

Wedgewood Village park founder dies at age 81

By Robert Medley
Staff Writer

Maurice Woods, who 50 years ago opened Wedgewood Village Amusement Park in northwest Oklahoma City, has died. Woods was 81.

In April 1958, Woods opened the amusement park on the northwest corner of Northwest Expressway and NW 63. Rides such as The Tornado, The Calypso and the Wild Mouse attracted children and adults during warm weather months until the park closed in 1969.

An Olympic-size swimming pool — used now by an apartment complex — remains at the site.

Woods died Tuesday after suffering a sudden heart attack, said his son, Tyler Woods, 34, of Oklahoma City.

Maurice Woods was in good physical shape and was running errands

when he collapsed Tuesday.

He was taken by ambulance to Oklahoma Heart Hospital, where he died, Tyler Woods said.

"He had so much energy and so much get up and go," Tyler Woods said.

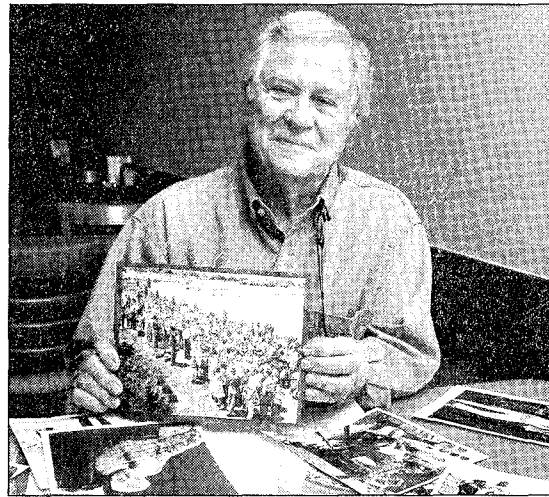
Maurice Woods and Wedgewood Village left a lasting impression on Oklahoma City, his son said.

The park is well-known for being the site of several 1960s outdoor rock 'n' roll concerts, drawing acts such as The Who and Herman's Hermits.

"He offered so many cultural benefits to this city," Tyler Woods said. "Every week I meet someone else who worked for him at Wedgewood."

Maurice Woods is survived by seven children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday at Hahn-Cook Street & Draper Funeral Home, 6006 N Grand Blvd.



OKLAHOMAN ARCHIVE PHOTO BY PAUL B. SOUTHERLAND

Maurice Woods, pictured here in 2007, holds photos and news clippings about Wedgewood Village Amusement Park, which he founded in 1958 in northwest Oklahoma City.

Two motorists on Oklahoma

From Staff Reports

A Lone Grove man and an Anters woman were involved in separate vehicle accidents on Oklahoma roads, authorities said.

■ Christopher Edelen, 22, Lone Grove

Edelen died Wednesday morning at the scene of a vehicle accident about a mile south of Lone Grove, according to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

About 2 a.m., Edelen was driving an all-terrain vehicle on a Carter County road when the vehicle rolled over after he tried to turn.

Troopers said the vehicle was going too fast when the accident happened.

Edelen wasn't wearing a helmet, troopers said.

■ Rebecca A. Smith, 43, Antlers

Smith died at a Hugo hospital after a traffic accident that happened about 5½ miles northeast of Hugo.

Shortly before 8 p.m. Tuesday, Smith was driving on a highway at a high rate speed north in the southbound lane of a Carter County road when she swerved to miss a vehicle. She struck Bryan K. Berry, 27, of Hugo.

Smith went off the road's east side, over a guardrail and back on the road, causing her vehicle to roll over, troopers said.

Smith's vehicle rolled once, throwing Smith out of the vehicle. Berry was taken in fair condition to a Hugo hospital. Neither occupant was wearing a seat belt, troopers said.

DEATHS

organ/tissue donor

Altus

BONDS, Nolda, 93, beautician, died Wednesday. Services pending (Lowell-Tims, Altus).

FELLER, Donald A., 68, retired business owner, died Tuesday. Services 2 p.m. Friday (Kilpatrick, Altus).

know

Death, Dying and Grief

NewsOK.com/death

■ Discussion board on grief

mechanic, died Monday. Graveside services 2 p.m. Friday, Rossville Cemetery (Parks Brothers, Prague).

Moore

FORST, Gertrude Louise, 93, died Tuesday. Rosary 7 p.m. today, Mass 10 a.m. Friday, St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, Norman (Lahn-Moore).

Oklahoma City).

RODRIGUEZ, Liliana, 2, died Sunday, Mass 11 a.m. Friday, Holy Angels Catholic Church (Our Lady of Guadalupe Jones Family, Oklahoma City).

© **TALLEY**, Bill G., 82, died Monday. Services pending (Corbett, Oklahoma City).

THOMAS, Candis, 44, died Monday.

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