



Diana M Blaskowsky

May 7, 2021

Diana M. Blaskowsky, 99, of Montlake Terrace and former long-term Wenatchee area resident, passed away Friday, May 7, 2021. Diana is survived by her three children, three grandchildren and two greatgrandchildren.

Diana was born Rodeck in 1921 in Odessa, WA. Her family lived on a homestead a few miles west of town. She had 8 siblings, two from a previous marriage. Diana was the 6th of the 9 children. The family raised and sold vegetables to the local community. A dramatic and tragic event occurred in 1935 when she was 13 - her father was gored to death by a bull. This left her mother and older siblings to carry on. This was difficult as the environment for women without a husband in the 1930s was much different than today. But they persevered and as a family were all quite successful.

She graduated from Odessa high school. On April 5, 1942 she married Ralph Blaskowsky just before he left for WWII. She had a son, Donald, while the war raged and when Ralph returned from the war, they moved to Wilbur, WA. There Ralph worked as a farm hand while Diana tended to raising the growing family. While there, they had two more children, a son David and a daughter Karen. They were very active in the local Grange and attended meetings every week. Around 1950 Ralph's back problems prompted a move to Spokane where he worked as a parts clerk for the Grange Supply for many years.

In Spokane, they lived on North Lee Street in a small house on a generous lot and had a large garden, but always dreamed of having a farm. The house had an oil heater and a cooking stove fired by wood. Diana was quite proficient at cooking and baking on a wood fired stove. Many summer weekends were spent cutting, hauling and storing wood for use in cooking and heating on cold winter mornings.

Eventually, Diana began working as a school cook for the Spokane school district. This worked well because she could be home for the children when they came home from school.

The family was quite active in the Grange community and attended meetings at the Moran Prairie Grange. Both Diana and Ralph held offices in the local Grange at various times. The Grange also held family friendly dances on the first, third and fifth Saturday of the month which they attended with family in tow. In the summer the local Granges had a fast pitch softball league. Ralph, David and Don all played on the Moran Prairie Grange team

and Diana and Karen were always on the sidelines rooting for the home team.

In 1959 they were able to realize their dream of again living on a farm when they acquired a 10 acre farm on Moran Prairie on the road to what eventually became known as tower mountain. Diana was able to move her cooking job to Ferris high school where she became the head cook. Ferris was just down the road from their new farm. She was universally liked while working at Ferris. She retired from cooking and the school district in 1986 at age 65.

On the farm, they had three big gardens where they raised all manner of fruits, vegetables, melons and berries. They also had milking cows and several acres of alfalfa. Diana also enjoyed walking in the surrounding forest. They enjoyed the farm immensely in part because it kept them very busy. Diana was a crack shot with a .22 when she caught birds eating at the berry vines.

Winter was always a fun time. Both Ralph and Diana thoroughly enjoyed snow. Ralph built an inner tube slide area that became a favorite recreation spot for friends and family.

Diana would make a big pot of chili and some cinnamon rolls for lunch and friends and family would have a great time inner tubing. Diana was an active participant as well. The local area would resound with laughter.

In 1976 they decided to replace the original house with a factory-built house. The foundation of the original house was failing. The new house would be located in the same place as the old house, so they purchased a small travel trailer as a temporary home while the transition took place. For several months, they lived in this tiny trailer while the original house was demolished, a new foundation poured and a new manufactured home constructed, delivered and installed. Diana said several times this was a bit more challenging than she had imagined.

Sometime around 1987, after Diana's grown family had all left and Ralph retired, they decided to move to Leavenworth, where Ralph had been raised. They acquired another small farm outside Leavenworth in Spromberg Canyon. This time they just raised a garden because they wanted more free time to travel and fish. Ralph again built an innertube slide and the two of them often went fishing in the local streams. They enjoyed having their grandchildren stay for a week or so in the summers. Grandma's peanut butter waffles for breakfast were a hit with the grandkids, much to the chagrin of their parents.

Ralph had a gradually worsening bipolar disorder and eventually, around 1989, Diana had to leave him for her own safety. She then moved into Garden Terrace in Wenatchee.

At Garden Terrace Diana developed into a resourceful person in her own right. She volunteered at a local church, cutting and sewing quilt parts for their quilting group. She worked with Habitat for Humanity running estate sales. She loved to shovel the sidewalks around Garden Terrace when it snowed. She would get up at 5 am to go out to shovel the sidewalks. She was a Scrabble wizard and loved playing Scrabble with her children and grandchildren.

She also loved to travel with her sister Georgina. They once travelled together to Israel on a tour of the Biblical lands. They would often travel by car to places just for a road trip. She also liked to play slot machines. She and her close buddy at Garden Terrace would go to Mill Bay Casino a couple times a month.

Garden Terrace eventually put her on staff as a resident on-call handyman. She immensely enjoyed this role as it included knowing everyone in the building and helping people with all manner of things - from assisting when locked out to maintenance of their apartment. It was a month on, month off type job so it also allowed her to travel when not on duty.

Eventually as arthritis curtailed her abilities and her eyesight worsened, she had to give up most of these activities. Eventually Garden Terrace wouldn't even allow her to shovel the sidewalks although the joke was she needed a snow plow on her walker.

In 2017 she fell and was in the hospital for several days. Between her and her family it was agreed that she should move to an assisted living facility in the Seattle area where her sons lived so they could better be of assistance if needed. After a brief search, Vineyard Park at Mountlake Terrace was selected, and she moved into assisted living. There she settled in and lived the remaining 4 years of her life. She passed peacefully in the early morning on Friday, May 7. But even in death Diana continues to contribute.

Around 2010, Diana signed up for the Willed Body program at the University of Washington, donating her body to the UofW for their medical research programs. When she passed on May 7, 2021 she was accepted by the Willed Body program. They transported her body to the UofW where she will contribute to training new doctors and expanding medical knowledge. After a year or so, her remains will be cremated and the ashes returned to her surviving children for final dispensation.

Only one of her siblings, George Rodeck, is still alive. He lives in Odessa, WA.

Diana had a long and interesting life. Her overriding character trait was an optimistic and positive outlook on life. She was above all a supporter - she loved helping where she could even if it was only with a kind word. She will be greatly missed by all that knew the welcoming smile, the mischievous twinkle in her eye, and the caring she showed to everyone.

Chapel of the Valley, East Wenatchee is assisting with arrangements. Please do not send flowers. If you feel inclined to donate a remembrance in her behalf, contribute to planting a tree or to Habitat for Humanity. She thought highly of the work of H for H.

Tribute Wall

“ I found this article from the Odessa Record. It explains in part why Diana and her siblings were always so fond of their home outside of Odessa

Rodeck, Karl G., (d. 1-03-1935; b. 7-31-1876; TS; OC; Strates; dc) "Rodeck, Karl George. Died: 1-03-1935, Odessa, WA. Mother: Unknown. Father: Conrad Rodeck. Spouse: Pauline C. Rodeck. Buried: Odessa, WA, Odessa Cemetery." and "Rodeck, Karl George. Died: 3 Jan 1935, Odessa, WA. Birth: 31 July 1876, Germany. Spouse: Pauline, nee not stated. Mother: unknown, born Germany. Father: Conrad Rodeck, born Germany. Burial: Removal, place not stated." (2 Lincoln Co Health death cards, same name and dates) "Carl Georg Rodeck born 31 July 1876 in Thuringen, Deutschland. 1901 began voyage to America _____. _____ 1909 Odessa. 1916 married Pauline Paulsen _____. Died 3 Jan, 1935 Left to mourn: wife Pauline, 5 sons: Conrad, Paul, Friedrich, Jacob, Georg; 4 daughters: Auguste, Diana, Janelina and Georgina. Age 58 yrs 5 mos 2 days. H P Christensen." (Christ Lutheran Church ledger; German script) "Karl George Rodeck. Died: 1-03-1935 at 1 p.m., 8 miles west of Odessa. Farmer. Informant: Pauline Catherine Rodeck. Birth: July 31, 1876, Germany; male, white, married. Age: 58 yrs 5 mos 2 days; Wife: Pauline. Father: Conrad Rodeck born Germany. Mother: not obtainable. Residence: near Odessa, 26 yrs. To US at age 28 yrs. Previous residence to Odessa: Spokane. Physician: L. J. Bonney. Interment: Odessa Cemetery. Person in charge: H. H. Strate of Odessa. Leaves wife and other relatives: 5 sons: Conrad at Portland, Fred, Paul, Jacob, and George at Odessa; 4 daughters: Augusta, Anna, Jenneli, Georgina; one sister in Germany and one grandchild." (Mortuary Ledger) "Karl Rodeck, 57, rancher near Odessa, was killed on Thursday noon at his ranch home by a Holstein bull, gored to death in a corral at the place. Particulars were vague at press time. Rodeck, well known in Odessa, came to this region several years ago and settled between here and Irby, at a site where a natural spring flowed. With this as a starting point he developed an irrigation system, all by hand labor, and at the present time has a beautiful home. Rodeck, born in Germany, had an interesting career, starting as a cavalry man in Germany, then as a trick rider, working also at the baking trade. At the ranch here he has proved one of the community's best members. Survivors include his wife and several children, believed to number ten. He was a member of the Lutheran church and it is believed that the funeral will be held from there. Funeral arrangements had not been made at press time. Dr L. J. Bonney and Undertaker H. H. Strate were called. The bull, which was getting old, was known to be dangerous, but had not exhibited viciousness. How Mr. Rodeck came to be caught was not known." (Odessa Record: 1-04-1935) "Karl Rodeck, 58, owne4r of a farm west of here, where he specialized in growing vegetables and chickens, was buried from the Odessa Lutheran church on Sunday, the Rev H P Christensen officiating, following his death on Thursday, when he was gored to death at his ranch home by a bull. No one saw the accident, but Mr. Rodeck was found by his son, with his body badly mangled and most of his clothing torn from his body. His body was taken to Spokane for preparation and returned here for the funeral. Born in Germany, Mr. Rodeck started his career as a cavalry man in the German army

and later became a trick rider in an American circus. He came to the Odessa region about 20 years ago and located on the present ranch, where he developed one of the beauty spots of the region. Survivors include his widow, five sons, Fred, Paul, Jacob and George of Odessa, and Conrad of Portland; four daughters, Augusta, Anna Janaline and Georgina, all of Odessa. The funeral was one of the largest ever held in Odessa, the church being able to hold only about one-fourth of the people. Pallbearers were chosen from fellow church men and included Julius Kuest, Jacob Zeiler, George Schafer, George Schillinger, Fred Schillinger and Henry Gies. Burial was made in the Odessa Cemetery. Rodeck, during his time here, had built for himself the respect of every resident in the community, through his fairness and diligence. Through the hardest manual labor he had developed a home site near Odessa, building his own irrigation system and using it to create a large vegetable garden. At the time of his death he was planning an enlargement of the project, which would have reclaimed many additional acres. He was a familiar figure in Odessa and the shock of his death caused the entire community a great loss." (Odessa Record: 1-11-1935)

Donald Blaskowsky - June 03, 2021 at 07:08 PM

CT

“ Aunt Diana was a stinker! In the very best of ways!....she has this little giggle and a smile that made you feel part of something...she had a sense of humor that crossed generations...old and young could be part of her fun always. What a cook she was! I got to enjoy the intetube run, but this story does not give it justice! Uncle Ralph worked for hours upon hours and days upon days to get it just right, with twists and turns and a straight shot at the end that left us headed for the creek...an intertube chain of people all lined uplegs under armpits and away we would go! Hang on tight or you might loose a boot! I remember meals with Oma (Diana's mom) before she passed...Oma and Diana were the cooks..and the sisters were all in the kitchen enjoying each other while the guys were telling their stories waiting for one of many amazing meals. Diana and my mom Georgina did the traveling...Mom always said she was comfortable to be around was always glad when she could go on the trips...My dad Bill would enjoy visiting with Diana because he was a jokester too.....He preferred laughter over all and Diana served it up! I will never forget her...ever...her voice, her smile, her warmth, and her patience, and her inner joy... What an Awesome Lady!
Chris (Nicholls) Tareski

chris tareski - June 02, 2021 at 09:41 PM

JA

“ God's peace to all Diana's loved ones. I had a number of good visits with Diana and enjoyed singing Christmas carols at her place of residence. Pastor James Aalgaard, Grace Lutheran Church, Wenatchee

James Aalgaard - May 28, 2021 at 03:37 PM

DB

“ *This is a test*

Don Blaskowsky - May 26, 2021 at 08:03 PM