On Mother’s day, May 11, 2014, we lost a remarkable, enduring, and unforgettable pioneer.

Cecil Conrad Garland Jr. was born in Cincinnati, OH, to Cecil Conrad Garland Sr. and Bertha Dale on September 7, 1925. After he was born, Cecil moved south and spent most of his youth in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee. As a young man, he served in the Air Force during WWII. After discharge, he headed west to Las Vegas, married Barbara Heavin and moved north to Lincoln, MT, where they raised 3 daughters. In 1973, he moved to Callao, UT, to start his life as a rancher. There he married the local “schoolmarm”, Annette Hardy, where they embarked on a beautiful adventure together, including the birth of their daughter.

Over the years, Cecil was passionate about many worthy causes. In Lincoln, MT, with other folks, he led the way for the first citizen-initiated wilderness area, the Scapegoat Wilderness. This legacy allows Montana’s quiet beauty and grandeur to pass from generation to generation. In Utah/Nevada, he challenged the Air Force’s plan to deploy MX missiles in the Great Basin region. He went to work again when they proposed an electronic battlefield over Callao, UT. Finally, as if he hadn’t done enough, he teamed up with others in the Great Basin Water Network to protect Snake Valley water from Southern Nevada Water Authority. In honor of all he has done, Cecil was recently inducted into the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame. This project seeks to recognize those that capture, preserve, and teach their story of restoration and conservation.

He is survived by his wife, Annette; sisters Kathleen and Anne; brother, Jimmy; daughters and spouses: Cecilia and Jim, Teresa and Kevin, Becky and Richard and Bertha Mae and David; grandchildren: Allisun, Marshall, Elizabeth, Hayes, Cole, Abigail, Connor, Madeline, Dalton, and Lorelei; great grandchildren Blaine, Jameson, Ty, Lane, Andrea, Meah, and Layla; his in-laws and numerous nieces and nephews; and his “mejor Amigo”, Edwin.

From the Smoky Mountains to the Rocky Mountains, we will miss Cecil, who always had heart-felt words, strong opinions and wisdom of the ages. Cecil painted and wrote poetry. He likely has more in him. They will be transmitted from heaven with “a little bit of the devil.”

A celebration of life will be held in Callao, UT, on the weekend of September 6th, 2014. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: Montana Wilderness Association, 80 S. Warren St., Helena, MT 59601, online at www.wildmontana.org/donate or the Great Basin Water Network, P.O. Box 75 Baker, NV 89311 online at http://www.greatbasinwaternetwork.org/involved.