



Andy A. Droge met Christ face-to-face on February 1, 2010. He was born October 24, 1922, in Manhattan Montana to Arie and Dora (Telling) Droge. He was the first born of four, ending up with three little sisters. His parents also adopted their granddaughter Penny, who became his fourth sister.

Having grown up during the depression era, Andy developed a keen work ethic that never allowed him to really "retire." To Andy, retirement meant to work at the things he enjoyed, building a house, being a hired man, and owning his own truck (a dream come true). His last day of work was October 24, 2009, his 87th birthday.

Andy loved Ella Kuipers. They were married in Manhattan on February 11, 1944. Through good times and difficult times that love never wavered. Andy and Ella were married just short of 66 years, an ever enduring example to their children and grandchildren.

Andy loved his children. Larry was born in 1947 to Andy and Ella, but died of a tragic accident when he was 14 months old. Several years later Andy and Ella adopted David and then Donna. They loved them as if they were their own, because they were.

Andy loved trucks. As a young boy he witnessed the first truck to ever come into Manhattan and make a delivery. After the truck got stuck driving around the block on the dirt side street, he helped round up two teams of horses to pull the truck back to the gravel road so it could return to Bozeman. From that day on Andy knew he wanted to be a truck driver. He loved every aspect of trucking and during his entire life was involved in some aspect of the trucking industry.

Andy loved friends. Though being a very private person, Andy valued friends and never forgot one. He couldn't go anywhere in the valley without stopping to talk to a friend. One of his favorite things to do the last few years was to go to the café in Manhattan every other Tuesday and have lunch with the "Geezers." It did take a while for him to figure out why one of the "geezers in training" put a toy manure spreader in the center of the table one week.

Andy loved Jesus. He began a personal relationship with Christ after witnessing the changes in the life of his father Arie. He concluded that something that could change his father so completely had to be true. Andy never got up on a soapbox and "preached" at people, he just lived the way he believed Christ would have him live. His simple example will never be forgotten by those who knew and loved him. John 13:35 says "By this all men will know that you are my disciple, if you have love for one another."

Andy was preceded in death by his son, Larry Dennis; his parents Arie and Dora; and three sisters, Janette Brown, Wilma Yadon, and Irene Beck.

He is survived by his loving sweetheart Ella; his son David (Gloria) Droge; his daughter Donna; five grandchildren, David (Rachael) Pyfer, Andrew Pyfer, Michelle (Albert) Mayo, Timothy Droge, and Tamara Droge; three great grandchildren, Zoe, R.J., and Connor; his sister Penny; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held Thursday, February 4, at Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service, from 4pm to 8pm. Burial will take place at Meadow View Cemetery, on Friday, February 5, at 1:00 p.m. A memorial service will follow at Dry Creek Bible church at 2:00 p.m.

Donations can be made to Rocky Mountain Hospice, 301 Edelweiss Dr, Bozeman, MT 59718.