

“Vernon”

Vernon Cairns was born January 5, 1908 on the family farm, homesteaded about 1900, one and one-half miles northwest of Meridian. He was the firstborn son of Floyd Cairns and Mabel Tolleth Cairns. His mother was the daughter of Homer and Anna Tolleth who were some of Meridian's earliest pioneers.

Vernon was in the 1926 graduating class of Meridian High School. He attended the University of Idaho and graduated in 1931 with a Civil Engineering degree. He went directly to work for the Bureau of Public Roads.

With the outbreak of World War II he left his job and served with the Armed Forces from 1941 to 1947, four of these years having been overseas. On returning home he resumed his position with the Bureau of Public Roads and was also a member of the Active Reserve until he retired from this group in the 1960's having earned the rank of Colonel. He retired from his United States Government position in 1973.

For many years, Vernon lived with and cared for his mother in the Tolleth house built in Meridian by his grandparents. During this time he farmed the home place.

After his mother's death, Vernon and his wife, Feirbo, built a new house on the land which has been in the family name since the early 1900's. He continued farming activities until late in 1990 when he suffered a severe stroke. He is still able to stay at home and enjoy his farm, family, and friends.



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