

8+1

Mary E. Leaman Hess

Mary E. Leaman Hess, 94, of Pequea, went home to be with



Jesus on Saturday, March 1, 2008 while a patient at the Essa Flory Hospice Center.

She was the wife of the late Charles H.

Hess who passed away November, 1999 after 64 years of marriage. Born in Ronks, she was the daughter of the late Daniel R. and Anna Landis Leaman.

Mary was the oldest member of the Rawlinsville Mennonite Church. For many years she taught Sunday School and Summer Bible School. She enjoyed farm life, writing poetry, reading and standing at Central Market with homemade baked goods and vegetables. Mary had a sense of humor that many enjoyed.

Surviving are three sons, B. Daniel husband of Beatrice Martin Hess of Pequea, Elmer L. Hess of Colorado, and Charles A. husband of Lois Ober Hess of Pequea; three daughters, Anna Marie wife of John Hochstetler of Denver, and Grace and Elizabeth Hess of Pequea, with whom she resided. Also surviving are twelve grandchildren, thirty great grandchildren and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a daughter Mary Louise Hess, an infant son Leaman Hess, a daughter-in-law Anna Brackbill Hess, and by three sisters, Grace and Anna Leaman and Alma Hess.

A Funeral Service will be held on Monday, March 3, 2008 at 11 AM at the New Danville Mennonite Church, 103 Marticville Road, Lancaster, PA with Pastor Paul L. Hess, Pastor John C. Reeser and Deacon Wesley L. Metzler officiating. Friends may call at the New Danville Mennonite Church on Monday from 9:00 A.M. until the time of the service. Interment in the New Danville Mennonite Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Mary's memory may be made to Hospice of Lancaster County, 685 Good Drive, P.O. Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17604-4125. Arrangements by the Richard A. Sheetz Funeral Home, 397-6329, for other information or to send an online condolence to the family, visit our website at www.kearneyansnyderfuneralhome.com

OBITUARIES

Ronald G. Pfeiffer, Sr.

Ronald G. "Ron" Pfeiffer, Sr., 63, of Lancaster, PA, died at Lancaster General Hospital on Friday, February 29, 2008.



Born in Lancaster, he is the husband of Terry Graeff Pfeiffer and they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on September 1st, 2007. He is the son of Lucille Bitts Reisinger of Marticville, PA and the stepson of the late Harry E. Reisinger, Sr. He is the son of the late Curtis Pfeiffer.

Ron graduated from Penn Manor High School and worked as a Maintenance Manager for the Hotel Brunswick.

He served with the United States Navy during the Cuban Missile Crisis and served on board with the USS Shangri-Ia.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, motorcycling and working on a wide variety of projects. His passion was his love for family, especially his children, grandchildren and his miniature pincher, "Sassy Sue" and Dobermans, "Sequoia, Deckon and Myah."

In addition to his Wife, and Mother, he is survived by two sons, Richard H., husband of Angela M. Pfeiffer, Pequea, PA and Ron, Jr., husband of Justine B. Pfeiffer, Ashton, MD. Two sisters, Dorothy Todd, Marticville, PA; Barbara Webb, Rohrerstown, PA; and a brother Curtis Pfeiffer, West Virginia, also survive him. Four grandchildren; Zebulin, Jedediah, Adam and Emma Jayne also survive him. A stepbrother, Harry E. Reisinger, Jr., preceded him in death.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Ron's Life Celebration Funeral Service from the Funeral Home of Fred F. Groff, Inc., 234 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 1:30 PM. Interment at Conestoga Memorial Park. Friends may call at the Funeral Home on Thursday from 12:30 - 1:30 PM. Memorial contributions may be sent to Doberman Pinscher Rescue of PA, Inc, 204 Elmwood Lane, Coatesville, PA, 19320-1567

Fred F. Groff, Inc. www.lifecelebration.com

Joann L. Eberly

Joann L. Eberly, 75, of 14 Penn Court Dr., Mount Joy passed away on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at the Essa Flory Hospice Center. She and her husband, Harry W. Eberly were married for 51 years.



A homemaker, Joann also worked as a domestic engineer for Nissley Funeral Home, Ltd, the former Lancaster Limousine, and Dr. David Schlosser, all of Mount Joy. She also cleaned part time for many families in the Mount Joy area. A member of Mount Joy Church of God, Joann was known for her big smile and contagious laugh. An avid shopper, she enjoyed dining out, collecting porcelain dolls, listening to classic country music, and doing word puzzles. Precious times were spent lavishing heaps of love on her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Born in Mount Joy, she was the daughter of the late Oliver M. and Margaret B. Zeager Funk.

In addition to her husband, Harry, she will be missed by her children, Michael Eberly, companion of Bobbi Demler, Elizabethtown, Londa Fitzpatrick, Mount Joy, and Donna, companion of William Logue, Lititz; six grandchildren and five great grandchildren; three sisters, Francanna Taylor and Nancy Tanis, both of Mount Joy, and Ellen Gepfer, Manheim; and four brothers, Warren, Eugene (Sylvia), and Jack (Lorraine) Funk, all of Mount Joy, and Merlin (Barbara) Funk, Columbia. Two sisters, Margaret Craul and Malva Flowers, and six brothers, Russell, Ronald, Oliver, Frank, LeRoy and Robert Funk preceded her in death.

A funeral service celebrating Joann's life will be held at the Sheetz Funeral Home, 16 E. Main St., Mount Joy on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 11 am with Pastor David Tressler officiating. Interment to follow in Laurel Hill Memorial Gardens, Columbia. Friends may call at the Sheetz Funeral Home, Mount Joy on Wednesday morning from 9:30 until 11 am

Marjorie A. Walker

Marjorie A. Walker, 69, of 3001 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA, formerly of Manheim and Somerset, PA, died Friday evening, February 29, 2008 at Brethren Village, Lancaster following a lengthy illness. Born in Somerset, she was the daughter of the late Morris and Anna Bitner Critchfield.



Marjorie was a member of Hernley Mennonite Church in Manheim. She had been employed as a nurses' aid by Moravian Manor, Lititz, PA and Pleasant View Retirement Community, Manheim. She was also an effective saleswoman for Stanley Home Products and hosted many Home Interior parties. Marjorie shared her passion for baking and entertaining with others making them to feel happy and special. In addition to enjoying lilac flowers, she had a collection of owl figurines, replica covered bridges, bells, and collectable tins.

She is survived by four sons, David L. (Dolores A. Smith) Walker and John E. (Lori A. Roubos) Walker, both of Lititz, Jeffrey E. Walker of Manheim, and Craig S. Walker of Harrisburg; two daughters, Charlene A. Witman of Lancaster and Tammy P. Herr of Lititz; 12 grandchildren; one great granddaughter; four sisters, Pauline Critchfield of Friedens, PA, Carolyn Archer of Midlothian, TX, Gloria Critchfield of Somerset, and Judy (Larry) Moore of Carlisle, PA; and three brothers, Fred (Claudia) Critchfield of Carrollton, TX, Richard (JoAnn) Critchfield of Somerset, and George (Sharon) Critchfield of Friedens. She was preceded in death by two sisters, Mary Jane Curtis and Geraldine Fisher; and a brother, Edward Eugene Critchfield.

Family and friends are invited to attend a memorial service on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 11:00 AM at Hernley Mennonite Church, 746 Lebanon Road (Route 72 North), Manheim, PA with Pastors George M. Hurst and J. Mark Tedford officiating. Interment in the adjoining cemetery will be at the convenience of the family. There will be no viewing. The family will receive friends on Tuesday morning from 10:00 AM until the time of the service. The

Robert L. Fredericks

Robert L. Fredericks, 63, died Saturday March 1, 2008 as the result of an automobile accident in Lebanon County. He is the husband of Sharyn Kreider. They resided in Ephrata, Lancaster County.



He was born to Harold and Eva Saufley Fredericks in Rome, NY on September 21, 1944. He was employed as a CPA for Diana M. Reed & Associates in Hershey.

He graduated from Palmyra High School Class of 1962. He was a proud graduate of Pennsylvania State University Class of 1966 and then received his law degree from the Dickinson School of Law. He was a long time member of the Palmyra Church of the Brethren. He was an avid golfer, Penn State football fan and a member of the Alumni Association. His life was his family and his grandchildren.

Surviving in addition to his wife Sharyn are his children, Adam S. Fredericks, Strasburg; Ina F. Mumma and husband Bill, Elizabethtown; Gerri L. Basselgia and husband Todd, Lebanon; Step-son Paul Johnson and wife Jill, Daytona Beach, FL; Step-daughter Kristyn A. Rost and husband Jake, Millersville; 14 grandchildren; a sister Judy L. Miner and husband Dave, Palmyra and a brother William Fredericks and wife Patricia, San Diego, CA.

Relatives and friends are invited to a time of visitation on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 from 5:30-7:30 at the Rothermel Funeral Home, Inc., 25 W. Pine St., Palmyra followed by a Celebration of Life service at 7:30 with the Rev. Dr. Wallace B. Landis, Palmyra Church of the Brethren officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Palmyra Church of the Brethren, 45 N. Chestnut St., Palmyra, PA 17078.

DEATHS REPORTED

Eberly, Joann L.
75, wife of Harry W. Eberly, of 14 Penn Court Dr., Mount Joy, March 1, 2008. Sheetz Funeral Home, 653-5441.

Fredericks, Robert L.
63, husband of Sharyn Kreider, of Ephrata, March 1, 2008. Rothermel Funeral Home, Inc., 838-9211.

High, Elvin H.
73, husband of Emma Martin High, of Ephrata, March 2, 2008. tradding Funeral Homes, 859-1230.

Nolt, Michael S.
88, husband of Edith R. (Burkholder) Nolt, of 730 Lincoln Gardens Rd., Ephrata, March 1, 2008. Groff-High Funeral Home, 354-0444.

Pfeiffer, Ronald G., Sr.
63, husband of Terry Graeff Pfeiffer, of Lancaster, February 29, 2008. Fred F. Groff, Inc., 397-8255.

Reedy, Alma K.
84, wife of Frederick James Reedy, of Paradise, February 29, 2008. David J. Boyko Funeral Home, 610-965-3229.

Walker, Marjorie A.
69, of 3001 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, February 29, 2008. Spence Funeral Services, 664-2270.

Webster, S. Conard, Jr.
92, husband of Frances Young Webster, of Downingtown, March 1, 2008. Shivery Funeral Home, 610-593-5967.

* No Obituary appears

SERVICES TODAY

Anderson, Linda
Burton Westlake Funeral Home, 3801 West 26th Street at Powell Ave., Erie, Mon., 11:00 AM.

Bitting, Mary Meta
St. James Episcopal Church, corner of Duke and Orange Streets, Lancaster, Monday, 2 PM. Kearney A. Snyder Funeral Home.

Christie, Edward L.
Furman Home for Funerals, 59 W. Main St., Leola, Monday, 11:30 AM

In Loving Memory of
Stephen W. Hoar
Sept. 17, 1963 - March 3, 1989

Happy child, loving son;
You stood up for everyone. You grew into a fine young man; In the Navy you served this land. You had two children on your own before God had to call you home. Nineteen years since

Mon., 11:00 AM.

Bitting, Mary Meta
St. James Episcopal Church, corner of Duke and Orange Streets, Lancaster, Monday, 2 PM. Kearney A. Snyder Funeral Home.

Christie, Edward L.
Furman Home for Funerals, 59 W. Main St., Leola, Monday, 11:30 AM.

Eby, Emma Elizabeth
Martindale Mennonite Church, Monday, 2 PM. Eckenroth Home for Funerals.

Gepfer, Gertrude Layton
Salem United Church of Christ, Campbelltown, Monday, 2 PM. Rothermel Funeral Home, Inc.

Hartman, Mildred E.
Conestoga Memorial Park Mausoleum, 95 Second Lock Rd., Lancaster, Mon., 10:00 AM. Andrew T. Scheid Funeral Home

Houser, George R.
Lampeter Church of the Brethren, 1900 Lampeter Road, Lampeter, Monday, 10:30 AM. Andrew T. Scheid Funeral Home

King, Levi K.
Home of the late, 1851 Mine Road, Paradise, Monday, 9 AM. Furman Home for Funerals.

Mervine, Jean I.
Evangelical United Methodist Church, 276 West Main St., New Holland, Mon., 11:00 AM. Beck Funeral Home

Newswanger, David M.
Fairmount Homes Wheat Ridge Chapel, Monday, 2 PM. Groff-High Funeral Home.

Weidler, E. Jean
Salem Evangelical Reformed Church, Hellers, 2555 Horseshoe Rd., Monday, 11 A.M. Richard H. Heisey Funeral Home.

Yerger, Thomas R.
Furman Home for Funerals, 59 W. Main St. Leola, Monday, 2:30 PM.

Zern, Earl E.
St. Richard Catholic Church, 110 North Oak Street, Manheim, Monday, 11 AM. Buch Funeral Home.

Zimmerman, Anna Mac
Martindale Mennonite Church, Mon., 9:30 AM. Eckenroth Home for Funerals

Zook, Rachel S.
Amos Zook residence, 284 Zook Lane, Leola, Monday, 12 Noon. Furman Home for Funerals.

memory may be made to Hospice of Lancaster County, 685 Good Drive, P.O. Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17604-4125. Arrangements by the Richard A. Sheetz Funeral Home, 397-6329, for other information or to send an online condolence to the family, visit our website at www.kearneyansnyderfuneral-home.com

Alma K. Reedy

Alma K. Reedy, 84, of Paradise, died Friday, February 29, 2008 at Lancaster General Hospital. She was the wife of Frederick James Reedy. They were married 65 years last April. Born in Wallastown, PA on February 23, 1924, she was the daughter of the late Olive A. Kramer.

She was a member of Strasburg Assembly of God. Alma was a member of Eastern Star and White Shrine. During her life she worked as a cook and also at the former Hagers Paint Shop.

Surviving, in addition to her husband are two daughters, Darline A. O'Shields, of Strasburg and her companion Merle Weller, and Rosemarie Reedy of Grovetown, GA, and her companion Thomas; one son, Frederick J., Jr. and his wife Delores of Wilmington, NC; a sister, Marie Henstock, of Monroeville, PA. She is also survived by 5 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and a great great grandson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Strasburg Assembly of God, 211 Gap Rd., Strasburg, PA 17579.

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The advertising department publishes obituaries provided by funeral homes or crematoria, based on information provided to them by families. It does not accept obituaries from individuals. Obituaries and related materials, submitted to Lancaster Newspapers, Inc. may be edited for style, policy or legal reasons, and they become the property of Lancaster Newspapers Inc.

A funeral service celebrating Joann's life will be held at the Sheetz Funeral Home, 16 E. Main St., Mount Joy on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 11 am with Pastor David Tressler officiating. Interment to follow in Laurel Hill Memorial Gardens, Columbia. Friends may call at the Sheetz Funeral Home, Mount Joy on Wednesday morning from 9:30 until 11 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Joann's name may be made to Mount Joy Church of God, 34 E. Main St., Mount Joy, PA 17552 or to Hospice of Lancaster County, P.O. Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17604-4125. Online condolences to www.sheetzfuneralhome.com

Michael S. Nolt

Michael S. Nolt, 88, of 730 Lincoln Gardens Rd., Ephrata, died Saturday, March 1, 2008 at Fairmount Homes. He is survived by his wife, Edith R. (Burkholder) Nolt.

Born in Caernarvon Twp., he was the son of the late Jacob H. and Maria (Sauder) Nolt.


He was a retired dairy farmer and a member of Springville Mennonite Church.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two children: William H. married to Irene M. (Nolt) Nolt, Denver and Fern Edith Nolt, with whom he resided; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; a brother, Allen S. married to Mary (Horst) Nolt, Stevens; and a sister, Elizabeth S. Hurst, widow of Isaac W. Hurst, of Fairmount Homes.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Annie W. (Hurst) Nolt in 1972; a daughter, Mary Ann married to Joseph Y. Peachey; four brothers: Harvey, Christian, Eli, and Elmer Nolt, and three grandchildren.

His funeral will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 8:45 AM at Fairmount Homes Wheat Ridge Chapel with further services at 9:30 AM at Springville Mennonite Church with Bishop Lester B. Martin, Wilmer R. Martin, Walter Zimmerman, and Paul Nolt, Jr. officiating. Interment will be in the adjoining church cemetery. A viewing will be held at Fairmount Homes Wheat Ridge Chapel on Monday from 5 to 8 PM. Kindly omit flowers. The Groff-High Funeral Home, New Holland is in charge of arrangements.

In Loving Memory Of
Tyler Fry
March 3, 1973 - April 30, 2006



Love, Mom, Andre, Tatvanna, Milan, Kya

A funeral service celebrating Joann's life will be held at the Sheetz Funeral Home, 16 E. Main St., Mount Joy on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 11 am with Pastor David Tressler officiating. Interment to follow in Laurel Hill Memorial Gardens, Columbia. Friends may call at the Sheetz Funeral Home, Mount Joy on Wednesday morning from 9:30 until 11 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Joann's name may be made to Mount Joy Church of God, 34 E. Main St., Mount Joy, PA 17552 or to Hospice of Lancaster County, P.O. Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17604-4125. Online condolences to www.sheetzfuneralhome.com

OTHER OBITUARIES ON PAGE B4

In Loving Memory of
Nadine M. Bongart
6/22/67 - 3/3/98



Friends may think we have forgotten When at times they see us smile Little do they know the heartache That our smile hides all the while.

Beautiful memories are wonderful They last till the longest day They never wear out, they never get lost And can never be given away.

To some you may be forgotten To others a part of the past, But to those who love and lost you Your memory will always last.

We miss you Nadine.
Love Mom, Dad, Laurie, Mary Jo, Chris, Jr. and Families

11:00 AM at Hernley Mennonite Church, 746 Lebanon Road (Route 72 North), Manheim, PA with Pastors George M. Hurst and J. Mark Tedford officiating. Interment in the adjoining cemetery will be at the convenience of the family. There will be no viewing. The family will receive friends on Tuesday morning from 10:00 AM until the time of the service. The family requests that flowers please be omitted. If desired, contributions may be made in her memory to Hospice of Lancaster County, PO Box 4125, 685 Good Drive, Lancaster, PA 17604-4125 or to the benevolence fund of Hernley Mennonite Church.

For directions and additional information, visit www.spencefuneralservices.com


Pius W. Schreiner
"Pete"

In loving memory of our dear father who entered into rest on March 3, 1982.

Gone Dear Father, Gone Forever, Away from sorrow, cares and pain, how we miss your smiling face. Until we meet again. May you rest in peace, Dear Father.

Sadly Missed By Children,
John, Mary, Marie, Helen & Edward

In Loving Memory of
Donald Wade Woodward
November 16, 1982 - March 3, 2006



Two years have gone by. The pain continues to grow. You will never be forgotten, we refuse to let you go. Donald, you see our hearts cry but please feel no more pain. It's just how much we love you. We will smile when we're together again.

In our hearts forever.....
Mom, Dad, Dustin

Trust In Our Service
We'll be with you every step of the way.



KEARNEY A. SNYDER
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
141 E. Orange Street, Lancaster
Mark C. DeFord, Supervisor
Phone: 394-4097
www.kearneysnyderfuneralhome.com

BRANCH OFFICE
Richard A. Sheetz Funeral Home
2024 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster
Randy L. Stutzfus, Supervisor • Phone: 397-6129

In Loving Memory of
Stephen W. Hoar
Sept. 17, 1963 - March 3, 1989

Happy child, loving son; You stood up for everyone. You grew into a fine young man; In the Navy you served this land. You had two children on your own before God had to call you home. Nineteen years since you went away; we love and think of you everyday.

Your Family

Young
FUNERAL HOME


Charles S. McWilliams, III
SUPERVISOR

Scott C. Brubaker
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

717.299.7371

317 East Orange Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

In Loving Memory of
Kenneth C. "Kenny" Bell
Oct. 10, 1959 - March 3, 2007



They say there is a reason. They say that time will heal. But neither time nor reason will change the way we feel. No one knows the heartache that lies behind our smiles. No one knows how many times, we've broken down and cried. We want to tell you something so there won't be any doubt, you're so wonderful to think of, but so hard to live without.

"We Love and Miss You"
Mom and Bob, Justina and Bob, Gary, Dwayne, Amy and Eric, Kerri, Nicholas, Joshua, Christian, Sophia K. and Noah

OBITUARIES

S. Conard Webster, Jr.

S. Conard Webster, Jr., age 92 of Downingtown, PA passed away on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at the Brandywine Hospital. He was the husband of Frances Young Webster for 62 years. He was

born in West Bradford Twp., son of the late Samuel Conard, Sr. & Jessie Gause Webster. He was a member of Sadsbury Friends Meeting of Gap. He was a Trustee for Bart and Caln Meeting and enjoyed being groundskeeper for Caln Meeting. A machinist by trade he worked for 15 years at Beloit Eastern and then for 14 years at Gallagher Equipment. He graduated from the former Honey Brook High School. He enjoyed motorcycles, antique cars, tractors and his family and the people that he came in contact with. He served in the U.S. Army from 1945-1947 as a corporal in hospital settings.

Surviving besides his wife are two children: Connie L. Webster and Mark W. husband of Wendy Scott Webster of Glenmoore, two grandsons: David & Jonathan Webster. He was preceded in death by 3 sons: Steven, David & Matthew Webster, 1 brother: Wayne G. Webster.

Funeral service will take place at the Sadsbury Friends Meeting, 1093 Simmontown Road, Gap, PA on Wednesday, March 5th at 11 A.M. with a calling time from 10 A.M. until time of service. There will also be a viewing at the Shivery Funeral Home, 111 Elizabeth Street, Christiana, PA on Tuesday evening from 6 to 7:30 P.M. Interment will be in the Bart Friends Burial Grounds, Christiana, PA. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Old Caln Meeting House, Box 96, Downingtown, PA 19335. www.shiveryfuneralhome.com

Elvin H. High

Elvin H. High, 73, of Ephrata, entered into rest at the Ephrata Community Hospital on Sunday, March 2, 2008, following a brief illness.

He was born in Upper Leacock Twp., a son of the late Isaac Z. and Barbara Hoover High.

The husband of Emma Martin High, the couple were married 53 years this past November 25th.

Mr. High was a member of the Groffdale Mennonite Church (Weaverland Conference).

A former farmer, he was presently self employed as a truck driver for local farmers in the area.

Surviving besides his wife are 2 sons, Eugene M. husband of Edna (Martin) High of Wooster, Ohio, and Elvin H. husband of Loretta (Horst) High Jr. of Ephrata, 3 daughters, Elaine M. High of Ephrata, Erla Mac wife of Elvin B. Martin and Edna Faye wife of Jerry L. Musser both of Newmanstown, 21 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, a sister, Verna H. wife of John Lauver of Manheim.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother Lester H. High.

Funeral services will be held at 9:00 AM on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at the Farmcrest Chapel of Fairmount Homes, 1100 Farmcrest Drive, Ephrata, with further services at 9:30 AM at the Groffdale Frame Mennonite Church, with Bishops Jeremiah O. Sensenig and Curvin Zimmerman and ministers Richard Burkholder and Edwin Reiff officiating. Interment will follow in the adjoining church cemetery. A viewing will be held from 2-4 and 6-8 PM, Wednesday, March 5th at the Farmcrest Chapel of Fairmount Homes. Kindly omit flowers. Arrangements by Stradling Funeral Homes, Akron/Ephrata. For additional information or to send a condolence to the family, visit stradlingfuneralhome.com

Rising fuel costs, stagnant rates will run them off the road, truckers say

BY ELLEN SIMON
AP Business Writer

Trucker Robert Griffith is on the road three weeks out of four, pulling oversized loads like crane booms, railroad ties and air conditioning ducts. One of his biggest worries: How he'll find the money to buy his daughter a prom dress.

As the cost of diesel doubled over the last four years, his take-home pay plummeted, from \$50,000 to \$11,000 last year. He's literally burning money; he spent \$64,000 on diesel in the last eight months. Since he canceled his satellite radio, he's on citizens band radio constantly (handle: Instigator) talking about what needs to change so truckers like him can survive.

"I had to learn to live totally different," said Griffith, 41, of Lebanon, Tenn.

No more \$150 family outings to Shogun sushi. No more weekly washes for his Western Star 4900 EX truck. No more health insurance for him and his family.

"It hurts," he said. "I'm a man who's trying to make a living for my family, and I'm not succeeding."

Trucking's owner-operators, the self-employed drivers who haul everything from Hummers to hay, are suffering. Many say they're running on the edge of bankruptcy, about to disappear unless they get help. While a wave of trucking failures now might be invisible to consumers, when the economy rebounds, it would push up shipping rates, helping increase prices.

The housing downturn and decreased consumer spending have cut into loads; the extra trucking capacity is pushing down freight rates. Diesel prices, which are always higher in the winter, have hit such highs that *Truckinginfo.com* runs ads for thief-stopping fuel-tank locks.

"If you can run all week without a flat tire, you're a little bit ahead; otherwise, you're basically just running to put the money right back into the fuel tank," said trucker Benjamin Stanley, 40, of Spotsylvania, Va. "Truckers are in the same spot farmers were in a few years



Associated Press

Nanette Jenkins Rudd, a third-generation trucker, exits one of the five trucks she owns in Mapleton, Ill., Thursday, Feb. 21. Many trucking owner-operators, the self-employed

drivers who haul everything from Hummers to hay, say they're running on the edge of bankruptcy and might disappear unless they get help.

fer. Maine Gov. John Baldacci declared a civil emergency at the end of November, speeding fuel tax reimbursements for logging truck operators and asking the Department of Transportation to identify roads that could tolerate logging-truck weight, allowing truckers to take more direct routes and save fuel.

About 9 percent of the nation's 3.4 million truck drivers are independent owner-operators, according to the Department of Labor. Without the independents, trucking will turn into a group of "regional and national oligopolies" that would send shipping prices higher when the economy improves, said John Saldanha, who teaches logistics at Ohio State University.

A Baird & Co. research report said the one positive note is the likelihood of more bankruptcies could eventually push freight rates up for the survivors.

Truckers, who felt unappreciated in the best of times, say they feel even more marginalized now.

Rumors of a nationwide

Diesel prices

The price of diesel fuel has more than doubled in the past four years, putting a strain on self-employed truck drivers.

Retail price per gallon for diesel fuel



SOURCE: Department of Energy AP

third-generation trucker based in Mapleton, Ill., kept her five trucks off the road the week of the action.

"I pray that this strike is successful, so that we only have to stop rolling for a week — and not forever," she said.

Like other truckers, she's hoping for government help.

companies seem to be on a different road. Their stocks have, for the most part, climbed since January.

J.B. Hunt Transport Services Inc. and YRC Worldwide Inc., with more than 10,000 truck tractors each, buy everything from fuel to tractors in bulk.

The big companies buy thousands of gallons of diesel at a time on the commodities market, then store it at their depots; Griffith buys his at truck stop pumps, where prices increased 38 cents a gallon over two days last month.

Three-quarters of Griffith's pay is going to fuel and maintenance, up from half in the past. And how much work he can cram in is regulated, with the number of hours he can drive capped by federal regulations at 11 a day, all of which must be recorded in a log book.

"People will say, 'Run harder,'" he said. "I can't run harder. You can't run beyond your log books."

Back on the CB, "someone will get on about trucking, someone will get on about the fuel prices, then everyone will

Donald McNicoll, London newsman who covered last days of Churchill dies at 92