

Chuck Cook (1928-2010)



Former LCTHF board member (2002-2004) Chuck Cook passed away on April 23, 2010. Chuck was born on Aug. 1, 1928, in Absarokee, Montana. He attended school in Absarokee and graduated in 1946. Chuck met his wife, Birdie, while attending high school and they married on June 6, 1948. They made their home in Rapelje with their children Linda and Terry. The family moved to Dillon in 1959 and made their home there for 41 years.

Chuck worked full time at International Harvester while attending college to pursue his degree in education. He graduated from Western Montana College in 1967 with a degree in history, and later went on to earn his master's degree in business. Chuck was proud to tell the story of how he was hired on the steps of the post office to teach something he was very passionate about, Montana history. Chuck and Birdie moved to Billings in 2001 so they could be closer to their family.

In addition to being a respected teacher, Chuck wore many hats that provided him the opportunity to serve others. He was treasurer of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church for more than 30 years. He served on the board of directors at Dillon Federal Credit Union, the Beaverhead Country Club and the Camp Fortunate Chapter of the LCTHF. He was an Elderhostel instructor in the summers, as well as the maintenance man at the school.

He was chosen as the Jaycee Outstanding Man of the Year. He was very active in Kiwanis, and volunteered countless hours for United Way. He was proud to be named Volunteer of the Year in 2003 at Pompey's Pillar, where he guided tours for many years. Chuck is well known in Foundation circles for his planning of the Foundation's 32nd annual meeting in Dillon in 2000 when wildfires ravaged the region and threatened tours.

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*Prepared by Bob Gatten, 2011*