble, special nephew Melvin Kimble, brother Ray (Jean) Robideau, two special aunts; Maggie, and Peggy Robideau and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Bea was predeceased by her husband Jim, mother Florence, father Edwin, stepfather Bud Gallant, brother Albert, sister Audrey, brothers-in-law Herman and John, three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

The memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2005 at 2 p.m. from the Bezanson Community Church in Bezanson with Pastor Lew Wiegel officiating.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Beatrice to the Bezanson Curling Club, c/o The AG Society, Box 189, Bezanson, AB T0H 0G0.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
FUNERAL CHAPEL
& CREMATORIUM**

Agnes Elsie Bekkerus

Agnes passed away on Wednesday, July 27, 2005, in her home in LaGlace with her daughter by her side.



Agnes was born on August 25, 1921, in Camrose, Alberta to Carl and Agnes Sydbo. Tragically, her mother died three days later. Carl returned to Valhalla Centre and baby Agnes was raised with the help of her grandmother. In 1928 Carl married Alice Tranter. Three children were born to them: sister, Wilma Seabrook; sister, Selma (Gerald) Freeman-tle and brother, Cliff Sydbo (Bernice). Alice died in 1933 and Agnes, at age 11, became the mother figure to her siblings. At this early age, she left school to take over the required duties and established a work ethic that continued until her passing.

Agnes married Lloyd Bekkerus in 1941. Their home became a gathering place and refuge for many children from the Sydbo, Carlson and Strand families. Irvin Carlson lived with them and became like a big brother to the Bekkerus children and is remembered for baking cookies on the day Dianne was born. Lloyd and Agnes had many ventures. They farmed in the LaGlace area, ranched in Lone Prairie, B.C., operated a trap line in the Kakwa area and guided many American hunters south of Grande Prairie. All the while, Agnes worked alongside of Lloyd. The trophies given to her are a small measure of her cooking on open fires, in the back of a chuckwagon, in logging camps and finally, her cinnamon buns from a modern electric stove. In 1972, Lloyd and Agnes moved off the farm. Lloyd also retired from trapping and worked for the County of Grande Prairie for 14 years. Lloyd passed away in 1990. This changed Agnes's life dramatically.

Her widowed life was filled with family times, gardening and a passion to beat anyone at cards who had the courage to take her on. Many a trip was made to whisk tournaments. More trophies. Agnes lived a full and active life until the last couple of months.

Agnes leaves to mourn: son, Wayne (Judy) Bekkerus; daughter, Dianne (Myron) Podulsky; daughter-in-law, Roseann Bekkerus; grandchildren: Rick (Desiree) Bekkerus, Melody (Michael) Vavrek, Ken Podulsky and Beverly Podulsky; great-grandchildren: Brett and Daylan Vavrek, Gregory and Kyle Podulsky and Ryker Bekkerus and sisters-in-law: Ester Olson and Doris (Myron) Rude.

Agnes was predeceased by: loving in-laws, Ted and Mabel Hagen, Harvey and Dorothy Bekkerus, Rudolf Olson and Agnes Sydbo.

Funeral service for Agnes Bekkerus will be held on Monday, August 1, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at the Christian Reform Church in LaGlace with Pastor Bill Weenick officiating. Following the service, a private family interment will take place at the Northfield Cemetery. Following the interment, there will be a lunch and fellowship at the church.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Northfield Cemetery Fund or a charity of one's choice.

Special thanks to Dr. Jordan and the staff at the Beaverlodge Hospital for your care.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
FUNERAL CHAPEL &
CREMATORIUM**
TELEPHONE (780) 532-2929
"Dedicated Service Since 1915"