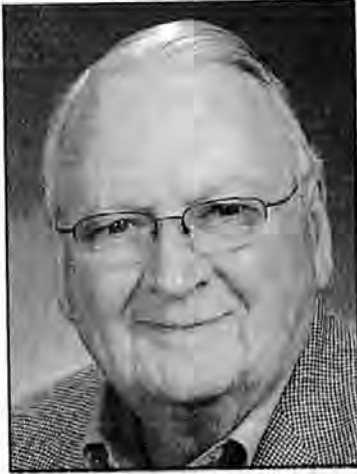


**N.B. Dane Nelsen, 81**

June 25, 1928 - Dec. 16, 2009

**MERCER ISLAND, WA** - Newmark Brondt Nelsen "Dane" passed from this life in the early hours of December 16 from complications due to pacemaker surgery. The room in which he spent his last hours was filled to overflowing with his beloved wife Cleo and all of his children. He was cared for in the most compassionate way possible by the physicians and nurses at Virginia Mason Hospital. Dane's life ended with the same dignity and quiet strength that characterized his 81 years.



Newmark was born in rural Irwin Iowa, the first son of Christian and Elise.

He grew up on a dairy farm but there was no keeping him there. He graduated from Harlan High School. As a young adult he raced motorcycles and to prevent his parents from finding this out, he changed his name to Dane. This nickname was particularly appropriate because it acknowledged his Danish heritage of which he was shamelessly proud.

The most important event of Dane's life took place early in a small town drug store when he was introduced to his partner for life, Cleopha Ann Schwery. Dane's marriage to Cleo had two conditions. First the motorcycle had to go (once they had children) and he had to become a Catholic. Dane remained a devoted Catholic (and never got another motorcycle). Dane made the most of post World War II America. With no college education he found work in the propane gas business, at one point flying his small plane to get to sales calls. He eventually owned the Carroll Gas Company which was then purchased by Northern Natural Gas. At this point in their lives, they relocated to Minneapolis, MN. Five years later the family moved to the Seattle area when Dane became co-owner of Sam Dick Industries, a business which specialized in propane gas heating systems. On his tax attorneys advice he bought a 45 foot sailboat. When Cleo pointed out that he didn't know how to sail, Dane said the whole family was going to learn. When he couldn't find the sailboat he wanted, he bought into the Valiant Yacht Company and had a custom one built. Finding a crew was no problem for the Nelsen family. Dane's gift for business was eclipsed by his and Cleo's remarkable ability to have children. They named their first boat "The Bakers Dozen" to recognize their family of thirteen. Dane and Cleo gave life to 12 children and still grieve the loss of sons Curtis and Jeffrey. Whether as a father, grandparent, great grandparent, boss, or parishioner, Dane was a generous soul who cared deeply for his family and friends.

Dane is survived by his loving wife Cleo, children (and spouses) Craig (Jackie), Connie (Steve), Chuck, Cristine (Dennis), Cathy (Brien), Tom, Jane, Peggy (Tom), Mark (Luiza), and Jimmy (Becket). He is also survived by grandchildren Matthew, Katie, Elise, Abigail, Corey, Calen, Chase, Max, Alicia, Danya, Courtney, Mallory, Avary, Cassidy, Sophia, Bishop, Zachary, Benjamin, Delayla, Anthony, Lochlann and great grandchildren Chloe, Jack and Mackenzie.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Monica's Catholic Church on Monday Dec 21, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. with reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Friends of the Needy, 4301 88th Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040 or the American Diabetes Association, [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org). Remembrances may be shared at [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com).

**Sunset Hills  
Funeral Home**

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Bellevue, WA 98007  
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