

H-R SEPTEMBER 6, 1979
Russell dies in Washington

Ralph R. Russell, 74, a former resident of Sugar Creek, died Sept. 2 in Renton, Wash., where he and his wife had made their home the past two years.

A memorial service is being held for Ralph Russell today in Renton.

A graduate of Lynnville-Sully high school with the class of 1924, he later moved to northwestern Montana. That state became his home until his move to Washington two years ago.

At various times he served in the United States Forestry Service and as a fire lookout in the Rocky Mountain forests. He spent many years in the United States Reclamation Service in the Lake Flathead region, northwest of Missoula and south of Glacier Park.

In spite of a severe arthritic condition, during the extreme shortage of manpower during World War II, he was drafted to serve as a substitute assistant in the Hot Springs, Mont., post office. He was postmaster until his disability retirement in 1956.

He was the son of Harry A. and Etta Ratcliff Russell, who farmed for many years in the Sugar Creek and near the Oak Grove area, and later lived

several years in Grinnell and Lynnville. His sister and brother-in-law were the Arthur Lincoln's, both deceased.

Surviving him are his wife, Pauline Bras Russell, and their daughter, Sharon Russell Heaton, both of Renton.