



# WILLIAM 'BILL' CREGG

- **Bank manager, Bar Owner, Mayor**
- **Born.** February 2, 1931 in Butte, Montana
- **Married.** Marilyn. They had four sons.
- **Died.** November 16, 1983, in Missoula, Montana. His death culminated a four-year battle with throat cancer that included surgical removal of his voice box. For a man who had thrived on talk, the feistier or funnier the better, it was a cruel loss. He had reached the end of a long struggle with frustration and despair, when he took his own life.
- **1949.** William graduated from Butte Public High School. He then enrolled at the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana. He held some interest in becoming a lawyer.
- **1951.** William enlisted in the Air Force. He served a four year tour that included an overseas tour in Korea during the war.
- William returned to Missoula and completed two years of business studies at the University of Montana. He then went to work for Community Credit Corp.
- **1956.** William was hired by Missoula's First National Bank in the Installment Loan Department. He was later promoted to Manager of the department and eventually, in 1972, promoted to Vice President. He resigned in 1974 due to a conflict of managerial direction.
- **1965.** William served one term in the Montana State Legislature. An early critic of the Vietnam War, he voted to censure the U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia.
- **1968.** William served as the Montana Chairman for the Eugene McCarthy Presidential Campaign. He later served three years as Treasurer of the Missoula County Democratic Committee.
- **Awards.** He won numerous awards for his work with the youth in Missoula's community: Jaycees "Outstanding Young Men of America" by Missoula Jaycees, "Man of the Year" by Missoula's Montana Education Association, and the "Golden Apple" by Montana's MEA Board.
- **1974.** William brainstormed, organized, and directed the initial First National Bank Marathon. This event continues to this day.
- **Business Ventures.** After he resigned from the bank, William purchased and operated the M & M Bar in Butte, Montana. The bar scene was not to his liking so he tried another unsuccessful foray, a one year ownership of Jim Caras Floral in Missoula, Montana.
- **1977.** Elected Missoula's 46<sup>th</sup> Mayor. He served 78 months. He was most noted as 'recognizing that the city was a business and needed to be run in a businesslike manner.' William was a driving force in the first unsuccessful attempt to build a baseball stadium and bring a semi-pro baseball team to Missoula.



Located in Grave 3, Lot 14, Block 24A