

Richard Smith | July 1939 - September 2019



Dr. Richard Smith departed our world in late September 2019. Those who knew Richard well, know that he must have been excited about finally getting started on his next big adventure, this time with his beloved Lord and Savior riding by his side.

Richard will forever be remembered as a wonderful husband, loving father, generous provider, exceptional dentist, skillful horseman, avid outdoorsman and inviting friend to all those who knew him.

Richard was born in July 1939 and grew up in Santa Monica and Malibu, California. Even while growing up in southern California the mountains were in his heart from an early age. While in high school Richard spent the summer on a working cattle ranch in Prescott, Arizona, at the invitation of one of his teachers. Richard earned his DDS doctorate degree with high marks from the University of Southern California Dental School, where he had the honor of being one of the few who were admitted without earning a bachelor's degree beforehand.

In 1959 Richard met his future wife, Jennie Howard, on a blind date in Santa Monica. They married in 1962 and subsequently shared 57 adventure filled years together. Richard and Jennie moved to Oxnard, California, where Richard practiced dentistry for five years and they brought two children into the world while there.

Then Richard experienced an unexpected turning point in his life. During an elk hunt in Salmon, Idaho, in 1968, he sought medical care for a bad bout of the flu at the local hospital, where he made the fortuitous acquaintance of Dr. Walter Blackadar. Sharing similar appetites for outdoor adventure they quickly became friends and Walt invited Richard to hunt with him the next year. Their burgeoning



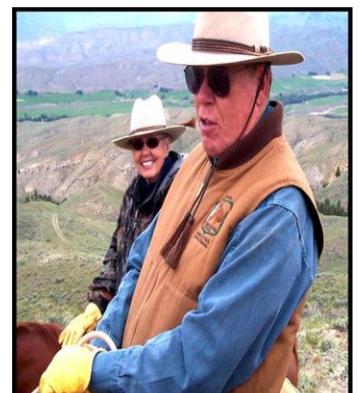
friendship inspired Walt to suggest adding a suite onto his medical building where Richard could practice dentistry. Offer accepted - the rest is history. In The Salmon Dental Center, established in 1969, he practiced in that suite for 38 years until his retirement in 2007.

In his earlier years in the Salmon area, Richard's other hunting passions included hunting bear and lion with his well-known Plott hounds, as well as the time spent with friends on these adventures. He maintained a large kennel in which he raised many generations of Plott hound pups, along with the German

Shorthair pups he so much enjoyed hunting upland game birds with.

Always passionate about the wild lands he loved to roam, Richard was involved in many organizations and committees over the years. At various times he served as a member of the Continental Divide Trail study committee, various U.S. Forest Service committees, as director for the Lemhi Regional Land Trust and member of the Lemhi County Historical Society. He also enjoyed volunteering his time and bird dogs each year to support the annual Idaho Fish & Game Youth Pheasant hunts.

Exploring the Idaho mountains and backcountry on horseback was one of Richards' favorite past times. He thoroughly enjoyed his many horses and mule and was well known for his proficiency at handling and packing them, as well as his intuitive knack for finding his way through Idahos' remote



wilderness while taking trips through various mountain ranges with his family and friends.

One of Richards' proudest accomplishments was being a founding member of the Salmon River Back Country Horsemen 41 years ago. The BCH organization originally operated in Montana with three chapters and the Salmon Chapter was the fourth chapter formed and the first in Idaho. Later the organization grew further and the Back Country Horsemen of Idaho and the Back Country Horsemen of America were subsequently formed.

During his decades living and riding in Lemhi County, Richard enjoyed clearing literally hundreds of miles of trail and led many SRBCH chapter rides and was responsible for many of the trails being ridden today. He was also proficient with his mandolins and enjoyed playing bluegrass music with his friends.

Richard attended Lemhi River Cowboy Church and Salmon Calvary Church. His relationship with his Lord was strong. He was always adventurous, curious of what was over the next ridge and around the next bend in the trail. He had a passion and drive for the mountains that few could keep up with. He was generous, varied in his interests and enjoyed introducing others to his hobbies. Many a person can lay claim to being one of the lucky ones to ride along on his hunts and rides.

Richard is survived by his best friend and wife of 57 years, Jennie of Salmon; son Roger Smith and daughter Laurel Smith, sister Mariahn Smith, brother Robert E. Smith, grandchildren Jacob Smith, Mariah Smith, Sophia Smith, and great-grandchildren Caige and Valon Smith.

Memorial donations may be made in his honor to the Salmon River Back Country Horsemen or the Lemhi County Historical Society.