

## Elbert (Bert) McLaren

Elbert, or Bert as he was called, was born in 1929 and was the youngest of Fred's six children. He began his career in the same park that his brothers did, Rocky Mountain National Park. After seeing combat in Korea for two years, he returned to a permanent ranger position in Yellowstone National Park. "I'd take off with my horse and mule and go up into the backcountry," he says in recalling those years. "It was a great way to spend a summer and fall. When I got married, the chief ranger assigned my wife a horse and mule so she could go with me." The winters he spent taking ski patrols out of Grand Teton into the Yellowstone backcountry. These trips often lasted ten days and covered more than 100 miles, going from cabin to patrol cabin. In 1962 Bert transferred to Rocky Mountain National Park as the Fall River sub-district ranger. He did ski patrols but also graduated to doing paperwork. He ran the horse operations for the park and did all of the packing and coordinating of horse operations for patrols, supplying trail crews and restocking backcountry trail cabins. After 35 years as a ranger, Bert retired in 1986. Bert died November 2, 2001.

