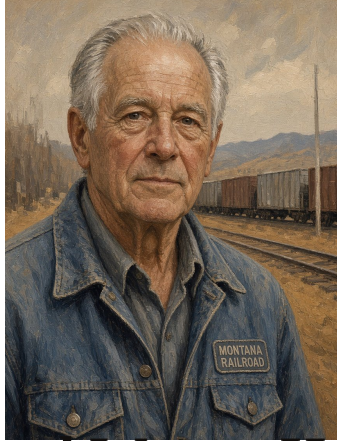




Clifford Wayne Haskins

September 22, 1949 - August 25, 2026

Billings, Montana

Clifford Wayne Haskins died in Billings on August 25, 2026. He was seventy-six. Born there on September 22, 1949, he learned the yard before he learned a trade. His father worked the railroad. Clifford worked it too, then the hump, then whatever job would keep a man outdoors in a city that does not flatter anyone who waits for mild weather.

He spent decades coupling cars, checking hoses, and teaching younger men that ice on a step is not a story you tell afterward if you have been careful. He did not romanticize the work. He said the river was beautiful from a bluff and dishonest from a cut, and that both facts could be true before breakfast.

He married Elaine Haskins in 1972. They kept a house up the rim and a cabin they almost never finished painting. Two sons grew up knowing how to bait a hook and how to be quiet in a boat. Elaine taught school. Clifford packed her lunches with the same seriousness he packed a toolbox. After he retired he walked the rims in every month except the ones when the wind made walking a kind of argument.

Friends remember a dry laugh, a refusal to own more than one good coat, and a habit of showing up to help move a freezer as if that were the natural use of a Saturday. He could name the trains of his youth and would stop himself before the list became a lecture. He died in Billings, the city whose rail and weather had written his calendar. The yard still works. He would have liked that the work outlasted the man.

Services

Visitation in Billings, followed by a simple service. A gift to a rail-workers' fund is welcome.

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