

## J. KENNETH AABERGE

Born: March 15, 1925 - Died: April 6, 2001

Liberty County Times

April 11, 2001

### ***J. Kenneth Aaberge***

J. Kenneth Aaberge, 76, lost his battle with cancer on April 6, 2001.

Kenneth was born March 15, 1925 to Ludwig and Anna Aaberge, Norwegian immigrants who homesteaded South east of Shelby, Montana, in 1909. He was the youngest of seven brothers and sisters.

Ken entered the U.S. Army June 23, 1945, just a month after marrying Ethel Stratton from Whitlash, Montana on May 24, 1945. When Ken was Honorably Discharged from the Army, he returned to the old homestead to farm with his two brothers Lewis and Oliver Aaberge. They bought an old D-4 Army Surplus Caterpillar which they ran 24 hours a day breaking up the grassland for farming. He left the farm in 1966 to pursue other interests. Ken managed the Laas Bar in Chester for two years and then became an Operating Engineer working heavy construction for such companies as Peter Keiwit Construction. He retired in 1986.

Ken moved his family to Libby, Montana where he enjoyed his retirement, hunting, fishing, and knife making. He was proud to say that he had knives in Norway, Africa, and in most of the states in the U.S.

Ken was an avid hunter and fisherman spending much of his time enjoying the great outdoors. He was a member of the American Legion in Libby, and was a member of the Montana Bow Hunters As-

sociation for many years.

Ken is survived by his wife Ethel, his sons Claude, Jay, and daughters Helen Cady her husband Darrell and Wanda. Ken has eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Services will be held at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Ledger, Montana on Thursday, April 12 at 2:00 p.m. The arrangements will be handled by Whitted Funeral Home of Shelby, Montana. There will be a reception lunch at the church following the service.

## JOHN NICHOLAS ALEX

Born: July 27, 1912 - Died: February 18, 2001

Liberty County Times

February 28, 2001

### **John Alex**

John Nicholas Alex 88, of Hingham, Montana, died in Mesa, Arizona on Sunday, February 18, after an extended illness.

John was born in Kensal, North Dakota to Anthony Joseph and Nettie (Greb) Alex on July 27, 1912. The family moved to Hingham that December.

Alex graduated from Hingham High School in 1933, and married Phoebe Dolph in Havre on May 27, 1939. He was a standout on the school's basketball team, and continued to be involved in independent basketball and baseball after he graduated. He was an avid sports fan throughout his life.

John spent his entire life in farming and ranching south of Hingham until declining health and eyesight prevented his continuing in his favorite pastime. He ran several bands of sheep during the 1940's and '50's.

He saw farming go from teams of horses to machinery with modern comforts in his time. He had little formal musical training, but could play several instruments, and his many friends knew him as the life of

any party. He also had an affinity for befriending the younger generation.

John was preceded in death by his parents and four brothers, Eddy, Harry, Anthony and Glenn.

Services were held Friday, February 23, at 11:00 a.m., at the Sixth Avenue Christian Church in Havre with the Rev. Rowlie Hutton and the Rev. Tim Hauge officiating. Ray Peck was the eulogist. Vocalists Dana Darko, Leota Hansen, and Dorai Anderson sang "Danny Boy", and "On Eagle's Wings". Dana Darko sang "The Lord's Prayer". Marj Holt was the accompanist. Burial was in Highland Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Phoebe D. Alex of Hingham, sons, J.R. of Havre and Mesa, Nick of Hingham

and Gene of Missoula; grandchildren, Jolee Alex, Nicole Alex, Daniel "Duke" Alex, Dawn Martin, Scott Martin, and Josh Alex; sisters, Myrtle Diltmar of Rudyard, Eleanor Rathbun of Havre, and Mildred Sedivy of Havre; numerous nieces and nephews.

Donations may be made to donor's choice.

Arrangements by Holland and Bonine Funeral Home.

## VERN OLAF ANDERSON

Born: June 11, 1927 - Died: November 30, 2001



### Vern Anderson

Vern Olaf Anderson was born on the family homestead north of Lothair, Montana on June 11, 1927. He was the only son of three children born to Algot and Hulda (Norling) Anderson. Vern grew up on the farm and attended the Eagle Creek Country School. He graduated from Chester high School in 1944 at age 16, then attended Northern Montana College in Havre.

In 1946 Vern enlisted in the US Army. He served during World War II as a Private in the 6th Army, assigned to the US Army Engineers. He was honorably discharged in 1947 and returned to the family farm.

As a bachelor during his early farming years, Vern traveled to Arizona and California in the winter months to work on vegetable/fruit farms. He married Patsy (Jackson) Bloch on December 11, 1958 at Galata, Montana. They made their home in the Chester community where they raised Pat's three children and three sons of their own. Vern farmed and worked part-time as a fieldman for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation for 10 years. The Andersons divorced in 1970.

During his many years in the Hi-Line community, Vern worked on various survey and power line construction crews. He married his second wife, Marjorie Heggen,

### Liberty County Times December 12, 2001

in 1974. This marriage also ended in divorce. Vern continued farming until 1983. He moved to Helen in 1984 where he worked in maintenance at several youth homes under the "Green Thumb" program. He was affectionately nicknamed "Mr. Fix-It" by his friends and coworkers at the homes. Vern continued to make Helena his residence following his retirement in 1992. In 1997 he moved to the Columbia Falls Veterans Home for 1-1/2 years then went back to Helena.

Vern recently became ill and was admitted to the Fort Harrison Veterans Hospital. He was transferred to the VA Hospital in Salt Lake City, UT where he died on Friday afternoon November 30, 2001. He was 74 years old.

Vern was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church north of Lothair and was a lifelong member. Trinity Church is near the Anderson homestead, in fact, Vern's parents donated the land where the church sanctuary sits.

Vern was also a member of the Galata American Legion Post #69. His hobbies were many. He collected rocks and arrowheads, prospected for gold throughout the West, listened to Country music, and enjoyed fishing. An avid reader and history buff, Vern was especially fond of world War II literature and current events. He also enjoyed small engine repair and working on antique farm equipment.

Early in his life he had aspirations of becoming an engineer; in later life he had a continued sense of wonder about modern technology. Vern maintained a love for learning, so he was an avid fan of CNN, history, and educational television.

A highlight of his retirement years was a trip to Alaska in 1992, when he traveled with good friend Leonard Matteson, on the 50th anniversary of the Al-Can Highway.

Vern was a gentle man who loved to visit. He was a good listener who always looked for positive things in people and situations.

His survivors include three sons: Scott Anderson, wife Wendy and children Shannon and Sean of Mukilteo, Washington, Terry Anderson, wife Susan, and children Renee and Shelby of Campbell, California, and Collin Anderson of Chicago, Illinois; three stepchildren: Tom Bloch and wife Connie of Williston, North Dakota, Steve Bloch of Seattle, Washington, and Jean Flynn of Berkeley, California; six step-grandchildren; two sisters: Victoria Staudacher and Lilly Oraw, both of Chester; and five nephews: Ed and Lee Staudacher, and Calvin, Steve and Rod Oraw.

Vern was preceded in death by his parents and a half-brother Herb Anderson.

Memorial services were conducted at 11:00 am Wednesday December 5, 2001 by Pastor Peter Erickson at Our Savior's Lutheran church in Chester. Karen Stack served as organist and the congregation sang "Amazing Grace," and "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." Wayne Wardell sang two family favorites "Mansion Over the Hilltop" and "Peace in the Valley." Scripture readings were by Calvin and Steve Oraw. Special thoughts and remembrances were shared by Leonard Matteson. Ushers were Ed Staudacher and Rod Oraw. Pallbearers were friends Arnold and Harris Jeppesen, Roy and Richard Wickum, Paul Johnson, Leonard Matteson, Clifford Blair, and Claude Hawks. Honorary bearers were listed as "All of Vern's many friends." A luncheon followed at the church.

Graveside services were 1:30 pm Wednesday at Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery north of Lothair. Friends from the Galata American Legion provided military rites.

Memorials will be given to the Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity Church Cemetery, or donor's choice.

DOROTHY A. BAILEY

Born: November 6, 1916 - Died: April 25, 2001

Liberty County Times

May 2, 2001

***Dorothy A. Bailey***

Dorothy A. Bailey, 84 years of age, (a homemaker), a resident of rural Kremlin, Montana, died Wednesday, April 25, 2001 at a Havre Care Center of natural causes. Funeral Services were held on Friday, April 27, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at the Van Orsdel Methodist Church in Havre. Burial followed the service at the Highland Cemetery. Memorials in Dorothy's honor may be made to: The Shriner's Hospital for Children, P.O. Box 2472, Spokane, WA 99210-2472, or to a person's choice. Services and arrangements are under the direction of the Holland and Bonine Funeral Home.

Dorothy was born on November 6, 1916 in Havre, Montana, the daughter of Vernon and Mattie (Hawkins) Hill. She attended Sage Creek Elementary School and Box Elder High School. She graduated in 1934.

She married Howard Bailey, October 23, 1938 at Havre, Montana. They lived and farmed south of Kremlin where they retired in 1976. Her hobbies were making porcelain dolls, crosswords, and cooking. She was a 50-year member of Eastern Star. She enjoyed riding around the countryside and entertaining family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Howard, two sisters, Belah Melby and Neva Lambrecht, and one brother Charles Cooper.

VALERIA L. (NOVAK) BAILEY

Born: N/A - Died: April 22, 2001

Liberty County Times

August 15, 2001

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**Valeria L. Bailey**

Valeria L. Novak Bailey died on April 22, 2001 after a long illness. She was a long time resident of Beauxart Gardens and member of Cornerstone Church.

A memorial service was held May 5 between 2 and 5 p.m. at Cornerstone Church on Canal in Neterland.

Survivors include three sisters Verda Siebenthaler, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Vanelda Melblom, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Valencia Novak, Spokane, Washington; one daughter Colleen Meaux of Groves; five sons, Dennis (Skip) and Mike of New Braunfels, Terry of Pineyville, Kentucky; Kelly of Birmingham, Alabama, and Timothy of Bridge City; 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Donations to the Kidney Foundation in lieu of flowers was requested by Val. We that knew her know what a wonderful person and beautiful soul she was.

## MARY (NOLIN) BLEECKER

Born: August 22, 1910 - Died: October 4, 2001

Liberty County Times

November 14, 2001

### ***Mary Nolin Bleecker***

Mary Bleecker, age 91, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, formerly of Chester, Montana and wife of Francis Bleecker, the Superintendent of the construction of Tiber Dam in the 1950s, passed away peacefully October 4, 2001 in Brighton, Colorado.

Mary was born August 22, 1910 in the Capital Hill part of Oklahoma City. In 1900, her parents, Minor Napoleon and Kitsy Mae (Hutchison) Nolin traveled from Arkansas to Oklahoma in a covered wagon.

Her mother died when Mary was small and she was raised by her foster parents, J.G. and Leela Puterbaugh of McAlester, Oklahoma.

Mary attended Central State Teachers College in Edmond, Oklahoma and married Francis A. Bleecker August 20, 1928. Her husband was a Captain in the Army Corps of Engineers and spearheaded the building of Ledo Road in India, Burma and China, while Mary, doing her part for the war effort, worked in an airplane factory at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City, OK.

Mary lived in many towns and states while Francis was building dams and bridges. She was al-

ways busy making a new home for her family. In Chester they lived where the Lutheran parsonage is located today. Ron, her son, attended school in Chester and also was present at the All-School-Reunion last year.

She was always active in her new community. If a town didn't have a library, a garden club or Girl and Boy Scouts, she started them. Her life was one of giving. She was devoted to her Baptist church and active in community affairs.

Widowed in 1970, Mary indulged her curiosity and zest for life by traveling to "faraway places with strange sounding names," as the song goes. She loved her children and grandchildren and managed to take two or three of them on each of her adventures. Everyone who knew her was inspired by her optimism, her spirit, and her intellect.

She is survived by her sons: James Bleecker of Oklahoma City, and Ronald Bleecker of West Warwick, Rhode Island; her daughter and son-in-law Jim Schumacher of Hill City, South Dakota; 12 grandchildren and spouses; 14 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

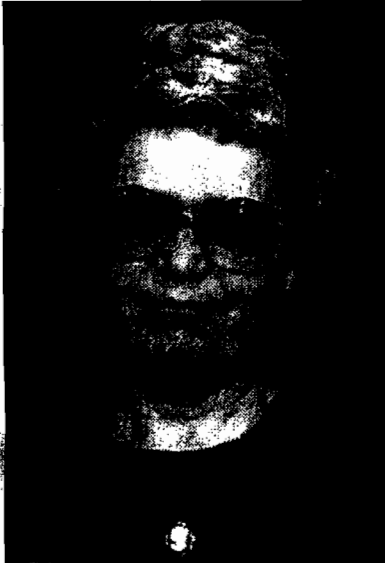
The funeral service was Thursday October 11, 2001, Rose Hill Abby Mausoleum. Mary was laid to rest beside her husband Francis Bleecker, at Rose Hill Burial Park, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

## GLORIA BEATRICE BOYER

Born: April 5, 1938 - Died: January 18, 2001

Liberty County Times

January 24, 2001



**Gloria Boyer**

Gloria Beatrice Boyer was born at Vancouver, Washington on April 5, 1938. She was the only child born to Roger and Edna Showell Hoover. She came to Montana with her mother at age two. Gloria grew up and received her formal education in the Chester community.

She married Loyd A. Boyer on May 25, 1955 at Stevenson, Washington. They made their home in Chester where Gloria worked as a homemaker and mother of four children. In 1966 she became employed at the Chester school system as a kitchen helper and cook, a job she held for 32 years. She

retired in 1998.

About two weeks ago Gloria developed an acute respiratory problem. She was initially admitted to the Liberty County Hospital in Chester, then transferred to Benefis East in Great Falls. After 12 days in the ICU at Benefis she died on Thursday evening January 18, 2001. Gloria was just 62 years old.

She was baptized in Chester and was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church. She also held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary and had served as treasurer on the local Swimming Pool Board. Gloria always regretted the fact that she didn't finish high school, so she was very proud to earn her GED many years later.

Hobbies in her earlier years included knitting, latch-hooking, ceramics, Artex painting, and playing cards. She was a good cook and she enjoyed reading, especially romance novels. She also liked bowling in the Chester and Rudyard leagues. During her quiet time at home Gloria enjoyed watching television and movies; her favorite soap opera was "Days of Our Lives." Just for the fun of it, she collected bells.

In recent years she loved to attend the school activities and sporting events of her grandchildren. She appreciated her family and friends, but she always looked forward to her

home. The sign on her front door reads: "Gloria's Place;" a home of warmth, security, love and peace.

She is survived by her husband Loyd of Chester; one son Rodney Boyer and wife Doreen of East Helena; three daughters Darla Boyer and husband Paul Hofto of Redmond, Washington, Lana Boyer of Great Falls, and Dana Lalum and husband Dale of Chester; four grandchildren including Dustin, Damon, Devan, and Caitlin; and a host of friends. Gloria was preceded in death by her parents, her step-father Lloyd Lund, and an infant daughter Juanita Boyer.

Funeral services were 11:00 am Monday January 22, 2001 at the Chester United Methodist Church with Rev. Kama Morton officiating. Organist was Karen Stack and the congregation sang "Softly and Tenderly," and "Beyond the Sunset." A vocal tribute by Kama was "Just a Closer Walk With Thee." A family friend Delores Steiner shared a special reading. Ushers were Joel Fenger and Don Raunig. Pallbearers were Dustin and Damon Lalum, Kent and Kyle Rudolph, Steve Cameron, and Monty Jensen. Memorial bearers were listed as "all of Gloria's special friends." Burial was at the Chester Cemetery. A luncheon followed at the church. Arrangements by Rockman-Funeral Chapel.

## VIOLET ELEANOR BROADHURST

Born: April 6, 1914 - Died: February 4, 2001

Liberty County Times

February 14, 2001



### **Violet Broadhurst**

Violet Eleanor Broadhurst was born April 6, 1914 on a homestead near Black Coulee south of Joplin, Montana. Her parents were Emil and Carrie (Holmquist) Jabes and she was one of six children. Her early education was received at a country school near the homestead. After her family moved to a farm south of Chester in 1926, Violet finished her education in Chester, graduating from CHS in 1932. She then attended Northern Montana College in Havre where she earned her teaching certificate. Violet accepted a teaching position at the Earl Country School south of Chester, a job she enjoyed for several years.

Violet dated her high school sweetheart Axel Carlson, for seven years before their marriage in 1938. Nine months later Axel was killed in a truck accident. Violet returned to college for a short time, then took a job as clerk at the Chester ASCS office.

In 1943 she married James Armstrong, a rancher from the south Tiber Lake community. They made their home on the ranch during the summer months and spent their winter months in Chester. The Armstrongs helped raise a local teenager named Ed Kenny. Ed

worked on the ranch in his early adult years and remained close to the family throughout his life. Violet's second husband James, died from rheumatic heart problems in 1959.

Violet remained on the ranch. In 1963 she married a neighbor friend Austin Broadhurst. They lived and ranched together until his death in 1983. She continued to live at the ranch and remained active in the Chester community until 1999, when her health began to fail. Violet moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home where she died on the afternoon of Sunday February 4, 2001. She was 86 years old.

Violet held membership in two Lutheran parishes: Our Savior's in Chester, where she taught Sunday School for many years, and St. Olaf's in Ledger, where she was active in the WELCA. She was also a charter member of the Chester Garden Club, active in the local RNA (Royal Neighbors of America), and served as treasurer of the Liberty County Cowbelles group for 20 years.

Her hobbies were many. She enjoyed crocheting, knitting, embroidery, painting-by-number, playing the piano, and flower gardening. She loved to cook and was well-known for her delicious doughnuts. In her quiet time at home Violet liked to read, do word-search puzzles, and watch television, especially her favorite soap opera "The Young & the Restless." She was an exceptional horsewoman and cowgirl in her early days; she had several favorite horses she raised and rode during her years on the ranch and she enjoyed working with their Hereford cattle. She and Austin also had a favorite pet, a Blue Heeler dog named 'Judy.'

In her retirement years Violet loved to travel. She often reminisced about her memorable bus tours throughout all 50 states. In fact, she had 27 scrapbooks done to perfection and a collection of state magnets that detail these many adventures.

Violet is survived by three sisters: Evelyn Eggen of Joplin, Margaret Swenson and husband Wilbur of Havre, and Pearl Wicks and husband Walt of Chester. She never had any children, but there were many nephews and nieces to fill that need for her. Violet is also survived by three step-children: Kenneth "Bud" Broadhurst of Ledger, Glora Lomen of Chester, and Alice Bach of Fort Benton; and numerous step-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death not only by her parents and husbands, but also by two brothers William and Woodrow Jabes, and a brother-in-law Clifton Eggen.

Funeral services were 2:00 pm Wednesday Feb. 7 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester. Rev. Peter Erickson conducted the services. The eulogist was Archie Bishop and scripture readings were by Kenneth "Bud" Broadhurst. Karen Stack was the organist and the

congregation sang "Just As I Am." Vocal tributes "How Great Thou Art" and "Rock of Ages" were performed by Jayne Ratzburg. Ushers were David and Les Pugsley. Pallbearers included Dale Wicks, Lowell Swenson, Bruce Swenson, Bob Inabnit, Kent Matkin, and Chris Koistad. Memorial bearers were listed as Violet's favorite RNs and CNAs at the Liberty County Nursing Home. Burial at the Chester Cemetery. A luncheon followed at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. Memorials will be given to the Hi-Line Health Foundation, St. Olaf Church, or donor's choice.



# NICHOLAS "NICK" CHARLES BUBNASH

Born: December 19, 1907 - Died: May 16, 2001

Liberty County Times

May 23, 2001



## Nicholas Bubnash

Nicholas "Nick" Charles Bubnash was born at Stockell, Montana on December 19, 1907. He was the 11th of 13 children born to John and Susan (Chome) Bubnash, who immigrated to the United States from Hungary. In 1914 they homesteaded 18 miles south of Chester. Nick grew up on the farm and attended the Lonestar Prairie School near there. In the years that followed Nick and his brother Andy remained on the farm and hauled mail on the South Chester Route.

Nick married a neighbor's daughter, Josephine Kantorowicz, on November 12, 1942 at Shelby. Nick acquired his own farm in the south Joplin/Chester community in 1943. They lived and worked on this farm most of their married life. In addition to raising seven children, they worked hard raising wheat, barley, oats, hay and many farm animals. A big vegetable garden each year provided canned food supplies throughout the winter months. Nick was proud to have farmed for 70 years of his life.

The Bubnashes lived in Joplin for 18 years before moving to Chester in 1994. Nick's general health remained good until February of 1999 when he developed pneumonia. He moved to the Toole County Nursing Home in Shelby. Josephine sold their Chester home

this spring and moved to Yakima, Washington to live with a daughter. Nick transferred to the Garden Village Nursing Home in Yakima last month. His kidneys began to fail, so he was recently admitted to the Yakima Valley Hospital. He died there on the early morning of Wednesday, May 16, 2001. Nick was 93 years old and the last surviving child of the John Bubnash family.

Nick had been a lifelong lover of music. He never took a music lesson; he learned to play the harmonica by ear and practice. He always looked forward to jam sessions with local musicians. He played in the Chester Musicmakers, the Chuckwagon Band, and other casual groups. They often performed for residents at the nursing home or at community social functions. Nick's favorite local band was the Lamplighters; he always enjoyed listening and dancing to their rhythms. Some of his favorite songs were "Just Because," "The Waltz You Saved for Me," "Up Jumped the Devil," "Beer Barrel Polka," "Keys in the Mailbox," and "Red Wing."

Nick's other hobbies included hunting and fishing, and playing cards, especially Pan and Pinochle. He enjoyed watching game shows on television like "Wheel of Fortune," and "The Price Is Right." Probably his favorite past time was simply visiting with people. Nick had a great memory for times and events, and he loved to share stories of his experiences and happenings of those 'days gone by.' He always remembered family birthdays and anniversaries, even those of his nephews and nieces, and he called them yearly to wish them his best.

Nick spoke a little of many languages including English, Polish, Norwegian, Spanish, German and Russian. He often shared foreign greetings or quaint phrases with a chuckle and a smile.

Just for the fun of it, following are some of Nick's favorites: Tractor-Oliver; Food-Everything; Drink-

Blackberry Brandy; Car-Chevy Caprice.

Nick is survived by his wife of 58 years, Josephine Bubnash of Yakima; one son Nick Bubnash of Whitefish; six daughters: Andrea Kinyon of Chester, Judy Bullod of Billings, Sue Bubnash of Yakima, Nancy Wuerth of Olympia, WA, Debra Harris of Missoula, and Connie Limesand of Snohomish, WA; 12 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents and all of his siblings including: brothers George, Andy, Mike, John and Steve, and sisters Agnes Skabronski, Annabelle Berger, Elizabeth Hale, Sue Bubnash, Mary Bubnash, Susan O'Leary, and Helen Bubnash.

Funeral Mass was celebrated at 2:00 p.m. Monday, May 21, 2001 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester by Father Joseph Diekhans. Prelude music was provided by members of the Chester Musicmakers, including Wilbur Eveland, Irvin Hutchison, Marcella Hull and Virginia Ophus. Mass music was performed by Dick and Mardell Lockwood; special songs were "In the Garden," and "Mansion Over the Hilltop." Iris White served as pianist. Scripture readings were by Vicki Stanton, Wynn Smith Bubnash and Margie Fay. Ken Osterman was altar server. Eulogist was Lorraine Peck and special remembrances were shared by Gary Limesand. Ushers were Monty Kantorowicz and Dick Lockwood. Pallbearers were Andy Russell, Carl Skabronski, Charlie Siemens, Arnie Lalum, Rick Kantorowicz, and Charlie Fraser. Honorary bearers included Wilbur Eveland, Martin Eveland, Duane Fraser, Narciss Gagnon, Gary Limesand, Steve Harris, Craig Smith and Carl Bullod. Graveside prayers at the Chester Cemetery concluded with a wheat ceremony and a Vince Gill cassette tape "Go, Rest High on that Mountain." A reception followed at the church. Memorials will be given to the Liberty County Senior Center or donor's choice.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Home, Chester.

## RUTH MYRREL (FUNK) DAILEY

Born: November 20, 1920 - Died: March 15, 2001

Liberty County Times

July 4, 2001

### **Ruth Dailey**

Ruth Myrrel Dailey went home to the Lord our God on March 15, 2001, in Phoenix, Arizona.

She was born in Joplin on November 20, 1920, daughter of Waldo and Venora Sauer Funk. After graduating from Joplin High School in 1940, she moved to Shelby and worked in her grandfather's Ben Franklin Store. She later moved to Seattle and worked for Boeing. She met Vince Daily, who was stationed there in the Army, and married him January 6, 1945. Their three children, Dick, Pat and Bob, were born in Seattle. The family moved to Montana and lived in Eureka, Sidney, Kalispell, Polson and settled in Ronan where they owned and operated Dailey's Radiator Repair Shop.

Ruth devoted her life to her husband and family. She was a gentle, sweet, kind, and patient person who always had time for loved ones and friends. She shared her loving smile with everyone. The family loved camping, especially on their land at Saltess. After retiring they looked forward to being snowbirds in Arizona during the winter months. She will always be remembered, especially for her cooking and baking of bread, cinnamon rolls, angel food cakes and cucumber salad.

Her parents, three brothers and two sisters preceded Ruth in death.

She is survived by Vince, her husband of 56 years; three children, son Richard and Val Adamson of Dupuyer; daughter Pat and husband Tim Skinner of Ronan; and son Robert and wife Francie of Polson; ten grandchildren, Shane and wife Crystal Skinner of Bozeman, Tricia Skinner of Ronan, Alicia and Charlie Dailey of Conrad, Shawn; Bo, and Lena Dailey of Polson; three great-grandchildren, Cooper and Christian Dailey of Conrad and Timmy Skinner of Seattle; three sisters, Elsie Brown of Dayton, Irene Wathen of Kalispell and Dorothy Rollis of Hagerman, Idaho; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family including Jack Graves, Bill Johnson, Larry, Ky, Missie and Justin Bartels, and all those she took under her wings.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service was held June 2 at 11 a.m. in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ronan, with graveside services following. Lunch followed in the Parish Hall.

Tempe Mortuary in Arizona and Shrider's Mortuary in Ronan assisted the family with arrangements.

The family suggests memorials be sent in memory of Ruth Dailey to: Courage House, c/o Foundation for Burns and Trauma, 2627 N 7th St., Phoenix, AZ 85006-1002, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

## MYRTLE LEOTA "MYRT" DITMAR

Born: September 10, 1903 - Died: March 10, 2001

Liberty County Times

March 21, 2001



### **Myrtle Ditmar**

Myrtle Leota "Myrt" Ditmar was born at Kensal, North Dakota on September 10, 1903. She was one of eight children born to Anthony and Nettie (Greb) Alex. Her family came to Montana in 1913 and homesteaded north of Hingham. Myrtle received her formal education at the Hughey Country School near the farm.

She married Arthur Clarence Ditmar on December 7, 1922 at Great Falls. Myrt and Colie lived and farmed on the Ditmar homestead north of Rudyard, where she worked diligently as a homemaker and mother of three. In 1947 her health began to fail, so Myrt moved to the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre. Although she missed her independence her life at the rest home was pleasant, especially due to the fact that her two sisters also resided there. Myrtle's condition deteriorated this past month. She died at the Havre nursing home on Saturday afternoon March 10, 2001 at the age of 97 years.

Myrt was a longtime member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Havre. Her hobbies revolved around her home and family. She loved to cook and bake. Her family will always remember her special "bunny" cakes at Easter time, her delicious German

chocolate cakes, and her wonderful breads. For birthdays and other special occasions, you could always count on Myrtle being there with a cake! And when you stopped by her home for a visit, you never went away hungry. Myrt always enjoyed crocheting and handiwork; she made many afghans over the years. In her quiet time she liked to read and listen to music.

A wonderful mother, grandmother, and friend, Myrtle's unique personality and sharp mind remained steadfast to the end.

Her survivors include two sons and their wives: Arthur and Selena Ditmar of Harlem, and Richard and Darlene Ditmar of Rudyard; one son-in-law Harold Twedt of Great Falls; six grandchildren: Darra, Doyle, Darby, David, Jolene and Patrick; eight great-grandchildren; two sisters: Eleanor Rathbun and Mildred Sedivy, both of Havre; and numerous nieces and nephews. Myrtle was preceded in death by her husband and parents, her daughter Joan Twedt, her five brothers John, Glen, Harry, Edward, and Anthony Alex; and two grandsons Greg and an infant.

Funeral services were 11:00 am Friday March 16, 2001 at Messiah Lutheran Church in Havre. Rev. Tim Hauge of Hingham officiated. Marge Holt served as organist and the congregation sang "Spirit of Gentleness" and "I the Lord of Sea and Sky." Vocalists were nephews: Nick Alex sang "How Great Thou Art" and Gene Alex sang "The Lord's Prayer." Ushers were Allen Alex and Darwin Anderson. Nephews serving as pallbearers included Bob and Bill Rathbun, Dennis and John Alex, Jan Phillips, and Dave Carlson. Memorial bearers were listed as Myrt's loving grandchildren and her many friends. Interment was at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. A luncheon followed at the VFW Club in downtown Havre. Memorials will be given to the "Gift of Life" in Great Falls, or donor's choice.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

## EDWARD LOUIS DOLEZAL

Born: June 12, 1909 - Died: July 2, 2001

Hi-Line Sentinel

July 11, 2001

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### EDWARD DOLEZAL

Edward Louis Dolezal, 92, died Monday, July 2, 2001 at his home in Havre of natural causes.

Dolezal was born June 12, 1909 in Shawano, Wis. He came to Montana with his parents in 1914 and lived on the family homestead north of Gildford. It remains the family home

today. He attended Free Soil Country School north of Gildford and continued on in Gildford High School.

Dolezal married Edith Rambo on June 17, 1936 at Havre. They made their home on the

farm north of Gildford and in the town of Gildford until moving to Havre in 1960. He retired from farming in 1968.

He was a member of the Havre Masonic Lodge #55, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Royal Order of Jesters, and Algeria Shrine Temple in Helena. He was a 30-year member of the Hill County Cemetery Board, former member of the Northern Montana Hospital Board and past chairman of the Shrine Circus Ticket Committee and active member of the Havre Elks Lodge 1201.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Sandra Ann "Peachie" Krohne in October 1998.

Survivors include his wife, Edith Rambo Dolezal of Havre; daughter, Carol Mallard of Great Falls; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Dolezal

## NORMA AGNES (MADSLANGRUD) DUNN

Born: March 24, 1915 - Died: June 19, 2001

Liberty County Times

July 11, 2001

### **Norma Dunn**

Norma Agnes (Madslangrud) Dunn, age 86, passed away at Green River, Wyoming on Tuesday (June 19th, 2001). Memorial services were held in Wyoming. A Madslangrud private family service was held in Lewistown, Montana. Norma's ashes were buried in the family plot with her father, Nils, at the Chester Cemetery. Local arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel.

Norma was born to Nils and Annie (Byfluglien) Madslangrud on March 24th, 1915. Her parents had immigrated from Valdres, Norway and were early pioneer homesteaders in Montana, settling in the Devon and Chester communities. Norma's father died from a sun stroke in 1914 before she was born. Her mother, Annie, married Nils' brother, Thorvald, in 1915. The Madslangrud family moved to Lewistown in 1920, where Norma finished her formal schooling. Norma was 14 years old when Thorvald died in a farming accident, leaving a family of six children (the youngest being four months old). Mother, Annie, died in 1992 at the age of 102 (she

was recorded to have been the oldest pioneer to live so long!).

Norma eventually married William "Bill" Dunn of Denton, Montana. They had two children and a host of grandchildren.

The Madslangrud family continued to have connections in the Chester community for many years. Norma's brother, Elmer, who changed his name to Rude, operated "Rude Sheet Metal" here. Her sister, Ina, married Sweetgrass area farmer, Al Ploss. Through the years the whole family visited this area and kept in touch with the old-timers here. It was always a place "close to their hearts" where their Norwegian relatives found roots in America!

Norma is survived by two children, Kenneth Dunn of Hayden Lake, Idaho and Sharon Mohar of Rock Springs, Wyoming; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Thelma Bissertt of Kalispell and Edna Darroch of Spokane, Washington; one brother, Kenneth Rude of Columbia Falls; and many nieces and nephews. Norma was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her brother (Elmer), her sister (Ina), and a grandson (Mark).

## CLARA MAY (HAAG) ELLIS

Born: February 3, 1924 - Died: May 22, 2001

Liberty County Times

January 16, 2002

### **Clara Ellis**

Clara May Ellis was born on February 3, 1924, and died May 22, 2001 at Monett, Missouri. She attended high school in Chester and graduated in 1942. Surviving her are husband Gorman Ellis, Monett, MO, one son, one daughter, and four sisters. Three brothers preceded her in death.

The funeral service was Friday, May 25th, 2001 at Buchanan Chapel in Monett, Missouri with the Rev. Kevin

Hilton and Rev. Ronnie Fieker officiating.

The music played was "Sweet By and By", "Mansion Over the Hilltop" performed by Sue Childress and Mendy Hubbard. Sue Childress was the pianist.

Pallbearers were Bob Cole, Ray Davis, David Whitcomb, Jesse Cole, Brian Ozbun, and Timothy Whitcomb.

Interment was at I.O.O.F. Cemetery Monett, Missouri.

Memorials can be sent to Mission Fund of Fundamental Methodist Church, Monett, MO.

## MARTIN J. EVELAND

Born: April 4, 1919 - Died: September 26, 2001

Liberty County Times

October 3, 2001

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### ***Martin J Eveland***

Martin J Eveland of Nye, formerly of Chester, died Wednesday September 26, 2001 after a battle with stomach cancer, at the age of 82.

Martin was born April 4, 1919 at Centuria to Jesse and Lottie Eveland. He attended school through the 6th Grade. On March 26, 1946 he married Agnes Gustafson. Martin worked as a Rural Mail Carrier for 22 years. He was a veteran of WW II and a member of the VFW American Legion, and the NRA. He enjoyed hunting, music, farming, history and working on his family tree.

Martin was preceded in death by his parents, wife of 52 years Agnes, brother Richard Eveland, sisters Myrtle Owen, Alice Pettapiece, two children Myrtle and infant son, and grandson Michael Lee.

He is survived by his children Marilyn (Everett) Backes, Rosella (Raymond) Lee, Sharon (Ronald) Lyden, John (Betty) Eveland, Jean (Robert) Berggren, Mildred (Roy) Kreft, James (Lorri) Eveland, brothers Howard, Wilbur and Chester all of Montana, sister Bessie Hoverman of St. Croix, numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Saturday, September 29 at Grace Lutheran Church in Nye with Rev. Thomas Kuntz officiating. Music was provided by Nancy Hasselquist. Interment was in Pleasant Prairie Cemetery.

Arrangements by the Grandstrand Funeral Home.

## WARNER FAHLGREN

Born: March 16, 1921 - Died: July 14, 2001

Liberty County Times

July 25, 2001

### **Warner Fahlgren**

Warner Fahlgren, age 80, Navy veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor, passed away at his home in Portland, Oregon on July 14, 2001 of natural causes. Services were held there on July 19, 2001.

Fahlgren was born March 16, 1921 at a homestead near Chester, Montana to his parents Carl and Theresa Fahlgren. Following the death of his father in 1924, they moved back to their former home at Washburn, North Dakota, later moving to Hinsdale, Montana with his mother and stepfather William Lindstrom.

Warner was one of six brothers that volunteered for service in World War II, five in the Navy and one in the Army. He was one of four brothers stationed on the *USS Vestal*, tied up to the battleship *Arizona*, in Pearl Harbor at the time of the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941. The *Vestal* received two bomb hits and the captain was blown off the ship, so the next in command gave orders to abandon ship. Warner, being a strong swimmer, dove off the *Vestal* and under the burning oil and swam to shore. Captain Young climbed back aboard and received the order and a tug boat towed the *Vestal* to shallow water where it was repaired.

Fahlgren and two of his brothers stayed on the *Vestal* after repair and it was sent near the Equator, where it remained for 33 months to build parts and repair ships. There was no land — only coral reefs — and too hot to sleep below deck, and it rained often, so sleeping on deck was not much of an option. There were 1300 men aboard. The men were going crazy from nearly three years in isolation and heat. Some Senator found out about it and they were ordered home for a month's R & R, but Warner was never the happy young man he had been.

He and his wife Frances lived in North Dakota for several years where he worked as a Deputy Sheriff, later moving to Portland where he became a master welder.

Warner is survived by his three sons: Mike, David, and Bob, all of Portland; three grandchildren; his special friend Bonny; and three brothers: Glen and Dora of Billings, Ervin and Edna of Wilsonville, Oregon, and Carl and Doris of Malta. Preceding him in death were his wife, parents, stepfather, one sister, and three brothers.



## EVA MARIE (SCHWAN) FALLA

Born: March 20, 1913 - Died: November 14, 2001

Liberty County Times

November 21, 2001

### ***Eva Falla***

Eva Marie (Schwan) Falla died in Conrad on Wednesday November 14, 2001. She was 88 years old.

Eva was born March 20, 1913 in Berwick, North Dakota to Jullanna and Anton Schwan. She moved with her parents to Montana in 1914 to homestead at Goldstone, Montana. Eva attended school in the Goldstone community until the eighth grade. In those early years, the Schwan family were members of the St Wenceslaus Church of Goldstone where Eva received her First Communion, and was also confirmed at St. Wenceslaus.

In 1931 Eva moved to Havre where she was employed at the Sacred Heart Hospital. She then married J. Maurice Falla on October 19, 1936. They farmed north of Inverness where Eva enjoyed gardening and sewing. She learned to sew on her mother's treadle sewing machine and became the family seamstress. Some years later her husband surprised her with an electric Singer sewing machine, which she really enjoyed. Besides her love of sewing, Eva was also a great cook and loved to bake.

In the fall of 1945 they bought a house in Inverness so the children could attend school. The family always moved back out to the farm during the summer months. When all five of her children were in school, Eva started working at the school in the cafeteria. She did this for 20 years.

The house in Inverness had a big yard and both Eva and Maurice loved to plant flowers and care for the yard. The grandchildren would love to help Eva pick flowers and each one would go home with a bouquet. During the summer, tourists would stop at the house thinking it was the town park!

By 1976 both Eva and Maurice had retired. In 1978 they sold the house in Inverness and moved to Conrad. Eva found that the new house was wonderful, but the flower beds were smaller than the ones in Inverness so she turned to her love of sewing and started making quilts. Instead of bouquets of flowers, grandchildren and great-grandchildren received quilts.

Eva was also a shutterbug. She loved to take pictures with her little Brownie camera that she always carried with her. She has taken all of those pictures and turned them into wonderful photo albums that all loved to look at.

Eva is survived by five children: Beverly Moog of Inverness, Montana, John Falla of Federal Way, Washington; Julia White of Grandbury, Texas, Eddie Falla of Conrad, and Tom Falla of Sacramento, California; 23 grandchildren, and 41 great-grandchildren; sisters: Julia Schwan, and Pauline Laeupple both of Havre, Aggie Sherman of Ronan, Montana, and Theresa Houim of Spokane, Washington; brothers Frank Schwan of Lothair, Montana, and Paul Schwan of Havre.

Eva was preceded in death by her parents, husband, eight siblings, one granddaughter, and two great-grandsons.

A Vigil Service was held Sunday November 18, 2001 at 7:30 pm at St. Michael Catholic Church in Conrad. A Funeral Mass took place Monday November 19, 2001 at 11:00 am at St. Michael's Catholic Church. Interment followed in the Highland Cemetery in Havre at 3:30 pm.

Pondera Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

## MILLARD FARRINGTON

Born: December 20, 1905 - Died: September 12, 2001

Liberty County Times

October 10, 2001

### *Millard Farrington*

—Millard Elverton Farrington, age

95, died Wednesday, September 12, 2001, at a Hamilton Hospice center.

Farrington was born December 20 1905 in Bloomfield, Minnesota to Clinton and Mertie Shaw Farrington. He moved with his family to a homestead at Benchmark when he was young. He rode horse to country school south of Rudyard, and high school in Rudyard. He enjoyed farming most of his life, first with his father in Harlowton and Emigrant.

In 1973, Farrington returned to Rudyard and farmed there for several years. He moved to Hamilton to be with his sister when her husband died. When he was 89, he met Gladys Sheets at Sapphire Lutheran Homes and they eloped. After a small wedding in Havre, they returned to Hamilton. She died six months later. He moved into a private home and remained there five years until his health began to fail.

Farrington was a member of Hamilton Wesleyan Methodist Church and enjoyed children and animals, especially horses.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister Margaret Yaek of Stevensville; and wife, Gladys Farrington.

Survivors include his sister Dorothy Miller of Hamilton, and niece, Sandra Alvarez of Bend, Oregon.

**BURTON M. "BROWNIE" FITZSIMMONS, SR.**

Born: September 16, 1927 - Died: February 7, 2001

Liberty County Times

March 21, 2001

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**Burton  
Fitzsimmons, Sr.**

Burton M. "Brownie" Fitzsimmons, Sr. age 72, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday February 7, 2001, following a brief bout with cancer. Fitz died at his home in Lytle, Texas, surrounded by family, just as he wished. Funeral services were held Saturday February 10th in the Trinity Baptist Church in Lytle, with interment in the Lytle Community Cemetery.

Fitzsimmons was born in Harlem on September 16, 1927 to George and Elizabeth Fitzsimmons. Brownie graduated from Harlem High School in 1945. Following graduation he joined the US Air Force and received his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. It was there that he met his future wife, Lee Johnson. After four years in the service he drove a bus for the San Antonio Transit System for 13 years and retired as a driver for Kerrville Bus Co. in 1980 after 25 years. He served as a deacon at the Trinity Baptist Church where he was an active member and enjoyed working with the building and grounds committee and various other committees. Brownie enjoyed serving God by helping others in any way he could.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Lee Fitzsimmons of Lytle, Texas; one son Burton, Jr. and wife Marcia of San Antonio; three daughters: Judy Patrick and husband Doug, Joyce Cawfield all of San Antonio, and Donna McClusky and husband Kenny of Lytle; seven grandchildren; one great-grandson; one brother George Fitzsimmons and wife Meiko of Victoria, Texas; two sisters Betty Ann Gilbert and husband Ken of Chester, and Mary Brewster of Wasilla, Alaska; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews; plus a host of friends who all loved him dearly.

## MINA ELIZABETH (PIQUETTE) GAGNON

Born: October 25, 1906 - Died: August 4, 2001

Liberty County Times

August 15, 2001



### **Mina E. Gagnon**

Mina Elizabeth (Piquette) Gagnon was born on October 25th, 1906 at Maxbass, North Dakota. She was one of six children born to Mary Hamel and Fred Piquette. Mina grew up on a farm and received her early education at a nearby country school. She graduated from Maxbass High School in 1924, then continued her education at Minot College where she earned a teaching certificate. Mina took her first job as a teacher at a country school near Tolley, North Dakota. She eventually moved to grand forks (No. Dak.) where she was employed as a live-in cook and housekeeper. While there she studied religion and seriously considered becoming a nun. A short time later Mina moved back to Maxbass to live with her folks and she began working at the post office.

Through family ties she met her husband to be, Narciss E. Gagnon. They were married in Los Angeles, California on February 12th, 1948. They moved to the original Gagnon homestead 9 miles south of Chester and lived on the farm from that time on. Mina worked as a homemaker, farm wife and mother.

Mina had thyroid problems in her youth. In 1957 she had throat surgery, which damaged her vocal chords and limited her speaking ability. Her general health remained good until five years ago. Although she made frequent doctor visits, she was fortunate to continue to live at home where she received personal loving care from her husband. This past week she became extremely weak and unable to eat, so she was admitted to the Liberty County Hospital in Chester. Mina died peacefully and without pain on Saturday evening (August 4th, 2001). She was 94 years old.

Mina was baptized and raised in the catholic faith. She was an active member of St. Mary's Church and Altar Society in Chester. She enjoyed reading scriptures and she collected religious memorabilia. Because she was of French heritage, Mina loved to recite her daily French prayers. She was proud of her name, Mina which is purported to be a French name meaning "light". In 1987 Mina took a pilgrimage to France, Portugal, and Spain, where she visited the major Catholic Shrines of Europe. Through her readings she developed a deep love and respect for Saint Theresa and Our Lady of Fatima. Mina remained dedicated to her faith to the very end.

In her younger years she enjoyed playing the piano, painting outdoor scenery, and competing in ladies softball. In later years she liked to crochet and play cards (especially pinochle, whist, and rummy). Before her health failed, Mina was the mascot with her husband's travelling band "The Lamplighters", which played at many dances and celebrations throughout the Golden Triangle area for many years.

Mina is survived by her husband of 53 years, Narciss of Chester; her only daughter Mary Ann of San Marcos, California; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers (Ernest and Joseph Piquette) and three sisters (Violette Hastings, Vivian Olson and Minnie Rose Piquette).

Rosary prayers were recited by Father Joseph Diekhans at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday evening (Aug. 7th) at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Iris White provided organ music.

Mina's funeral mass was celebrated by Father Joe at the church on Wednesday morning at 11:00. Iris White provided accompaniment to Marcus Jochim and members of St. Mary's Choir. Songs included "On Eagle's Wings", "The Lord is My Shepherd", "Ave Maria" and "Song of Farewell". Greeters were Don Hull and John Nuxoll. Altar servers were Cory and Shane Gagnon, The gifts were presented by Lyle and Cody Gagnon and the eucharistic minister was Ken Gagnon. Scripture readings were Marcella Hull and Sharon Harmon. The Eulogist was Margaret Meissner. Pallbearers included Lyle Gagnon, Lee Gagnon, Bill Hamel, Charles Hull, Tom Osterman, and Richard Harmon. Burial was at Chester Cemetery with arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. A luncheon followed at the church. Undesignated memorials will be given to the "Special K Ranch at Columbus Montana.

## HELEN RUTH (CADY) GILLET

Born: September 18, 1925 - Died: April 10, 2001

Liberty County Times

April 18, 2001

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### ***Helen Gillet***

Helen Ruth (Cady) Gillet, age 75, of 1524-20th St. S, Great Falls, a community volunteer and Shaklee distributor, died of natural causes Tuesday April 10, 2001 at her home.

A memorial services was at 2:00 pm Friday April 6 at Faith Lutheran Church. Memorials are suggested to Faith Lutheran Church; Meals on Wheels, or FISH.

Helen was born September 18, 1925 in Havre and attended school in Kremlin-Gildford, graduating in 1942. She moved to Seattle and was a secretary for Hewlett-Packard, transferring to Hawaii for two years.

Helen returned to Kremlin and married Robert E. "Bob" Gillet on April 20, 1960 in Shelby.

She was an independent Shaklee distributor for 21 years.

Helen was a member of River of Life Church, a volunteer at the FISH Food Bank, and a PTA member at Longfellow, Paris Gibson, and Great Falls High Schools.

She was a 'sports mom' and enjoyed crocheting, bird-watching and gardening.

Survivors include her husband Bob of Great Falls; daughters Debbie Jean Schmid and Danita Roseann Severson of Great Falls, and Doreen Helen Carter of Rochester, New York; sisters June Corbitt of Butte, Dorothy McCormick and Carol Heggen of Kremlin, and Lorraine Eyman of Livingston; a brother Willis Cady of Gildford; and eight grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents Harry and Rose Cady of Kremlin, early day homesteaders.

Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home handled cremation and arrangements

# ELIZABETH ROSE "BETH" (MERSINGER) GREEN

Born: May 26, 1920 - Died: April 14, 2001

Liberty County Times



## Elizabeth Green

Elizabeth Rose "Beth" Green was born May 26, 1920 in rural Grass Valley, Oregon. She was one of three children born to Mary Kenny and Clarence Mersinger. Her early years were spent on the Mersinger farm where she especially enjoyed the young lambs they raised there.

When Beth was old enough to start school, the family moved to Moro, Oregon. She received her formal education there, graduating from high school in 1928. Beth enjoyed her school years and was an excellent student. She was active in band, piano, and all sports. She was especially fond of basketball, in fact, she often filled in on the boys' team when there weren't enough boys for practice sessions.

Following high school, Beth attended a business school in Portland for a short time. She eventually took a job for her Aunt Addie, who operated a small general store/gas station/lunch counter near Lyle, Washington.

In October of 1940 she met her future husband, Charles E. Green. They were married at Moro on April 8, 1942. They moved to Montana and settled on the Green family ranch seven miles north of Chester. It was there that Beth worked diligently as a homemaker and mother of four. The Greens lived on the farm until the fall of 1999, when they purchased a home in Chester. They spent four

April 25, 2001

recent winters in Arizona where Beth appreciated the warm weather and sunshine. She enjoyed the small camp life, games, and the daily fellowship with other retirees. The Greens met many nice people in their travels and developed several lasting friendships.

Beth's health remained good until the past few years, when she was diagnosed with diabetes and its ailments. This past weekend she was feeling good and looking forward to Easter Sunday. She went to bed early Saturday evening April 14, 2001 and died peacefully in her sleep at her Chester home. She was 80 years old.

Beth was dedicated to her family, the ranch, and especially to God. She was raised a Methodist, but joined the Lutheran faith after moving to Chester. She has been a loyal member of Our Savior's Lutheran here for 55+ years. She served as a teacher and secretary of the Sunday School program for many years. At one time there were over 100 kids in the Sunday School system! Beth also served as a church pianist and was active in the WMF (Women's Missionary Fellowship). In recent years she was a member of the Lydia Circle of WELCA. She enjoyed Bible study, cutting and sewing squares for church quilting projects, and helping out with other church activities.

Beth was an excellent seamstress; her daughters can attest to this as well as many of the neighboring 4-H youths she worked with as a leader. Many sewing projects were taken apart several times and re-seamed several times; these projects were not without frustration, but the students always appreciated the final product and the well-earned awards.

Beth enjoyed many hobbies. She loved bird-watching and kept personal journals on local bird species and related data. In her quiet times she loved to crochet and knit; she made many afghans for family, friends, and community fund-raisers. Just for the fun of it, she collected coins. In earlier years she enjoyed

fishing, bowling, and gardening. Beth also loved to play board games and cards like Dominoes, Chinese Checkers, Aggravation, Pinochle, and Solitaire to name a few—and she loved to win! She was a real competitor who generally "beat the socks off" most of her challengers. She also loved sports and always looked forward to the local school events.

Beth was a longtime member of the Utopia Home Demonstration Club. An excellent cook, she loved sharing her family favorites like fruitcakes, pies, breads, sweetrolls, cookies and candies. Even with all of this good stuff available, the grandkids still looked forward to her mashed potatoes and roast beef dinners. Although Beth wasn't Norwegian, she learned how to make lefse, romagrate, and other Scandinavian dishes, but she did not like Lutefisk.

Beth always enjoyed her ancestral heritage. In recent years she became involved in a Round Robin letter campaign that studied the history of the Belshee family.

Beth and Charles have been constant companions and best friends during their married life. They just celebrated their 59th anniversary a week ago. In addition to Charles, she is survived by four children: Ed Green and wife Bonnie of Davis, California, Shirley Weaver and husband Steve of Conifer, Colorado, LeRoy Green and wife Beverly of Chester, and Lynnette Green of Ottumwa, Iowa; 10 grandchildren including: Rory, Wendy, Toni, Jani, Micah, Jessica, Casey, Angela, Andrew and Russell; five great-grandchildren and lots more to come. Beth is also survived by her sister Clara Mather and husband Dave of Spokane, Washington, and several nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Linden Mersinger.

Praise the Lord for this loving wife, mother, and friend, and forever bless her memory.

Funeral services were 11:00 am Thursday April 19, 2001 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester, Montana. Rev. Pete Erickson officiated. Special readings were by grandchildren Jani Green, Jessica Soriano, and Angela Switzler. Jan Christofferson was pianist and the congregation sang "Children of the Heavenly Father." Vocal music included "It Is Well With My Soul" by Wayne Wardell, and "Amazing Grace" by Paul Soriano. Ushers were Gary Jensen and Armand Anderson. Pallbearers were grandsons Rory Anderson, Jake Knapton, and Micah, Casey, Andrew and Russell Green. Memorial bearers were listed as "all of Beth's many friends." Interment was at the Chester Cemetery. A luncheon followed at the church.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel.

**LIZABETH ROSE "BETH"  
(MERSINGER) GREEN**

**Born:** May 26, 1920 at  
Grass Valley, Oregon...  
**Died:** April 14, 2001 at  
Chester, Montana...  
**Age:** 80 years... 10 months...  
19 days...



***Twenty-Third Psalm***

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leadeth me beside the still waters,  
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the  
paths of righteousness for His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of  
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy  
staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the  
presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest  
my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life: and I will dwell  
in the house of the Lord forever.*

**Services:** 11:00 a.m. Thursday, April 19th, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester, Montana

**Officiant:** Reverend Peter Erickson

**Scripture Readings:** Granddaughters, Jessica Soriano and Angela Switzler

**Personal Remembrances:** Granddaughter, Jani Green

**Musicians:** Pianist, Jan Christofferson... Vocalist, Wayne Wardell, "It Is Well With My Soul"... Vocalist, Paul Soriano, "Amazing Grace"...

**Ushers:** Armand Anderson and Gary Jensen

**Pallbearers:** Grandsons, Rory Anderson, Micah Green, Casey Green, Andrew Green, Russell Green, and Jake Knapton

**Memorial Bearers:** All of Beth's many friends...

**Interment:** Chester Cemetery

*... Luncheon to follow at the Church ...*

**Beth's Family:** Husband, Charles; daughters, Shirley and Lynnette; sons, Ed and LeRoy; 10 grandchildren, Rory, Wendy, Toni, Jani, Micah, Jessica, Casey, Angela, Andrew, and Russell; 5 great-grandchildren; sister, Clara; and several nieces & nephews...

**Arrangements:** Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester

## RAELYN MARIE (JACOBSON) HALL

Born: September 21, 1968 - Died: December 22, 2001

Great Falls Tribune - Liberty County Times

January 2 - 9, 2002

### Raelyn Marie Hall

LANGLEY, Wash. — Raelyn Marie (Jacobson) Hall, 33, an auto repair shop manager and Chester native, died of an aneurysm Dec. 22 at a hospital in Washington.

At her request, no services were held and cremation has taken place.



Hall

Survivors include her husband, Bill Hall, and a daughter, Nichole Sheldon, both of Langley; a son, Brandon Taylor of Port Orchard, Wash.;

sisters Amanda Jacobson of Seattle and Joni Jacobson of Denver; and a brother, Greg Brown of Gary, Texas.

Born Sept. 21, 1968, in Chester, Rae lived there until age 5, then moved to Washington with her mother after her parents divorced. She grew up in Port Orchard and remained in Washington most of her life.

Rae married Bill Hall in 1999. Together they operated their own auto repair business in Langley, where she enjoyed working on cars. She was very proud of her beautiful flower gardens, and always looked forward to her yearly camping trip to Eastern Washington. She also enjoyed cars, camping, boating and gardening.

She would never think twice about helping others, and her family was her life. Rae had a zest for life, was very outgoing and never afraid to share her feelings. She could make any room brighter with her presence and her beautiful smile.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Dora Lynn (Hodge) Pickens; and her grandmother, Berniece Jacobson.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Rae Hall Memorial Fund at U.S. Bank, Main Street, Freeland, WA 98249.



## ALLEN LLOYD HAMEL

Born: July 22, 1956 - Died: January 11, 2001

Liberty Times County

January 17, 2001



### **Allen Hamel**

Allen Lloyd Hamel was born at Great Falls, Montana on July 22nd, 1956. He was the eldest of four sons born to William and Lenora (Laas) Hamel. He grew up on the family farm at Ledger and received his early education at the Selma Country School. Allen finished his schooling in Chester, graduating from C.H.S. in 1974. In the years that followed, he lived at Missoula, where he worked for a newspaper and on seismograph crews in western Montana. He continued his education, majoring in psychology at the University of Montana, graduating in 1984.

Allen enjoyed cooking, a skill he learned by working in various Montana restaurants. He eventually took a job for a catering company, who provided food services in the wilderness to fire-fighting crews. Allen spent his summers feeding fire-fighters in Oregon, Montana,

Utah, and California. He has made his home in Billings since 1990. During the non-fire seasons, he worked various jobs in the Billings area, most recently at the Western Sugarbeet Factory.

This past Thursday (January 11th) Allen was visiting with his girlfriend (Bonita Buck, his companion since 1993). He had no complaints of illness, other than being "tired". A short while later he slumped over in his chair. He was taken by ambulance to the St. Vincent's Hospital, where resuscitative efforts were to no avail. Allen died at the age of 44 years.

Allen was baptized and confirmed

at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester. During his high school years, he was active in music and drama. Throughout his life he has loved all sorts of music; an early fan of the "Beatles" and rock-and-roll with recent interest in listening to jazz and a local PBS radio station. Other hobbies included pool, darts, chess, crossword puzzles, and reading. Just for the fun of it, he collected old dictionaries and a few coins. His favorite television shows were "Jeopardy", "Who Wants to be a Millionaire", and "Ben Stein". He loved to cook and made most of the dinner meals for his girlfriend and children.

Some personal comments about Allen from Bonita are as follows: She says, "Allen was a very generous person with a kind heart." She also says that she's never met a person as compassionate as Allen. "He cared for people and felt their pain."

Allen is survived by his parents, Bill and Billie Hamel of Shelby; his

companion, Bonita Buck of Billings; two children, (daughter) Christina and (son) Beau James; three step-children, Sharana, Diona, and Twana (all of Billings); three brothers and spouses, Steve and Richie Hamel of Chester, Darren and Caroline Hamel of Concord, California, and Brian and Ricki Hamel of Browning; several nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Allen was preceded in death by an infant son, Raymond.

A Prayer Service for Allen's extended family and friends was held at the Smith's Downtown Funeral Chapel in Billings on Sunday afternoon, January 14th. Brother Bede Baldry officiated.

Funeral Mass will be 11:00 A.M. Thursday (tomorrow, January 18th) at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester. Father Joseph Diekhans will celebrate the Mass. Special music will be provided by St. Mary's choir. Ushers will be Trudy Skari and Cindy LaSorte. Reader will be Marcella Hull, server will be Ken Gagnon, and eulogist will be Trudy Skari. Pallbearers will be John Seidlitz, Don Hull, Rob Laas, and Allen's three brothers. Following burial at the Chester Cemetery, a luncheon will be held at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel.

## KENNETH ROBERT HANSON

Born: October 30, 1934 - Died: January 25, 2001

Liberty County Times

January 31, 2001

### ***Kenneth R. Hanson***

Kenneth Robert Hanson, 66 years of age, died January 25, 2001 at his residence in Havre, Montana of cancer. Cremation has taken place. Prayer Vigil was held at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, January 28, at the Holland and Bonine Chapel. Memorial Mass was held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, January 29, at the St. Jude Catholic Church, with Fr. Robert D. Grosch officiating. Burial of the cremated remains will be at a later date. Memorials in Kenneth's honor may be made to: The Gift of Life Family Housing Center, Benefis Healthcare Foundation, P. O. Box 7008, Great Falls, MT 59406-7008. Services and arrangements were under the direction of the Holland and Bonine Funeral Home.

Kenneth was born October 30, 1934 to Earl Blaine Hanson and Agnes Montana "Tanna" MacFarland Hanson at Miles City, Montana. He attended Malta Grade School and graduated from Hingham High School. On November 8, 1952, Kenneth married Alma Marlene Norenberg. To this marriage, three children were born. He was a member of the Montana Army

National Guard from 1953-1955. They moved to Havre in 1964. He was manager of the Hingham Farmer's Oil; founded Hi-Line Fertilizer with the Spicher Brothers; was employed at Northern Tire and purchased A&B Trailer Court in Havre, Montana; he also owned and operated Ken's Carwash in Havre while working at Rocky Mountain Meat Packing; and was a Havre School District Bus Driver from 1992 to the present.

Kenneth was an active Teamster Member. Many awards were given him by his children, grandchildren, and the many children he delivered safely on the school bus routes. He also received honors from his bus driving peers.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his father in 1985 and his mother in 1987. He is survived by, his wife of Havre; daughter Deborah Kay Güenther of Glasgow; sons Chan Kenneth, and Todd Alan both of Havre; sister Donna Mae Hanson of Malta; brother Stanley "Bud" Hanson of Helena, and seven grandchildren.

## WALTER ERNEST HOVEE

Born: April 17, 1909 - Died: September 25, 2001

Liberty County Times

October 3, 2001



**Walter E Hovee**

Walter Ernest Hovee was born at Alsen, North Dakota on April 17, 1909. He was one of five children born to Edward and Inga (Espeseth) Hovee. The Hovee family came to Inverness, Montana in 1911 and built a general merchandise store called "Hovee Brothers." Walter grew up at Inverness and received his education there, graduating from Inverness High School in 1928. In the years that followed, he worked in the store and helped with the family farming operations in the Inverness community.

Walt married Ruth L. Dedic on March 25, 1940 at Havre. They lived and worked on the farm until their retirement in 1985, then leased out their place. They moved to Great Falls in 1990. Walt's health began to fail in 1998, so he transferred to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester. He died at the rest home on the evening of Tuesday, September 25, 2001. He was 92 years old.

Walter was a lifelong member of Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin, serving on the church council and related committees. After moving to Great Falls, the Hovee's attended church at Our Savior's Lutheran.

Walt was active in the early organization of the Inverness Water System and served on its board for 25 years. He also served on the Hill County A.S.C.S. committee for several years.

His hobbies were many. He loved to attend high school sporting events and was an avid TV sports fan. In his younger years Walt enjoyed fishing, working in his yard, and playing cards (especially Bridge and Pinochle.) He could fix most anything and liked to "tinker in his garage". During his quiet time at home, Walt enjoyed reading and following the Stockmarket. He loved all animals, especially cats. He was proud of his 50 year career as a Montana farmer.

Walt was described by his family as a private person... a homebody... a deep thinker... a dedicated family man and friend.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ruth Hovee of Great Falls; one son Clark Hovee of San Antonio, Texas; one daughter Laurie Hovee-Migneault of Great Falls; one grandson Rhett Migneault of Great Falls; and several nieces and nephews.

Walt was preceded in death by his parents, one sister Agnes, and three brothers Kenneth, Lloyd, and Stanley.

Funeral services were conducted at 1:00 p.m. Saturday Sept. 29, 2001 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin by Rev. Tim Singleton. The congregation sang "Borning Cry" and "Children of the Heavenly Father," accompanied by organist Iris White. Vocalist, Carol Bangs performed "Because He Lives" and "On Eagle's Wings." Ushers were Larry Olson and Sandy Anderson. Pallbearers

included Dave Herdina, Stu Smith, Scott Patrick, Greg Woods, Roger Zentzis and Mark Aageson. Memorial bearers were Tony Jochim, Eugene Aageson, Morris Smith, Bob Woods, and all of Walt's other old friends. Burial services were held at the Joplin Cemetery. A luncheon followed at the church.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

## FRANK HUESTIS

Born: December 3, 1922 - Died: November 13, 2001

Liberty County Times

November 21, 2001

### **Frank Huestis**

Frank Huestis, 78, a retired farmer and Army veteran, died of natural causes Tuesday at his home in Havre.

A memorial service was held Friday, November 16, 2001 at 11:00 a.m. at First Lutheran Church in Havre. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Holland & Bonine Funeral Home of Havre.

Frank was born December 3, 1922 in DeSmit, South Dakota to Francis and Florence Huestis. At age four Frank moved with his family to a farm north of Hingham.

He attended a country school, then transferred to Hingham. Frank continued his education at a mechanical Vo-Tech school in Bozeman and Northern Montana College in Havre. He served in the Civilian Conservation Corps at Winifred, and during World War II served in the armed forces in Germany.

He and Margaret Walker married June 5, 1943 in Hingham. For 21 years, they farmed north of Hingham and Gildford, where their daughter and four sons were raised. In the fall of 1968, they sold the farm and moved to Havre, where they bought and managed the Bee Motel for three years.

Later, Frank farmed south of Harlem. A stroke caused him to retire in 1990, but he continued his interest in farming. His biggest love and concern was his family. Besides his love of farming, he

enjoyed hunting with his sons and friends, playing cards and camping. He was a member of Goldstone Lutheran Church, First Lutheran Church, Milk River Good Sam RV Club, and the Havre Eagles Lodge.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret; a daughter Lana Larson of Shelby; sons Glenn Huestis of Chinook, Larry Huestis of Sheridan, Wyoming, and Ray Huestis of Havre; sisters Leona Faltrino, Evelyn Purkett, Inez Halter, and Mildred Obie; 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Additional survivors include a son-in-law Jerry Larson of Shelby; daughters-in-law Laurie Huestis of Chinook, Kim Huestis of Sheridan, and Peggy Huestis and Jo Wayne of Havre.

Frank was preceded in death by a son Leland in 1977, and a grandson Aaron, died in 1993. He was also preceded in death by three sisters: Gay Dahlberg, Bernice Streeter, and Delilah Mord; and a brother Roy Huestis.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Gift of Life or the donor's choice.

## JULIA LOUISE "BABE" JACKSON

Born: May 13, 1913 - Died: February 9, 2001

Liberty County Times

February 14, 2001



### **Julia "Babe" Jackson**

Julia Louise ("Babe") Jackson was born May 13, 1913 at Hingham, Montana. She was one of four children born to Charles and Elizabeth (Spaulding) Hanses. Babe grew up in Hingham and graduated from Hingham High School in 1931.

She married Howard Jackson on August 11, 1935. They farmed north of Rudyard for 30 years. During the winter months they lived in Rudyard. Julia kept herself busy giving piano lessons to many students along the Hi-Line. After her husband's death in 1965, Julia completed Nurse's Aide training, then worked at the Chester and Havre hospitals for a short while. In 1968 she built a small cafe in Rudyard called "Babe's Snack-Shack" where she worked as the head-cook and manager until she sold the business in 1970. Julia moved back to Hingham where she accepted a job as housekeeper and cook for the parish priest at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church. She moved to Shelby a few years later and worked in the same capacity at St. Williams Catholic Parish. Babe retired in 1979 and moved to Great Falls.

Julia was a lifelong member of Our Lady of Ransom Church in Hingham and was active in the Holy Family Altar Society of Rudyard. She attended several Catholic churches in Great Falls, was active in the Eagles Lodge, and was a member of several bridge clubs.

Her hobbies were many. She enjoyed playing Bridge and Pinochle, dancing, reading, crossword puzzles, bowling, ceramics, and picnics. Babe was an exceptional cook and a wonderful hostess; she always did her best to guarantee that family and friends were taken care of when they came to her house. Visitors never left with an empty stomach!

Julia loved to travel. She made several memorable trips to Hawaii, the Caribbean, and the New England states, to name a few. At one time, just for the fun of it, she had a large collection of rooster memorabilia. Julia loved to laugh and tell a good joke. Privately, she was a spiritual lady who had an unconditional love for her fellow man. This special care and concern easily qualified her as a "Servant of God."

In June of 1999 she was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Her health had declined since that time. Following a week's stay at the Benefis East Medical Center, Julia was transferred to a local nursing home for extended care. She died at the Missouri River Manor on the afternoon of Friday February 9th, 2001. She was 87 years old.

Julia is survived by two daughters and spouses, Rachel and Donald Blake of Cascade, and Loretta and Orville Uiledahl of Bend, Oregon; five grandchildren including Kerry, Kim, Nick, Joel, and Leah; nine great-grandchildren including

Danielle, Desirae, Tiffany, Troy, Brianna, Jake, Megan, Joshua, and Jessica; one sister, Cecelia Wilbur of San Diego, California; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, one brother Joe Hanses, and one sister Mary Sylte.

Per Julia's wishes, she was cremated. Her Memorial Mass was celebrated by Father Joseph Diekhans at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday February 13th at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Hingham. Iris White served as organist and Marcus Jochim sang family favorites, "On Eagle's Wings," "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," "Psalm 42," "Because the Lord is My Shepherd," and "Just a Closer Walk With Thee." Scripture readings were by granddaughters Kim Blake and Leah Hanson. Altar server was Dan Hybner and Eucharistic Ministers were Mary Lois Hybner, Maryle Lynn Pester, and Jim Pester. Grandson

Nick Blake shared the eulogy. Friends listed as honorary bearers included Walter Myers, Robert Pester, Richard Jackson, Robert Moog, Jan Phillips, Daryl Meyer, and Robert Wehr. A luncheon followed at the church.

Later Tuesday afternoon, graveside prayers and burial of ashes were completed at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

## KATHLEEN JACOBSON

Born: April 22, 1913 - Died: February 2, 2001

Liberty County Times

February 7, 2001

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### ***Kathleen Jacobson***

Kathleen Jacobson, age 87, former resident of Kremlin, Montana, died February 2, 2001 at the Havre Health Care Center of natural causes.

Kathleen was born April 22, 1913 in Grafton, North Dakota to James and Mairne (Raustad) Baxendale. She attended schools in Joplin, Montana. She married Clarence Newlan and they farmed south of Kremlin until his death in 1960. Later she married Orville Jacobson and they continued farming. He died in 1969. She lived in Kremlin until 1998 then moved to the Northern Montana Care Center in November 1998.

She enjoyed crocheting, reading, watching television and visiting with her friends and family.

She was preceded in death not only by her parents and two husbands, but by two sisters Martha Goff and Helen Mock.

Kathleen is survived by two daughters Delores Berg and Marlene Donovan, both of Kremlin; five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service was held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the Kremlin Lutheran Church with Pastor Tim Hauge officiating. Burial of the cremated remains will be at a later date. Memorials may be made in Kathleen's honor to the Northern Montana Care Center or to a memorial of one's choice. Services and ar-

## HAROLD JENSEN

Born: November 25, 1912 - Died: February 28, 2001

Liberty County Times

March 7, 2001



### Harold Jensen

Harold Jensen was born November 25, 1912 at Barton, North Dakota to Hans and Bergette 'Bertha' (Ness) Jensen, the second of seven children. They homesteaded 20 miles northeast of Chester in 1911. Harold attended the Fairview Country School near the farm. He also attended school in North Dakota for a short time, then finished his education in Chester, graduating from C.H.S. in 1931. Harold worked on the Allen Prescott ranch for two years, then bought some land near the Jensen homeplace and started farming on his own in 1934.

In the spring of 1942, after the bombing at Pearl Harbor, Harold called the selective service in Butte in hopes of enlisting in the Army Air Corps to receive flight training. Unfortunately, those positions were filled with younger men, so he accepted an enlistment in the regular Army. He was initially stationed at McCord Field near Tacoma, Washington. He later served in the European Theatre and the invasion at Normandy. He was a member of the 877th Airborne Engineers, who built, repaired, and defended airfields. Harold worked as a caterpillar operator and attained the rank of Tech 4. He was honorably discharged in October of 1945 and returned to Montana.

He continued farming and ranching at Hill, Montana near the Sweetgrass Hills. In the summer of 1946 a neighbor, Harold Jeppesen, came over to help him hay. He met the neighbor's sister, Kathryn Jeppesen, and they were married in Great Falls on December 27, 1947. From that time on the Jensens lived and worked on the ranch and raised two daughters.

In January of 1999 Harold was diagnosed with stomach cancer. He had surgery and chemotherapy in the months that followed. They moved to their Chester home, but commuted daily to the ranch. Even last fall Harold drove tractor and remained active in most of the farming operations. His condition failed during the winter months, so he entered the Liberty County Hospital just over a month ago. Harold died at the Chester hospital on Wednesday morning, February 28, 2001. He was 88 years old.

Harold was baptized in Barton, North Dakota. He completed his adult confirmation at Trinity Lutheran Church north of Lothair, where he was a member. He was a past trustee for both the Hill Country School and Chester High School. After he got out of the military, he took flying lessons and received his private pilot's license. He loved flying and eventually bought his own airplane, which he used as a

volunteer member of the local Search and Rescue team. Harold was proud of his military service during World War II and enjoyed sharing war stories with family and friends. He also liked to watch movies and read books about WW II.

Harold was simply a 'farmer-at-heart.' He was a hard worker who was dedicated to his ranch. He was also a good mechanic and his favorite equipment were his caterpillars. In his quiet time at home, Harold enjoyed watching the news on television. An avid reader, he especially loved literature on Montana history.

Harold is survived by his wife of 53 years Kathryn Jensen of Chester; daughter Connie Mathis and husband Ted of Belgrade; three grandsons: Gavin Mathis, Kip Heintz and Hans Heintz; two sisters Hazel Broeder and husband Gordon of Creston, and Alice Polk of Cut Bank; three sisters-in-law: Sylvia Jensen of Chester, Gladys Meissner of Chester, and Ambjorg Scalse and husband Hales of Galata; and numerous nephews and nieces. Harold was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter Ardyce Heintz Buechler in March 1999, and four brothers: Ole Jensen, Leo Jensen, and infant twins.

Funeral services were 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 3, 2001 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester. Rev. Peter Erickson officiated. The eulogist was Karen Sloan. Scripture readings were shared by Hans Heintz and Jackie Frey. Organist was Karen Stack and the congregation sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic." The vocal duet of Mary Ann Zorn and Steffani Wanken performed "The Old Rugged Cross," and "My Country 'Tis of Thee." Ushers were nieces Carol Seddon and Jackie Frey. Pallbearers were Kip and Hans Heintz, Ted Mathis, Joe Seidlitz, Hales Scalse, and Gordon Broeder. Memorial bearers were listed as Harold's WW II buddies, his family, and his friends. Graveside services with military rites were at the Chester Cemetery. The flag was presented by Don Buffington. A luncheon followed at the church.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

## MARTIN MICHAEL JOCHIM

Born: June 18, 1911 - Died: March 8, 2001

Liberty County Times

March 14, 2001



**Martin Jochim**

Martin Michael Jochim was born on June 18th, 1911 in Orenburg, Russia, a city east of the Ural Mountains. His family was part of a large German ethnic community that had migrated to Russia during the late 1700's and early 1800's. In 1913 (at age 2) Martin emigrated with his parents, Martin Jochim Sr. and Mariana Mangold Jochim, and a sister and brother to Regina, Saskatchewan, then eventually to Inverness, Montana. Regina was the original destination because Russian customs officials could not locate Inverness on the map. Martin always claimed he could remember the scenes of the vast ocean from the deck of the ship when his family crossed the Atlantic Ocean.

After arriving in Montana, the Jochims began farming on a half-section eight miles southeast of Inverness. Seven years later they moved to a farmstead four miles south of Inverness, the place Martin lived and worked most of his life.

Martin was the oldest boy in a family of seven children. During those years he lived at home he was referred to as "boy," which was a common name for the eldest son in old world tradition. In those early days on the farm German was the only language allowed in the house and farming was done with horses. In more recent years Martin shared stories with his family about his

punishment for speaking English in the house, and some of his favorite work horses (like "Nick" and "Pete" and "Larry" and "Rowdy").

Martin lost his mother to cancer when he was only 12. At age 20 he began farming on his own. He also did odd jobs like herding sheep and working in the CCC camps.

On August 10th, 1942 he married Agnes Zeltinger, a North Dakota girl who was teaching in rural schools in Northcentral Montana. Together they raised five children. They were proud and happy that their children all received college educations.

Martin's favorite pastime was farming and related activities. He loved to "check the cows;" he could always tell which calf belonged to which cow and he was known to bring newborn calves into the house from time-to-time. He enjoyed going to cattle sales and was very knowledgeable in selecting a good bull for breeding purposes.

Another favorite hobby was the card games at Dalton's place. Martin enjoyed playing Whist with family and friends. He loved to dance and he was especially fond of the music of Lawrence Welk. He also enjoyed local music concerts and sporting events. His favorite television show was "The Price is Right". Martin collected Indian rocks and artifacts and he enjoyed fishing and vegetable gardening. His favorite food was his own "homemade German sausage."

Martin was a lifetime member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Inverness. He was also a member of the Farmer's Union and had served on the Inverness School Board.

Martin's health was generally good over the years. He developed diabetes at age 65 and retired from farming at age 70. During their retirement the Jochims spent several winters with their children in Washington, Utah, North Dakota and Pennsylvania.

This past January Martin was admitted to the Liberty County Hospital in Chester. He later transferred to the Liberty County Nursing Home where he died on the early morning of Thursday March 8, 2001. He was 89 years old.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister Magdalena, two brothers Jake and Frank, three infant siblings, one grandson and one great-great-grandson.

Martin is survived by his wife of 58 years, Agnes Jochim of Inverness; two daughters: Deanna Beaudoin of Spokane, Washington and Marlene Biondo of Wyoming, Minnesota; three sons: Lawrence Jochim of Bigfork, Thomas Jochim of Spokane, Washington, and Marcus Jochim of Inverness; two sisters, Elizabeth Wood of Oregon and Barbara Fisher of Havre; one brother, Anton Jochim of Inverness; his extended family, the Velk's; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Vigil Prayers were recited by Father Joseph Diekhans at 7:30 p.m. Sunday March 11th at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The congregation sang "Be Not Afraid" and "You Are Mine." Grandson Anthony Biondo sang "Tears in Heaven."

The Funeral Mass was celebrated by Father Joe at 11:00 a.m. Monday at Sacred Heart. Iris White was organist. Marcus and Allison Jochim, along with the Sacred Heart Choir, provided mass music. Ushers were Tom, Steve, and Joe Dahinden. Altar server was Dennis Mangold, and readers were Terry and Kent Zeltinger. The communion gifts were presented by Jean Edwards and Peggy Currie. Eucharistic ministers were Tom Jochim, Kay Jochim, and Richard Fisher. Eulogist was Larry Jochim. Martin's grandsons served as pallbearers. Special bearers were listed as "all of his many friends." Burial was at the Inverness Cemetery. A luncheon followed at the church. Memorials will be given to donor's choice.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.



## DEBORAH ANN (ROCKMAN) JOHNSON

Born: April 11, 1960 - Died: January 15, 2001

Liberty County Times

January 24, 2001



### **Deborah (Rockman) Johnson**

Deborah Ann (Rockman) Johnson was born at Shelby, Montana on April 11, 1960. She was one of two children born to Leslie and Marilyn Humes Rockman. Her early education was at the Eskay Country School near Big Sandy. She finished her schooling in Havre, graduating from Havre High School in 1978.

Deborah moved to Great Falls and began working for ITF; she held this job for seven years, working as a shift foreman. In the late 1980s she moved to Helena and took a position in retail sales for the JC Penney Co. While there she married Len Johnson in 1993. Their relationship ended about five years later.

Deborah was working for Penneys in 1997 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She received extensive medical treatments with early positive response, but the cancer reappeared in 1999. At that time she was living in Helena with some good friends, the Wyricks, when she met their son Gary from Arizona. Deborah and Gary became telephone 'soulmates' and eventually best friends. Although her health was not good, Deborah moved to Gilbert, AZ in April of 2000 to seek happiness and companionship with Gary for her remaining time in this life. Her condition has slowly deteriorated; since Christmas she has received loving

home care from Gary, friends, and visiting hospice nurses. Deborah died peacefully at Gary's home on Monday evening January 15, 2001. She was 40 years old.

She was a member of the First Assembly of God Church in Helena. Her hobbies were many; she enjoyed fishing, camping, hiking, aerobics, shopping, and interior design. She liked to cook and one of her specialties was Beer Bread. She also enjoyed country music, playing darts, and collecting antique cups and saucers. Deb liked to watch the news on television and her favorite show was "The Waltons." Before her health failed, she enjoyed modeling clothes at JC Penneys for in-store fashion shows. But most of all, she loved people—young and old.

Deborah is survived by her significant other Gary McCarthy of Gilbert, Arizona; her half-sister Bobbi Henderson of Great Falls; her half brother Chester Henderson of Nebraska; an uncle (who helped raise her) Robert Humes of Big Sandy; her sister-in-law Terrie McLaughlin of Gilbert, Arizona; her estranged husband Len Johnson of Helena; and several nephews, nieces and cousins. Her only first cousins on the Rockman side are the four children of Vivian Dolezal, including Jan Nelson of Chester. Other Chester family is her great-aunt Lillian Wright. She was preceded in death by her parents, her step-mother Connie; and her brother David.

A Memorial Service will be at 11:00 am Thursday January 25, 2001 at the First Assembly of God Church in Helena, 2210 Dodge Ave., with Rev. Kenneth Ross officiating. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester, MT. Undesignated memorial gifts will be used to pay Deborah's final expenses.

It was Deb's wish to be cremated and her ashes will be buried in the family plot with her grandparents at the Chester Cemetery. Graveside services will be 11:00 am Saturday January 27th in Chester.

## JACQUELINE "JACQUIE" (NEWTON) JOHNSON

Born: September 7, 1926 - Died: July 20, 2001

Liberty County Times

August 1, 2001



### **Jacqueline Johnson**

Jacqueline Yvonne "Jacquie" Johnson was born at Laurel, Montana on September 7, 1926. She was the only child of Hobert "Jack" Newton and Nellie Burns. She received her early education at Laurel, Lewistown, and Great Falls, then graduated from Shelby High School in 1945. In the few years that followed, Jacquie worked as a telephone operator in Shelby and Boston, Massachusetts.

She married L.T. Dixon on May 20, 1947. The couple had a daughter prior to their divorce in 1951.

Jacquie married Paul G. Johnson in Shelby on November 1, 1953. They made their home on the Johnson farm 18 miles north of Lothair until 1961, when they moved to a farm 12 miles north of Cut Bank. Jacquie worked as a homemaker and mother of four. The Johnsons moved into Cut Bank in 1974 and operated a "Grain-Dri" business until their retirement in 1984. They moved to Spokane, Washington and have lived there since.

Jacquie developed kidney problems in 1994. Her health remained relatively good until this spring, when she encountered dialysis and other medical problems. Following a three-week stay at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane, she died on the early morning of Friday, July 20, 2001. She was 74 years old.

Jacquie had been active in the Lutheran church. She was baptized and confirmed as an adult at the Trinity Lutheran Church north of Lothair. After they moved to Cut Bank, she served as a Sunday School Superintendent at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. She was also a member of a Cut Bank Home Demonstration Club, and was active in the Democratic Women's Organization. Jacquie enjoyed politics; she never ran for a political office, but

assisted in many campaigns, voter registrations, and elections. She continued to serve as an election judge during her years in Spokane.

Her hobbies were many. She loved to read, especially mysteries and historicals of Ireland/England. She kept her mind sharp by working crossword puzzles, and watching "Jeopardy." For simple entertainment she also enjoyed her favorite soap opera "The Young and the Restless." Jacquie liked to play cards, mainly Cribbage and Solitaire. She enjoyed working in her garden and she was an excellent cook. Her family will always remember her good sense of humor and her dedication to motherhood. She was a loving and caring mother to the very end.

Survivors include her husband Paul, of Spokane; two daughters: Yvonne Hunnewell and husband David of Chester, and Paula Johnson of Spokane; two sons: Craig Johnson of Spokane, and Leif Johnson and wife Linda of Vista, California; seven grandchildren: Rachel, Melissa, Jeanie, Aaron, Branden, Camon, and Jacqueline Paige; five great-grandchildren; one brother-in-law Owen Johnson of Florida; three sisters-in-law: Rose Marie Gustafson of Arizona, Louise Runyon of Idaho, and Patsy Nelson of Washington; and several nephews and nieces. Jacquie was preceded in death by her parents, and two aunts Floss Dixon and Pearl Newton.

Funeral services were 11:00 a.m. Saturday, July 28, 2001 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester. Pastor Pete Erickson officiated. Taped prelude music was by the James Galway Orchestra. Karen Stack served as organist and the congregation sang "Borning Cry," "How Great Thou Art," and "The Old Rugged Cross." Vocalist Wayne Wardell performed "The Lord's Prayer." Jacquie's favorite song "Send In the Clowns" by Frank Sinatra, was played as postlude. Ushers were grandsons Aaron, Branden, and Camon Hunnewell. Friends listed as memorial bearers included Vern Anderson, Richard Wickum, Rob Platt, Bruce Wold, Larry Epstein, Ben Epstein, Louis Larson, Cliff Blair, and Leonard Matteson. A luncheon followed at the church.

Graveside prayers and burial of ashes were Saturday afternoon at the Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery north of Lothair. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

Memorials will be given to the Trinity Church Cemetery Care Fund, or the Kidney Center Endowment Fund c/o Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane, WA.

## LEON H. JOHNSON

Born: March 7, 1921 - Died: June 28, 2001

Liberty County Times

July 4, 2001

### ***Leon Johnson***

Leon H. Johnson, 80, of 3328 Arbor Way (Great Falls), a former Dutton resident and retired United Methodist minister, died Thursday at a local hospital of complications from leukemia. His funeral was 11 a.m. Monday at Dutton United Methodist Church, with burial in Dutton Cemetery. O'Connor Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Survivors include his wife Shirley A. Johnson; a daughter, Carolyn Dowdy of Great Falls; sons Bruce Johnson of Great Falls, and Glenn Johnson of Billings; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A daughter, Janis (Johnson) Jones; and a son, Steven Johnson, have died.

Johnson was born March 7, 1921, in Great Falls, and was raised in Dutton. His first two years of college were at Northern Montana College in Havre, and he completed his four-year degree at Nebraska Wesleyan College at Lincoln, Nebraska. He then graduated from Garrett Theological Seminary in 1947.

Leon married Shirley Knutson in Dutton in 1945.

He was a 40-year member of United Methodist Yellowstone Church Conference and was Pastor of various churches in Montana. He retired in 1983 and continued substitute preaching.

He served on the United Methodist Church Board in Dutton, was chairman of the Yellowstone Conference Pension Board for 15 years, and was President of Dutton Senior Citizens Center and Teton County Council on Aging.

Leon enjoyed Pinochle, fishing, driving his 1966 Ford pickup and telling stories.

Memorials are suggested to Dutton Senior Citizens Center, Dutton, MT; Christ United Methodist Church, Great Falls, MT; or Dutton United Methodist Church, Dutton, MT.

## MABEL C. (HANSON) JOHNSON

Born: November 22, 1918 - Died: June 24, 2001

Liberty County Times

July 4, 2001



### **Mabel Johnson**

Mabel C. Johnson, age 82, of Gildford, passed away Sunday, June 24, 2001 at Northern Montana Hospital of natural causes. Funeral services were held at First Lutheran Church in Havre on Wednesday, June 27th at 2:00 p.m. Burial services followed at the South Gildford Cemetery.

Mabel was born November 22, 1918 to Marius and Clara (Twedt) Hanson at the family farm south of Gildford, Montana. Mabel attended the country school south of Gildford and graduated from Gildford High School. She went on to college at Kinman Business College in Washington and upon graduation went to work for Boeing. She moved home and married Lloyd Walter Johnson on

September 23, 1946. They farmed south of Gildford and had three sons.

Mabel loved her family, friends, the farm, sports, and playing cards. Her family admired her giving nature and strong will that she showed through her tireless hours spent working on the farm and the numerous times she made doctors shake their heads in wonder when she had beat the odds again. She would spend endless hours playing Solitaire and would happily join anyone in a game of Pinochle. She tuned in to as many games as she could possibly listen to starting in the fall with football and ending in the winter with boys basketball. She was a member of the Havre Eagles Auxiliary and a member of the Kremlin Lutheran Church. She made many life-long friends.

Mabel was preceded in death by her parents, husband Lloyd Johnson on October 2, 1953, her son Lyle on June 10, 1979, three brothers Bernard, Hans, and Finn, and sister Martha Listou. She is survived by her son Lowell and wife Cindy Johnson of Gildford, and son Merlin and wife Kay Johnson of Chinook; grandchildren Kami and Jake Kennedy of Banner, Wyoming, Stacy and Shawn Rismon of Havre, Shardee, Adam and Abby Johnson of Chinook; three great-grandchildren Kade and Nate Rismon, Quynn Kennedy, and several nieces and nephews. Memorials may be sent to the Kremlin Lutheran Church.

ELIZABETH G. KLEINERT

Born: January 1, 1918 - Died: February 17, 2001

Liberty County Times

February 21, 2001



**Elizabeth Kleinert**

Elizabeth G. Kleinert, age 83, of Shelby, passed away Saturday at the Liberty County Hospital in Chester.

She was born Jan. 1, 1918 at Wayne, Michigan to John and Erma (Ross) Grevengood. She graduated from Dearborn, Michigan High School, and then obtained her nursing degree from Harper-Grace Hospital School of Nursing. She worked at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

She married William Kleinert on November 10, 1949 in Detroit. The couple then moved to Shelby where they made their home. Betty spent her life being a loving wife and mother. Her husband died in 1995.

She enjoyed cooking, piano music, traveling, reading and growing plants. Betty also enjoyed col-

lecting old dishes and cookbooks, and most of all she enjoyed shopping.

She was a member of the Methodist Church, active in United Methodist Women, the Eastern Star, a 4-H mother and Girl Scout leader.

Survivors include daughters, Susan and husband Doug Newland of El Centro, CA and Elizabeth and husband Greg Woods of Inverness; son, John and wife Karen Kleinert of Indian Trail, NC; brother, Donald Grevengood of Naples, FL; nine grandchildren, Derek Newland, Jairus Kleinert, Anna Kleinert, Jonathan Kleinert and Benjamin Kleinert, Lauren Woods, Jocelyn Woods, R. Matthew Woods and Madeline Woods.

Her parents, an infant son Paul and husband preceded her in death.

Funeral services were 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2001 at the Community United Methodist Church in Shelby. Burial and graveside rites will be Thursday at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Owosso, Michigan. Visitation was held Monday from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Whitted Funeral Chapel. Family suggests memorials to the Inter-Mountain Children's Home in Helena or the Diabetes Foundation.

## SUSIE J. KLEINSASSER

**Born: November 7, 1967 – Died: December 22, 2001**

**Liberty County Times**

**December 26, 2001**

### ***Susie Kleinsasser***

Susie J. Kleinsasser, age 34, the precious daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Wipf) Kleinsasser, passed away Friday morning December 22, 2001, at her home at the Riverview Colony south of Chester. She died following a short battle with gastric cancer.

Her funeral was 12 o'clock Noon Sunday, December 23 at the Riverview Colony Church. Burial at the Riverview Colony

Cemetery. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

Susie was born November 7, 1967 at the Sage Creek Colony north of Chester. She was the second youngest of 14 children. She received her schooling at Sage Creek Colony before moving to Riverview in 1980.

Susie was very special to everyone at the colony, especially the ladies. She loved to work with the ladies and made their tasks much easier and happier. Her carefree laugh and smile will be missed by all who knew her.

Susie loved helping people and was especially fond of children and animals. Her favorite colony dog was named 'Skipper.' Skipper died this past summer and Susie missed him terribly. Still, she retained her positive disposition. Susie will truly be missed by her family and friends.

Survivors include her parents of Riverview Colony; seven sisters: Elizabeth and Lydia Hofer and Mary Kleinsasser, all of Riverview, Rebecca Wipf of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Judy Hofer of Raymond, Alberta, Esther and Sarah Hofer of Sage Creek Colony; six brothers: Jacob, Joe, Dan, and John Kleinsasser of Riverview, and Paul and Jonathan Kleinsasser of Sage Creek; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents.

The following poem entitled "My First Christmas in Heaven" was written by the Smallwood family. The Kleinsassers offer it in loving remembrance of their daughter, Susie.

I've had my first Christmas in  
heaven;  
A glorious, wonderful day,  
I stood with the saints of the  
ages,  
Who found Christ the truth and  
the way.

I sang with the heavenly choir,  
Just think, I joined in to sing.  
And oh, what celestial music  
We brought to our Savior and  
King!

We sang the glad songs of  
redemption,  
How Jesus to Bethlehem came.  
And how they call his name  
Jesus.

That all might be saved through  
His name.

We sang once again with the  
angels,  
The message they sent that last  
morn,  
When shepherds first heard the  
glad story,  
That Jesus, the Savior, was  
born.

Dear Ones, I wish you had been  
there,  
No Christmas on earth could  
compare,  
With all the rapture and glory,  
We witnessed in heaven so fair.

You know how I always loved  
Christmas.  
It seemed such a wonderful day,  
With all my loved ones around  
me,  
The children so happy and gay.

Yes, now I can see why I loved  
it,  
And, oh, what a joy it will be,  
When you and my loved ones  
are with me,  
To share in the glories I see.

So dear ones on earth, here's  
my greeting:  
Look up 'til the day dawn  
appears,  
Oh, what a Christmas awaits us,  
Beyond our parting of tears.

## LOIS S. (MELBY) KNUTSON

Born: April 2, 1940 - Died: April 12, 2001

Liberty County Times

April 18, 2001

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### ***Lois Knutson***

Lois S. (Melby) Knutson, age 61, of 922-1st Ave. SW, Great Falls, a longtime hotel worker, died of lung cancer Thursday April 12, 2001 at her home.

Graveside services and burial of ashea took place at 9:00 am Tuesday in Highland Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Peace Hospice of Montana, P.O. Box 7008, Great Falls, MT 59403-7008.

Lois was born April 2, 1940 in Havre, and attended schools in Kremlin. She married William Dropps, Jr. in Kremlin in 1956; they divorced in 1979. She married Joe Knutson in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in 1988. Lois worked in food service at the Rainbow Hotel for almost 20 years.

She was a member of Redeemer

Lutheran Church and Eagles Auxiliary.

Lois enjoyed collecting recipes, cooking, gardening and sewing.

Survivors include her husband of Great Falls; daughters: Lona Lee of Great Falls, Lorri Larsen of Spokane, Washington, and Joan Brekke of Chester; sons Bill Dropps of Pendleton, Oregon, Mike Dropps of Denver, Colorado, and Marlon Dropps of Las Vegas, Nevada; sisters: Retha Ernst of Lewistown, Mildred Wilson of Havre, and Frances Halter of Auburn, Washington; brothers Dave Melby and Marvin Melby of Havre, and Bud Melby of Kremlin; 18 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Lois was preceded in death by two daughters and two sons.

Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home handled arrangements.

## FLORIAN JOSEPH "F.J." KUHRY

Born: July 9, 1916 - Died: December 29, 2001

Liberty County Times

January 9, 2002



### *Joseph Kuhry*

Florian Joseph "F.J." Kuhry, 85, of Bozeman, formerly of Pacific Beach, CA, passed away December 29, 2001 in Bozeman. He was born July 9, 1916 in Great Falls, MT. The son of Peter Miller and Elizabeth (Zettel) Kuhry.

F.J. was raised in Chester, and graduated from Chester High School. He earned a degree in business in 1938 from the University of Montana. He was drafted into the Army during WWII. Following his honorable discharge from the Army he went to work as a civilian for the Navy in San Diego until his retirement.

He retired to Pacific Beach, California where he enjoyed growing roses and his back yard was filled with exotic varieties. F.J. was passionate about music. He played the piano, and knew all of the great opera's, symphonies and the famous vocalists who sang them. He was able to share his enthusiasm for music with his community as a volunteer for the San Diego Symphony. In addition to roses and music he was an avid bridge player. F.J. moved to Bozeman in 1999 to be near his sister Helen Aaberg.

Most of all, his sense of humor will be missed. He thoroughly enjoyed teasing those he cared about.

Survivors include his brother Wilfred (Ann) Kuhry of Havre; his sister Helen Aaberg of Bozeman; brother-in-law George Freemole of Great Falls, and several nieces and nephews.

His parents and two sisters, Marjorie Freemole and Marietta O'Connor, preceded him in death.

Cremation has taken place. A Memorial Mass was held January 2, 2002 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Bozeman. The urn will be interred at the family lot at the Chester Cemetery.



## ANN MARIE LaBORTA

Born: April 13, 1941 - Died: March 9, 2001

Liberty County Times

March 14, 2001



### **Ann Marie LaBorta**

Ann Marie LaBorta was born in Havre, Montana on April 13, 1941. She was one of six children born to Elmer and Esther (Bergstrom) LaBorta. Ann Marie grew up on the family farm south of Rudyard and received her early education at the Rathbun Country School. She finished her schooling in Rudyard, graduating from Rudyard High School in 1960.

She continued to live on the farm where she enjoyed flower gardening, feeding the chickens and the cats, and assisting with housekeeping details. After her parents died, her older brother Gerard became her care-giver. They lived and worked on the farm until Gerard became ill in 1998. Ann Marie moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester in June of that year and had lived there since. She's had reoccurring complications from diabetes for the past 20 years. Following a week's stay at the Liberty County Hospital, she died on the late evening of Friday March 9, 2001. She was 59 years old.

Ann was a confirmed member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard. In her youth she was active in 4-H. During her high school days she enjoyed working as a stagehand for school plays.

Her hobbies included crocheting and embroidery. She collected music boxes and stuffed animals. Ann loved being a hostess at their farm home; she always had coffee, cookies and candy ready for visitors. But more importantly, she always had a big smile and a warm hug for everyone who stopped by.

After moving to the nursing home Ann enjoyed all of the activities there. She attended the music programs and Bible study groups, and she always looked forward to Bingo and Uno games. Her favorite television shows were "Jeopardy," "Wheel of Fortune," and the local news.

Even though she was dealt a poor hand on health, Ann always maintained a positive outlook on life. She loved her family and friends and was especially fond of her nieces and nephews.

She is survived by three sisters: Myrl Solum of Rudyard, June Stiles of Glasgow, and Aileen Garrick of Plentywood; two brothers: Gerard LaBorta of Chester, and Dale LaBorta of Breckenridge, Minnesota; one aunt Myrtle Bergstrom of Rudyard; and her nieces and nephews. Ann was preceded in death by her parents and a great-niece.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday (March 15th) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard with Reverend Tim Singleton officiating. Terry Stevenson will sing "On the Wings of a Snow White Dove" accompanied by Sharon Spicher. The congregation will sing "Amazing Grace." Bob Christenson will serve as usher. Pallbearers will be Stu Smith, Fred Eling, Lane Rigg, Glen Eling, Tim Gatzemeier, and Eric Gatzemeier. Memorial bearers are Ann's nephews, nieces, friends, and neighbors. Following burial in the Joplin Cemetery, a luncheon will be held at the church in Rudyard.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

## LUCY C. (MORRISON) LAKEY

Born: May 16, 1921 - Died: April 23, 2001

Liberty County Times

May 2, 2001



### Lucy Lakey

Lucy C. (Morrison) Lakey was born May 16, 1921 on the family homestead near Mount Lily in the Sweetgrass Hills north of Chester. She was one of 11 children born to Arthur and Mary (Milne) Morrison. Lucy grew up on the farm and received her formal education at the Laird Country School.

She was attending a Whittlash dance when she met her husband-to-be Troy W. Lakey. They were married in Havre on October 12, 1939. They made their home on a ranch near the Sweetgrass Hills, where Lucy worked as a homemaker and mother of two. In 1947 they began raising registered Hereford cattle, so they named their place the "Breed Creek Hereford Ranch." In 1957 they obtained the ranch from Troy's father, then acquired two neighboring places, the Johnny Stratton and Quinten Larsen ranches, in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Troy and Lucy sold their ranching operation in 1979 and retired. They moved to a new home in Chester in 1980.

The Lakeys had been married over 50 years when Troy passed away on Feb. 5, 1990. Lucy continued to live in Chester and stayed active in the community. She developed a special friendship with Jay Nash, who has been her companion and confidant for the past nine years.

Lucy was diagnosed with cancer on February 9 and began receiving treatments. Her condition

deteriorated rapidly; she was admitted to the Liberty County Hospital on April 8. Lucy died at the Chester hospital on this past Monday morning April 23, 2001. She was 79 years old.

During those early years on the ranch, the Lakeys were active in the Whittlash Presbyterian Church, Whittlash School activities and community card parties. They also assisted with Liberty County 4-H programs and were members of the Marias Hereford Breeders Association. Lucy enjoyed raising a big garden every year and sharing the "fruits of her labor" with family and friends. She was an excellent seamstress; she taught many neighbor ladies the art of sewing. She also took a Correspondence Course in Upholstering, then completed many skillful upholstery projects throughout those years on the ranch.

After their retirement the Lakeys continued to raise a garden at their Chester home and took great pride in maintaining a beautiful yard. Lucy continued to enjoy her hobbies: crocheting, sewing, knitting, quilting, canning, baking, and dancing. They always looked forward to taking trips together, especially when they could spend time with their grandchildren.

Lucy never played horseshoes, but attended many tournaments with Troy. Because she was always supportive to the local participants, she was made an honorary member of the Liberty Leapers Horseshoe Club.

After Troy died Lucy continued in her 'zest for life.' She loved to go dancing and socialize with friends. She loved all music, but was partial to Country-Western, and her all-time favorite song was "Crystal Chandeliers". Lucy and Jay enjoyed RV traveling; they made many memorable trips to Alaska, Mexico, Branson, Missouri, Hawaii, and Las Vegas to name a few. During her

travels she collected tea cups and bird figurines.

Lucy loved her home and was always a meticulous housekeeper. She liked to cook and entertain. Her favorite family meal was her country-fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, and homemade buns. A lifelong tradition was homemade plum pudding at Christmas time. And speaking of Christmas, she and Jay enjoyed hosting their annual open house when they displayed their beautiful miniature Yuletide Village.

Lucy was privately and quietly a spiritual person. She set aside certain days for specific tasks and obligations, yet she still found time to read a few daily devotions. She loved her fellow man and was always ready and willing to help someone in need.

She is survived by her son, Tom Lakey of Great Falls; her daughter Betty Zorn of Butte; her special friend Jay Nash of Chester; six grandchildren; Terry, Juley, Tommy, Lynn, Russell, and Stacey; eight great-grandchildren; one sister Margaret Sarrazind of Clyde Park; four sisters-in-law Ethel Rasmussen and Irene Mattson both of Chester, Gladys Morrison of Great Falls, and Virginia Morrison of Davenport, Washington; and numerous nephews and nieces

Lucy was preceded in death by her parents, husband, five sisters Kathleen, Mary, Lily, Mabel, and Violet, and four brothers James, Arthur, Francis, and John.

Funeral services were 11:00 am Friday April 27, 2001 at the Chester United Methodist Church. The officiating pastor was Kama Morton, the eulogist was Flynn Rockman, and personal family memories were shared by grandson Stacey Zorn. The congregation sang "The Old Rugged Cross." Vocal selections included "The Little Brown Church in the Vale," by Kama Morton, and "The Dance," by Jay Nash. Ushers were Bryan Ghekiere and Mark Wickum. Pallbearers were Ray Standiford, Vern Pimley, Roy and Richard Wickum, BJ Oswood, Norm Engstrom. Honorary bearers were Claude Demarest, Irvin Brown, Delmar Wolfe, and all of Lucy's other good friends. Interment was at the Chester Cemetery. Graveside services ended with a balloon ceremony to the tape of "Crystal Chandeliers." A luncheon followed at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel.

## LUCY C.

### (MORRISON) LAKEY

**Born:** May 16, 1921 on homestead north of Chester, Montana  
**Died:** April 23, 2001 at Chester, Montana  
**Age:** 79 years... 11 months... 7 days...



### I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.  
 I'm following the path God laid for me;  
 I took His hand when I heard Him call;  
 I turned my back and left it all.  
 I could not stay another day;  
 to laugh, to love, to work, or play.  
 Tasks left undone must stay that way;  
 I've found that peace at close of day.  
 If my parting has left a void,  
 then fill it with remembered joy.  
 A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;  
 ah yes, these things I too will miss.  
 Be not burdened with times of sorrow;  
 I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
 My life's been full, I've savored much,  
 good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
 Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
 Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
 Lift up your hearts and share with me;  
 God wanted me now, He set me free!

**Services:** 11:00 a.m. Friday, April 27th,  
 at the Chester United Methodist Church  
**Officiant:** Reverend Kama Hamilton-Morton  
**Personal Remembrances:** Stacey Zorn

### Special Music:

Prelude: Selected tapes of Lucy's favorites...  
 Vocals: "Little Brown Church in the Vale"  
 and "The Dance" ...  
 Congregation: "The Old Rugged Cross" ...  
 Postlude: Tape of "Wild Flowers" ...  
 Cemetery: "Crystal Chandeliers" ...

**Pianist:** Karen Stack

**Vocalist:** Kama Morton

**Ushers:** Justin Wickum and Bryan Ghekiere

**Pallbearers:** Norm Engstrom, Roy Wickum, Vern Pimley  
 Richard Wickum, Ray Standiford and B.J. Oswood...

**Honorary Bearers:** Delmar Wolfe, Claude Demarest, Irvin  
 Brown, and all of Lucy's other good friends...

**Interment:** Chester Cemetery

... Luncheon to follow at the church ...

**Arrangements:** Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester

**Lucy's Family:** Daughter, Betty; son, Tom; special friend  
 Jay; 6 grandchildren, Terry, Juley, Tommy, Lynn, Russel  
 & Stacey; 8 great-grandchildren; sister, Margaret; 4 sister-  
 in-law, Ethel, Irene, Gladys, & Virginia; and numerous  
 nieces and nephews ...

## THELMA VIOLA (RUDOLPH) LaVALLEY

Born: October 24, 1921 - Died: September 14, 2001



### **Thelma LaValley**

Thelma Viola (Rudolph) LaValley was born on October 24, 1921 at Litchfield, Minnesota. She was the eldest and only daughter of four children born to Hazel V. Ray and Ray S. Rudolph. Thelma grew up on the family homestead north of Joplin near the Sweetgrass Hills. She attended the Juanita Country School, then finished her education in Joplin. She graduated from Joplin High School in 1939 and was her class Salutatorian.

Thelma traveled to Oregon to visit grandparents and began working on a chicken ranch. Sometime later she returned to Joplin to work in a local store. In 1942 she found employment as a kitchen helper in the old Deaconess Hospital in Havre.

Thelma married Glenn R. LaValley at Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin on March 17, 1945. They lived and worked in the Joplin community from that time on. Thelma enjoyed her role as farmwife, homemaker, and mother of three. The LaValleys retired from farming in 1982 and continued to make Joplin their home. They had been happily married for 53 years at the time of Glenn's death in 1998.

Thelma's health had failed in recent months. She was admitted to the Liberty County Hospital in Chester on Labor Day and was diagnosed with cancer. She died there on Friday morning September 14, 2001 at the age of 79 years.

### **Liberty County Times**

September 19, 2001

A longtime member of Bethel Church, Thelma was active in the Martha Circle of WELCA and had served as a Sunday School teacher for many years. She was also a member of the Hi-Line WIFE organization.

The LaValleys were an inseparable couple who enjoyed traveling in their later years. They both enjoyed gardening and flowers, and always kept an attractive yard and home.

Thelma's hobbies were many. She was an avid reader, especially fond of poetry, the "Country Woman" magazine, and other farm publications. She enjoyed crafts, embroidery, and board games. She loved to listen to music; she was an Elvis Presley fan and had a large collection of his records/tapes. Thelma was also a great cook; her family will always remember her wonderful homemade fudge and her delicious fried chicken.

Thelma was an unassuming woman with a tender and quiet nature. Her legacy was her unconditional offering of love and care to family and friends.

Survivors include one son, Randy LaValley and wife Vicki of Great Falls; one daughter Susan Coffman and husband Jim of Joplin; nine grandchildren including: Christi Kunetka, Sherri Baldwin, Jason Honeycutt, Cari Schultz, Loren LaValley, Brenda LaValley, Darci Coffman, Cami Ballenger, and Colt Coffman; four great-grandchildren: Kaitlin Schultz, Ashley Baldwin, Michael Baldwin, and Rhianna Ballenger; three brothers and their wives: Carroll and Kathern Rudolph of Chinook, Harley and Mary Rudolph of Chester, and Donald and Shirley Rudolph of Chester; numerous nephews and nieces. Thelma was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and daughter

Sherrill Honeycutt.

Funeral services were 11:00 am Tuesday September 18, 2001 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin. Rev. Tim Singleton officiated. Readings were by Jackie Coffman. Pianist was Della Wolery, and the congregation sang "I the Lord of Sea and Sky," and "Borning Cry." Two selected tapes by Elvis Presley were "How Great Thou Art" and "Love Me Tender." Ushers were Frank Richter and Lloyd Wolery. Pallbearers included Loren LaValley, Cami Ballenger, Brenda LaValley, Gary LaValley, Jerry Buck, and Tammy Duncan.

Memorial bearers were Thelma's friends in Martha Circle... past and present. Burial at the Joplin Cemetery. A luncheon followed at Kjos Hall. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

## FREDERIK MCLEAN LEITCH

Born: May 26, 1931 - Died: April 28, 2001

Liberty County Times

May 2, 2001

### ***Frederik M. Leitch***

Frederick McLean Leitch, 69 of East Helena died Saturday at his Home in East Helena.

He was born May 26th, 1931 in Chicago, Illinois to the late Dr. Neil and Nanna Leitch. He grew up in Warroad, Minnesota and Kalispell, Montana, where he played hockey, hunted ducks and fished for walleyes. He served in the United States Army Air Force for four years. Fred received his Master's degree in Education at the University of Montana in Missoula. He then coached hockey and taught school in Minnesota and Montana where he also served as the Superintendent of school in the Kalispell area.

He married Genny Claypool in 1956 at Sheridan, Montana, and they had four children.

His parents and two brothers preceded Fred in death.

Survivors include his four children, Neil M. Leitch, Lana K. Leitch, Lisa N. Leitch and Barbara D. Kerce, Grandchildren, Travis and Marrison Leitch and Kevin Lannay; and two brothers Dr. Cecil Leitch of Litchfield, Minnesota and Neil Leitch of Missoula.

Cremation has taken place with private family services taking place at a later date. Family prefers memorials to Duck's Unlimited in Frederik Leitch's name, to a local Chapter of Duck's Unlimited

Arrangements have been entrusted to Hagler-Anderson Mortuary, Helena, Montana.

## KEVIN MICHAEL LINEWEAVER

Born: August 8, 1986 - Died: December 23, 2001

Liberty County Times

January 9, 2002



### **Kevin Lineweaver**

Kevin Michael Lineweaver was born at Havre, Montana on August 8th, 1986. He was the younger of two sons born to Ronald and Deborah (Friberg) Lineweaver. Kevin grew up in Joplin. He was baptized & confirmed at Bethel Lutheran Church. He received his education at Joplin and was presently a freshman at J-I High school.

On December 23, 2001 Kevin and two friends were hunting coyotes north of Inverness when they were involved in a single-vehicle accident. Kevin died at the scene; he was just 15 years old.

Kevin was an avid sports fan and participant. He especially loved football and was a proud member of the J-I High School team who played in the 6-man State Championship game against Geraldine this past fall. Kevin's favorite NFL team was the Dallas Cowboys. He was presently playing JV basketball

and was looking forward to track where he excelled in sprints and long-jump during his high school years.

His other interests were hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family and friends. Kevin enjoyed water skiing and riding his wave runner at Tiber Dam in the summer time.

Kevin had always been fascinated with the weather, so much in fact, that he often said that he wanted to be a "weatherman." This past summer he completed a special weather course that entitled him the opportunity to be an official spotter for the National Weather Service.

Kevin loved working with his dad on the family farm, especially during harvest time when he could operate their Gleaner combine. He also had a very close relationship with his brother; they enjoyed quality time together, whether it was competing in computer "Play Station" or simply cruising on the weekends. Kevin recently purchased a Ford pickup; he was really proud of that truck!

At the time of his death Kevin was enjoying the Christmas holidays, the time of year he loved best.

Survivors include his parents, Ron and Debbie Lineweaver of Joplin; his brother, Curt Lineweaver of Joplin; paternal grandparents Charles and Dorothy Lineweaver of Inverness; maternal grandmother, Sandy Friberg of Chester; maternal grandfather, Allan Friberg of Inverness; two paternal aunts, Sue Berg of Kremlin and Bernie Phelps of Butte; two maternal uncles, Greg Friberg of Vancouver, Washington and Jon

Friberg of Inverness; numerous cousins; and his pet dog, "Libby."

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Tim Hauge at the J-I High School Gymnasium at 11:00 am Saturday, December 29. Scripture readings were shared by Jeff Wehr and Jane Rhodes. The service music was a collection of Kevin's favorite songs: special selections included "Gone Too Soon," "Tears in Heaven" and "That's What Brothers Do." Ushers were Barry VanDessel and Micheal Alley.

Friends serving as Pallbearers were Curtis, Jeremy, and Kevin May, Jeremiah Johnson, John Wolery, Matt Tempel, and Eric Sundgren. Honorary bearers were Kevin's classmates: Zachary Ramberg, Dane Kantorowicz, Craig Miller, Riley Smith, Amanda Miller, Kayla Fusk, Katie Bangs, & LaFleisse Martinez. A family acknowledgment was given by Cyndi Kay.

Following burial at the Joplin Cemetery, a luncheon was held at the school. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

Memorials will be given to the Kevin Lineweaver Memorial Scholarship Fund or to the Joplin Commercial Club QRU Fund.

## LEE LAWRENCE LUDWIG

Born: May 25, 1925 - Died: March 9, 2001

Liberty County Times

March 21, 2001



### Lee L. Ludwig

Lee Lawrence Ludwig was born on the family homestead south of Rudyard, Montana on May 25th, 1925. His parents were Joseph and Theresa (Velcheck) Ludwig and he was one of eleven children. Lee grew up and received his education in the Rudyard community, graduating from R.H.S. in 1943.

In the fall of 1944 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign during World War II on the battleship, USS Benner, and attained the rank of Fire Controlman 3rd Class. Following his honorable discharge in 1946, he returned to Montana. Lee remained in the Naval Reserves. When the Korean Conflict began in 1950, Lee was called back into the active Navy. Again, he served overseas for another year before receiving his second honorable discharge.

Lee married Barbara M. Pehlke on June 25th, 1955 at Hingham. Barb was a Havre native who was teaching school in Rudyard when they met. They farmed in Rudyard for five years before moving to a farm south of Chinook. Lee began working in the telephone business in 1965; his work took them to Cut Bank where they lived for 11 years. In 1976 they moved to Havre, where Lee retired from Triangle Telephone Cooperative in 1988. The Ludwigs purchased a home in Chester in 1992 to be closer to family. During their 40 years

of married life, they raised a family of three children and numerous grandchildren. Barb died from cancer on March 5th, 1995.

Lee remained in the Chester community and stayed active along the Hi-Line. He began dating a widowed friend from Hingham, Doris (Wilson) Welsh, and they were married on August 5th, 2000. They recently moved to the Blue Sky Villa in Conrad. This winter they traveled south in their motorhome to visit relatives. While visiting a sister in Big Spring, Texas, Lee suffered a heart attack. He was transferred to the Covenant Medical Center at Lubbock (Texas) where he died on the afternoon of Friday (March 9th, 2001). Lee was 75 years old.

Lee was a lifelong Catholic, attending Sacred Heart in Hingham, St. Jude's in Havre, and St. Mary's in Chester. He was a member of the Elks, Eagles, V.F.W., and other lodges. He loved to dance, so he was always on the look-out for anyplace with good music. Other hobbies included traveling, golfing, hunting, fishing, and playing cards (especially pinochle). Lee was an inventor of sorts, be it electrical projects or woodworking, he loved to tinker in his garage. He enjoyed attending family reunions, visiting with friends, and making beef jerky. Being a proverbial "jack-of-all-trades", Lee was a righthand man to anyone who needed him.

He is survived by his wife, Doris of Conrad; one daughter, Gail Matkin (and husband, Kent) of Chester; two sons, Joe Ludwig (and wife, Connie) of The Netherlands and Steve Ludwig (and wife, Stacy) of Dickinson, North Dakota; Doris' two daughters, Judy Larson of Conrad and Kathy Aspevig of Hungry Horse; ten grandchildren, Kendra, Kayla, Kurt, Nick, Sarah, Mallory, Brittany, Ashley, Scott, and Shari; four great-grandchildren, Tyler, Kyle, Zachary, and Katelynn; two brothers, Tom

Ludwig of Chester and Ted Ludwig of Camarillo, California; five sisters, Virgie Toner of Gildford, Evelyn Little of Helena, Irene McMaster of Spokane, Washington, Ruth Simon of Seattle, Washington, and Lorraine Shirley of Big Spring, Texas; and numerous nephews and nieces. Lee was preceded in death not only by his first wife and parents, but also by two brothers (Joe and Roger Ludwig) and one sister (Ethel Carr).

Vigil Prayers were recited by Father Joseph Diekhans at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday (March 13th) at Rockman Funeral Chapel. A coffee hour followed at the home of Tom and Pat Ludwig.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated by Father Joe at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester. Pianist, Richie Hamel, accompanied St. Mary's Choir and other friends, who performed "The Wind Beneath My Wings", "You Are Mine", "Loving and Forgiving", "Prayer of St. Francis", "On Eagle's Wings", and "How Great Thou Art". Nephew, Jerry Toner, sang a solo, "Ave Marie". Ushers were Walt Myers and Fred Rigg. Altar server was Dan Hybner and Scripture reader was Terry Hybner. Communion gifts were presented by Kayla Matkin, Mallory Ludwig, Holly Haas, and Heather Haas. Eucharistic Ministers were Pat Ludwig, Joan Jensen, and Mary Lou Klobofski. The eulogist was Shari Richter. Pallbearers included Roger Haas, Pat Carr, Mike Carr, Dave Toner, Larry Little, Brian Ludwig, Jimmy Culp, and Tim McMaster. Honorary bearers were Bob Johnson, Robert Pugsley Sr., Bob Toner Sr., Walt Myers, Fred Rigg, Cliff Hanson, Dick Ditmar, Jim Carr, Bud Een, Vic Ulmen, and other friends and family. Interment was at the Chester Cemetery, where the military flag was presented by Lee's godson, Pat Carr. A luncheon followed at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester. Memorials will be given to the Rudyard Museum or donor's choice...

## CATHERINE M. MANGOLD

Born: August 15, 1922 - Died: March 2, 2001

Liberty County Times

March 14, 2001

### *Catherine Mangold*

Catherine M. Mangold, age 78, resident of Havre and formerly of Hingham, died March 2, 2001 at a Havre Care Center of natural causes. A memorial service was held Tuesday March 6 at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland & Bonine Funeral Chapel with Father Robert D. Grosch officiating. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to: The Montana Hope Project, 111 Street W, Room 206, Havre, MT 59501.

Catherine was born August 15, 1922 to John A. and Angeline C. (Godillep) Lipp in Goldstone, Montana. She attended school in Hingham, Montana and graduated from Hingham High School in 1941.

She married Andrew Mangold October 28, 1942 in Hingham. The couple made their home and raised their children in Hingham. Catherine resided in Hingham until her husband passed away in 1990 then she moved to Havre. She then moved to the Care Center in 1997.

Catherine was busy in her early life not only raising a family but she also worked outside of the home. She cooked at the Hingham school and worked at Sandvig Brothers in Rudyard. Her hobbies included most importantly her grandchildren—all eight of them, sewing, baking, and crocheting. She raised African Violets and other indoor plants.

Her parents and her beloved Andrew preceded her in death in 1990. She is survived by a daughter Maureen Wood of Dillon, MT; a son William J. Mangold of Havre, MT; three sisters: Elizabeth Crites of Anaheim, CA, Anna Lipp of Havre, and Christine Bohl of Ft. Benton; a sister-in-law Molly Mangold of Billings; and a brother-in-law Charles Cross of Rudyard. She has eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews.

Services and arrangements under the direction of Holland & Bonine Funeral Home.



## MARY CHARLOTTE MATHERS

Born: January 30, 1922 - Died: August 26, 2001

Liberty County Times

September 12, 2001

### ***Charlotte Mathers***

Mary Charlotte Mathers, age 79 of Miles City, wife of Bill, passed away on Sunday, August 26, 2001 in Miles City.

Charlotte was born January 30, 1922 in Amarillo, Texas. The daughter of Charlotte Ingham and Millard Word, Charlotte received college degrees from Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri, and West Texas State University in Canyon, Texas. She taught English in Canadian, Texas where she met her husband Bill Mathers. They were married on the SJ Ranch near Clarendon, Texas on June 16, 1946. They ranched near Canadian until the summer of 1951 when they moved to Miles City, Montana to establish the Mathers Brothers Ranch with Frank and Betty Mathers.

In 1979 Charlotte and Bill helped their daughter Margaret and her husband Mike Novak purchase the County Fair Supermarket in Chester, Montana. She and Bill made numerous trips annually, and followed Chester school sports while their grandchildren were in school.

Charlotte enjoyed a wide range of activities. She was an elder and deacon in the First Presbyterian Church-Miles City, where she was a member of Presbyterian Women, Deborah Circle, a Sunday School teacher, and director of the Sunshine Choir for children.

Charlotte led Brownie and Girl Scout Troops for all five of her daughters. She was a member of Chapter K PEO and Republican Women. She was also affiliated with Montana CowBelles, served as President of the Legislative Wives, and volunteered in various civic efforts including the Custer County Art Center, the Community Concert Series, and the Holy Rosary Hospital Charity Balls.

Charlotte was preceded in death by her parents, and brothers Bob Word and Millard Word.

She is survived by her husband William L. Mathers of Miles City; five daughters: Margaret Novak (Mike) of Chester, Sharon Secor (Gary) of Fargo, North Dakota, Barbara Mathers-Schmidt (Bob) of Bellingham, Washington, Libby Gardner (Marshall) of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Mimi Meredith (Greg) of Phoenix, Arizona; 13 grandchildren including: Bill and Andrea Novak, Jennifer, Laura, and Emily Secor and Molly Secor Turner (Ryan), Jonathan and Michael Schmidt, Erin and Kelly Gardner, and William, Patrick, and Mary Charlotte Meredith.

Should friends desire, memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church.

## ESTHER GLADYS (GUNDERSON) McCLELLAN

Born: September 17, 1917 - Died: May 6, 2001



### **Esther McClellan**

Esther Gladys (Gunderson) McClellan was born on the family homestead north of Chester on September 17th, 1917. She was the only daughter of three children born to George and Ellen (Ottem) Gunderson. Esther grew up on the family homestead (25 miles north of Chester) and attended the Bears Den Country School. She graduated from Joplin High School in 1934, then continued her education at Northern Montana College in Havre for one year.

Esther married W.E. "Ed" McClellan on October 4, 1935 at Kalispell. They made their home on the McClellan farm north of Joplin where Esther worked as a farm wife, homemaker, and mother of twin daughters. In 1948 they moved to Joplin where they owned and operated McClellan Implement, a farm equipment dealership, until their retirement in 1963. They purchased a cabin at Lakeside; during the next 30 years they spent their summers in the Flathead Valley and their winters in Joplin. When Ed died on April 7th, 1993 the McClellan's had been married 58 years.

Esther continued to spend summer months at the lake until her health began to fail in 1998. She moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester in the spring of 2000. She died at the nursing home on the early morning of Sunday (May 6th, 2001). Esther was 83 years old.

### Liberty County Times

May 16, 2001

She was a charter member of the Immanuel Lutheran church north of Joplin and remained dedicated to this church throughout her life. She also attended Bethel Church in Joplin where she taught Sunday School and was active in the Ladies Aide. During the summer months they attended the Eidsvoid Lutheran Church and the Lakeside Chapel. Family records indicate she was baptized in 1919 and confirmed in 1944.

Ester was active in many organizations. A longtime member of the Liberty County Hospital Guild, she personally sewed 1247 bibs for the nursing home. She was a member of the Havre Elks, the Chester R.N.A. (Royal Neighbors of America), and the Montana Coast Guard Auxiliary at Lakeside. She was also active in the Red Cross organization during their early years in Joplin. Esther enjoyed music throughout her life. In her younger days she played the piano and sang in duets at church and social functions. In more recent years she was partial to Country Western music. Other interests included flower gardening, bowling, fishing, boating, and cards especially Pan and Whist. She also enjoyed traveling; she and Ed took many memorable trips to Hawaii and Las Vegas. Esther was an avid fan of professional sports, especially baseball, and her favorite team was the "Dodgers". She also kept up on

local high school sports. She was an exceptional cook; everything she baked was wonderful according to her family, but they will never forget her delicious buns, banana breads, and pies! During her quiet time at home Esther enjoyed listening to music, watching television, or reading. Her favorite TV show was "Frasier". She felt it was important to keep up on celebrities, athletes, and politicians via one of her favorite publications, "The National Enquirer".

On a more serious note, Esther's family and friends will remember her always as a compassionate, considerate, generous, and caring lady.

She is survived by 2 daughters and their spouses, Gloria and Jerry Thorson of Joplin and Gail and Gordon Kaaiakamanu of Kaneohe, Hawaii; five grandchildren including: Karl Kammerzell, Tate and Cody Thorson, and Jeremy and Tara 'Kaaiakamanu; two great-granddaughters (Khloe and Katey Kammerzell); and numerous nieces and nephews. Esther was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two brothers (Eddie and Doug Gunderson), and a grandchild (Casey Thorson).

Funeral services were conducted at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday (May 9th) at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin by Reverend Tim Singleton. The eulogy and scripture readings were shared by Dale Gunderson (nephew). Tammy Duncan served as organist and the congregation sang "Just As I Am" and "Beautiful Savior". Nephew, Leonard Gunderson, performed "The Lord's Prayer" and the Gunderson family lead the congregation in "How Great Thou Art". Ushers were Larry Olson and Robert Wehr. Pallbearers were Don Rocks, Paul Wolery, Lysie James, Ron Wolery, Gordon Kammerzell, and Tim Tempel. Interment was at

the Joplin cemetery; a balloon ceremony was held during a taped Hawaiian song entitled "Wanting Memories". A luncheon followed at Kjos Hall. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel.

## VERN JOSEPH McDANIEL

Born: March 10, 1929 - Died: July 28, 2001

Liberty County Times

August 22, 2001



**Vern McDaniel**

Vernon Joseph McDaniel was born on the family homestead 38 miles north of Chester, Montana on March 10th, 1929. His parents were Clarence and Margaret (Loehr) McDaniel, and he was one of 11 in the family.

Vern received his early education at the Laird School near the farm, then finished his schooling in Joplin, graduating from J.H.S. in 1946. In the few years that followed, he worked on Colby and Tempel farms north of Joplin.

Vern enlisted into the U.S. Army in 1951 during the Korean Conflict. He attained the rank of Sergeant and served in the Infantry at "Heartbreak Ridge" for six months. He was honorably discharged in 1953 and transferred to the Army Reserves.

Vern returned to Montana and began farming for Lynn Edwards at Joplin. He eventually leased the Edwards place and worked as a Montana farmer throughout his life.

He married Lucille Will Schauer on January 2nd, 1981 at Twin Falls, Idaho. Their summer months were spent on the farm and their winter months were spent at their Joplin home. Vern suffered from adult onset diabetes dating back to his early 30's. He had heart bypass surgery in 1988 and a kidney transplant in 1989. Still he continued to farm until 1992, when his health forced him to retire. Vern died peacefully at his Joplin home on the early morning on Friday (August 17th, 2001). He was 72 years old.

Vern was baptized and confirmed member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church north of Joplin. He had also been active in the Chester V.F.W. Post #3997.

Hobbies during his life included hunting, fishing, bowling, snowmobiling, and camping. In his quiet time at home Vern enjoyed reading farm publications (especially the "Prairie Star") and watching the "Discovery Channel" on television. He looked forward to social times with friends and his favorite card games, *pan* and *rummy*. In his retirement years vern enjoyed woodworking, "tinkering in his shop", and working in his yard.

Survivors include his wife of 20 years, Lucille of Joplin; one brother Clarence ("Charlie") McDaniel of Havre; one sister Joyce Tempel of Chester; one half-brother James Wood of Galata; one half-sister Olive Svenson of Joplin; six step-

children, Delane Thompson of Minot No. Dakota, Al Schauer of Bismarck, No. Dakota, Bill Schauer of Sterling, No. Dakota, Fred Schauer of Dickinson, No. Dakota, Michael Schauer of Mandan, No. Dakota, and Mary Kay Ulven of Grand Rapids, Michigan; eight step-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces. Vern was preceded in death by his parents, his twin sister (Verna Wood), two brothers (Earl and Alvie McDaniel), his half sister (Leora Ness), and two half brothers (Raymond and Edgar Wood).

Funeral services were held at 11:00 am Tuesday (August 21st) at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin. Reverend Tim Singleton conducted. Tammy Duncan served as pianist and the congregation sang "The Old Rugged Cross". Vocalist, Carol Bangs, performed "Precious Lord Take My Hand". Selected recessional songs were "Mansion on the Hilltop" and "Peace in the Valley". Pallbearers were Elsworth Graff, Duane Fraser, Ted Tempel, Charles Fraser, Don Rudolph, and James Fraser. Usher was Arnie Woods.

Burial with military rites was held at the family plot at the Chester Cemetery. Russ Tempel made the flag presentation. A luncheon followed at Kjos Hall. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

## FLORENCE INEZ (SODERHOLM) MEYER

Born: October 13, 1912 - Died: May 29, 2001

Liberty County Times

June 6, 2001



### Inez Meyer

Florence Inez (Soderholm) Meyer was born at Willow City, North Dakota on October 13th, 1912. She was the only child of Walter Soderholm and Florence Bowerman. Inez grew up at Wenatchee, Washington and received her early education there. Just after obtaining her driver's license at age 15, Inez drove her mother from Wenatchee to Rudyard (Montana), where her father had come earlier to start a business. Inez finished her education at Rudyard High School. During her senior year she was a starting guard on the girl's basketball team; the team won the Hi-Line Tournament and Inez was awarded the "free throw" trophy.

Inez married Donald George Meyer in Hingham on June 19th, 1933. They made their home in Inverness, where Don worked in a family partnership called "Mike Meyer & Son" (this was a farming operation, machinery sales, service station, and bulk fuel business). Inez worked diligently as a homemaker and mother of two. The Meyers lived in Inverness until 1981, then moved to Havre where Donald owned and operated the North Central Insurance Agency. After 66 years of marriage, Donald died on March 11th, 2000. Inez sold her Havre home

and moved to the Sweetgrass Lodge in Chester to be closer to her daughter and family. Several months later she suffered a debilitating stroke and she eventually moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester. Inez recently transferred to the Chester Hospital where she died on the afternoon of Tuesday (May 29th, 2001). She was 88 years old.

Inez was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Altar Society of Inverness. Other memberships included W.I.F.E. of Inverness and the Northern Montana Hospital Auxiliary, Elks Lodge, and Eagles Club of Havre.

The Meyers travelled south during the winter months for many years; they especially enjoyed their trips to Hemet (California), Phoenix (Arizona), and Las Vegas (Nevada).

Inez had many hobbies over the years. She was an avid bowler in her prime and attended many state and national bowling tournaments. She also loved music and dancing, especially square-dancing. She enjoyed playing cards, Dominoes, and board-games. She loved to fish on Flathead Lake and was always quite lucky in filling her limit.

During her quiet time at home, Inez enjoyed working on various art projects. She made many beautiful ceramics and did some exceptional oil paintings. Inez was always proud of her home and was an immaculate housekeeper. She enjoyed cooking; her specialties were cakes and desserts.

Inez loved to get into her car and drive; even though she was known to be "a little heavy on the accelerator", she never got a ticket throughout her life! Most of her trips were shopping excursions to Herberger's (her favorite store in recent years). Inez could literally "shop 'til she dropped"! She loved clothes and always looked good; that's probably why her husband affectionately called her "Foxy Grandma"!

Inez is survived by her son, Darryl Meyer (and wife, Gail) of Great Falls; her daughter, Fay Wolfe (and husband, Roger) of Chester; seven grandchildren, including Becky Smith, Michael Meyer, Jason Meyer, Nanci Stocker, Donald Wolfe, Russell Wolfe, and Justin Wolfe; ten great-grandchildren; three sisters-in-law, LaVern McFadden of Great Falls, Claudette Alex of Inverness, and Eileen Han of Inverness; and numerous nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated by Father Joseph Diekhans at 11:00 a.m. Saturday (June 2nd) at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Inverness. Special music was provided by Iris White, Marcus Jochim, Dana Phillips, Doral Anderson, and Leota Hansen. Songs included "Ave Maria", "In the Garden", "Amazing Grace", and "Pania Angelicus". The service concluded with a taped selection by Eric Clapton, "Tears in Heaven". Greeters were Don Wolfe, Jason Meyer, and Russell Wolfe. Altar Server was Dennis Mangold. Reader was Justin Wolfe and eulogist was Michael Meyer. The communion gifts were presented by Nanci Stocker and Becky Smith. Eucharistic ministers were Bev, Vern, and Una Moog. A luncheon followed the services.

Her ashes will be interred in the Highland "Calvary" Cemetery in Havre. Arrangements and cremation by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester. Memorials will be given to the the HiLine Health Foundation or donor's choice...

## FRANCES JANETTE MOORE

Born: July 6, 1909 - Died: February 26, 2001

Liberty County Times

March 7, 2001



### Frances Moore

Frances Janette Moore was born in the old experimental farm house just north of Chester, Montana on July 6, 1909. She was one of eight children born to Lillie May Smith and Edmond Dodds Keith. Frances received her early education in Chester. In 1920 the Keith family moved to Oxford, Kansas to care for her mother's parents. Frances finished her education there, graduating from Oxford High School in 1927.

She married Charles Brown on July 16, 1927 in Kansas. Charles worked in the oil fields and Frances attended Southwestern College at Winfield, Kansas for a short while. They also farmed and raised cattle in the Winfield community for many years. In addition they owned and operated an apartment building. Frances also worked as an Avon representative and a Stanley dealer for several years. Her husband Charles died in 1952.

Frances married her second husband Lloyd Moore, on January 16, 1953. They lived together in Winfield until Lloyd's death in 1959. A few years later Frances began working as a housekeeper at the Winfield Hospital. She retired in 1974.

In the late 1970s Frances attended a Bible camp in Wisconsin. She loved her experience at the camp, so she spent several years as a part-time worker in maintenance and housekeeping at the Bible camp.

She continued to live in Winfield until her health began to decline in 1990, when she moved back to Montana to be closer to relatives. She resided at the Sweetgrass Retirement Lodge in Chester until 1995, then transferred to the rest home. Frances died at the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester on the afternoon of Monday, February 26, 2001. She was 91 years old.

Frances' hobbies were many. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, cooking, ceramics, and traveling. In addition she liked to play board games and cards, especially Cribbage and Pitch, work crossword puzzles, and paint watercolors.

Frances was raised in the Methodist faith during her early years in Montana. After moving to Kansas, she became active in the Baptist Church. When she came back to Chester in the 1990s, she attended

the Methodist Church. Religion was an important part of her life. When she could no longer attend church services, Frances continued to reserve her Sundays for personal worship by watching televangelists and other religious shows.

Frances was a scholar of the Bible and could quote many of the scriptures. She had GREAT FAITH and always relied on her Lord to 'carry her through life.' Even during her last few weeks at the nursing home, Frances sang the old-time hymns from memory and enjoyed the reading of spiritual and scriptural selections.

Frances had no children, however, she was very fond of a foster child Beverly Leffingwell of Wichita, Kansas. Her only survivors are nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews. Local relatives include Una Moog of Inverness, Kay Alley of Joplin, Ina Belle Furlong of LaHabra, California, Earl Keith of Chester, Noel Furlong of Kalispell, Lois Ereth of Oregon, and Claudine Smith of Great Falls.

Frances was preceded in death not only by her husbands and parents, but also by her brother Miles Keith and her six sisters: Evelyn Keith, Mollie Keith, Ellen Alley, Ina Furlong, Lola Zimmerman, and Mabel Graber.

Funeral services were held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1, 2001 at the Liberty County Nursing Home Activities Room. Rev. Kama Morton conducted the service and sang several favorite hymns, including "Softly and Tenderly," "In the Garden," and "The Old Rugged Cross." The pianist was Richie Hamel. Una Moog shared a special reading. Pallbearers were Robert Moog, Rob Moog, Neal Eveland,

Steve Ghekere, and Gale Christenot. Honorary bearers were staff and friends at the nursing home. Burial was at the Chester Cemetery. A coffee hour followed at the nursing home. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester. Memorials will be given to the Liberty County Hospital and Nursing Home, Chester.

## GAIL S. NUSSBAUM

Born: June 24, 1938 - Died: February 3, 2001

Liberty County Times

February 14, 2001

### ***Gail Nussbaum***

Gail S. Nussbaum, age 62, passed away on Saturday February 3, 2001 in Somers, Montana.

Gail was born June 24, 1938 in Chester, Montana to Arthur and Lucille Lyders Kammerzell. She attended schools in Chester, graduating from Chester High School in 1956. Gail attended the University of Montana at Missoula, graduating in 1960.

Gail married Walter Nussbaum in the fall of 1960. She taught elementary school in Billings for several years. In 1969 she moved to Whitefish where she worked as a bookkeeper. Gail was very instrumental in the fund raising effort for the building of North Valley Hospital. She was always involved in fund raising and charity work in the Flathead valley. She had over 1700 hours as a volunteer at Kalispell Regional Medical Center since 1994.

Later she moved to Havre, Montana where she worked for Montana Workman's Compensation. In 1985 Gail retired and returned to the Flathead valley, where once again she became involved in char-

ity work. She truly loved her volunteer work.

Gail was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her children and their spouses: daughter Jamie and Charles Holt of Atlanta, Georgia, two sons Mike and Lynette Nussbaum of Leigh, Nebraska, and Wes and Kimberly Nussbaum of Billings, Montana; five grandchildren; two brothers: Gordon Kammerzell and John Kammerzell both of Chester; two sisters Linda Aasheim of Tacoma, Washington, and Kay Warner of Havre; numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of her life was held at 1:00 pm Thursday February 8, 2001 at Northridge Lutheran Church

with Rev. Dan Heskett officiating. Memorials may be made to Caring Hands, 860 N Meridian Rd B1, Kalispell, MT 59801.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home caring for the family.

## BENHARD (BEN) ORAW

Born: August 17, 1913 - Died: January 26, 2001

Liberty County Times

January 31, 2001



### Ben Oraw

Benhard 'Ben' Oraw was born August 17, 1913 at his parents' homestead 14 miles northwest of Chester, Montana. He was one of three children born to Joseph and Wilhelmina (Erbe) Oraw, who were

immigrants from Estonia. Ben's early education was at the country school near the farm. He finished his schooling in Tiber and Chester, graduating from Chester High School in 1930. In the years that followed, he farmed with his father and brother; he eventually acquired a place of his own. To supplement his income Ben worked for several local farmers/ranchers, including Dodds Keith, John Oswood, Karl Jeppesen, and Mike Kammerzell. In the mid-1930s he drove a gravel truck in the construction of the 'Going-to-the-Sun' highway at Glacier Park.

During the outbreak of World War II, Ben was drafted into the US Army in 1942. He studied radar mechanics and served in the 680th Bombardment Squadron of the Army Air Corps. At the time of his honorable discharge in 1945, he had attained the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Ben returned to his Montana farm, the place he made his livelihood and home from that time on. He married Lilly M. Anderson on November 7, 1945 at Great Falls. They raised three sons on their Liberty County farm. Ben remained active in the farming operations until last year when his lung condition worsened. He has lived at the Liberty County Nursing Home for the past seven months. Ben died at the Chester hospital from complications of emphysema on Friday morning January 26, 2001. He was 87 years old.

Ben was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester and had served on the church council. He was one of the first members on the Liberty County Cemetery Board, and held that position for many years. In addition he was a long-time member of the Liberty County ASCS committee. Ben was also a 4-H leader for ten years and served on the Marias Fair 4-H Beef committee.

Ben and Lilly were charter members of the Big Sky Promenaders Square Dancing Club for 22 years. They also belonged to a Round Dancing Club, which resulted in many enjoyable trips to dances and festivals. In addition the Oraws took many memorable trips/tours to Florida, California, Nevada, Hawaii, Alaska, the Caribbean, and six countries in Europe. They spent several winters in Mesa, Arizona and Hemet, California.

In his earlier years Ben enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, boating, and water-skiing. The Oraws always looked forward to their summertime trips to Flathead Lake and Glacier Park. In later years their travel trailer took them to Glacier, Yellowstone, and the Canadian parks. Ben loved to attend rodeos—the Calgary Stampede and the National Finals in Las Vegas were his favorites.

During his quiet time at home Ben loved to read, especially farm publications, play cards mainly Solitaire, and watch television—

some of his favorite shows were wrestling, boxing, and rodeo shows. Probably his greatest enjoyment was simply tinkering in his shop. He was an exceptional handyman with the natural ability to build almost anything from scratch.

Ben is survived by his wife of 55 years Lilly of Chester; three sons: Calvin and wife Virginia of Sidney, Steven of Chester, and Rodney and wife Jean of Chester; six grandchildren including Holly, Joel, Melissa, Bradley, Lyndsey, and Jordan; one sister Theresa Rughtvedt of Sparks, Nevada; one sister-in-law Victoria Staudacher of Chester; one brother-in-law Vern Anderson of Helena; and numerous nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Oscar.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 30, 2001 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester, with Rev. Peter Erickson officiating. The congregation sang "How Great Thou Art," accompanied by organist Tammy Duncan. Vocalist/guitarist Bryan Oswood performed "Amazing Grace," and

"Peace in the Valley." Ushers were Bob Mattson and Walt Wicks. Pallbearers were two grandsons Brad and Joel Oraw, and Ed Staudacher, Bob Hurley, Jim Steven, and Brian Romain. Memorial bearers were listed as Ben's special nurses and CNAs at the LCH&NH, his former square-dancing friends, and all of his neighbors. The eulogy was shared by son Steve. Granddaughters Holly Oraw Meagher, and Melissa Oraw read scriptures and personal thoughts. Burial with military rites followed in the Chester Cemetery. A luncheon was held at the church.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. Memorials will be given to Hi-Line Health Foundation, the LCH&NH, Our Savior's Lutheran Church or donor's choice.

## MARGARET VIRGINIA (SPARKS) PETERSON

Born: June 2, 1918 - Died: August 6, 2001

Liberty County Times

August 15, 2001



### **Margaret Peterson**

Margaret Virginia (Sparks) Peterson, age 83, died Monday morning (August 6th, 2001) at the Benefis East Medical Center in Great Falls. Margaret was one of six children born to Everette Sparks and J.L. "Jimmy" Craven. She was born at Jenner, Alberta, Canada on June 2nd, 1918. She grew up at Wetaskiin, Alberta and received her formal education through grade 8. In the years that followed Margaret worked as a nurses aide at the Provincial Hospitals in Ponoka and Claresholm.

She married Ralph O Peterson in Canada on October 28th, 1944. They moved to the Peterson farm north of Inverness where Margaret worked as a homemaker and mother of four. The Petersons retired from farming in 1978 and

moved to Inverness in 1988. After Ralph's death in 1989, Margaret continued to live in their Inverness home. This past May she was diagnosed with cancer. She recently moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester. Last week she was transferred to the Great Falls hospital for intensive care.

Margaret was deeply involved in the life of her community. When her children were in school, she was active in the P.T.A., 4-H clubs, and she taught Bible School and Sunday School. She enjoyed all of the school activities and was always willing to volunteer or chaperone whenever needed. Margaret was also a member of the Farmer's Union, Home Demonstrations Clubs, Hill County Democratic Women, and the Liberty County Hospital Guild. In the late 1960's and early 1970's she worked as a nurses aide at the Chester nursing home; in recent years she worked as a volunteer at the hospital U-Shoppe.

A loyal member of the United Methodist Church in Inverness, Margaret was extremely active in the United Methodist Women Group. She held district and conference offices, and traveled all over the U.S. to regional and national meetings. A highlight of her life was a trip to Kenya, Africa in 1981 when she was proud to be part of the delegation of the U.M.W.

Quilting was her favorite hobby in recent years; she enjoyed quilt shows, quilt classes and creating quilts to give to others. She also enjoyed crocheting, knitting, and sewing. Other interests included gardening, jigsaw puzzles, crafts, and a collection of depression glassware. Margaret was a self-taught pianist who played by ear. She loved to read and had a wide-range of interest; she always kept up to date on political, social action, and other issues. And last but not least, she had an exceptional memory for people, places and events.

Margaret is survived by her four children James Peterson (and wife Diane) of Galesburg, Illinois, Loween Peterson of Billings, Janice Lincoln (and husband Art) of Kalispell, and Robert Peterson of Staten Island, New York; one foster daughter Janet Dancer Walsh of Malta; four grandchildren, Joy Aimee Peterson of Portland, Oregon, Michael Eisenmen (and wife Miriah) of Manassas, Virginia, and Katerine and Axel Peterson of Galesburg Illinois; one great-grandson, Anker Eisenman; one brother, Edward Sparks of Sacramento, California; a special cousin, Mary Adelaide Burchell of Calgary, Alberta; and four nephews. Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, parents, one sister (Wilma Loween Abel), three infant siblings and two nieces.

Memorial services were 11:00 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 9th at the Inverness United Methodist Church. Reverend Kama Morton officiated and Roger Lincoln provided the eulogy. Selected congregational hymns included "Amazing Grace", Hymn of Promise", and Precious Lord Take My Hand"; accompaniment was provided by organist Sharon Woods and pianist Shirley Boley. A vocal tribute by Marcus Jochim, "Be Still My Soul", was assisted by organist Iris White. Memorial bearers included members of the Inverness U.M.C.,

Wayne Spicher, Ken Monilaws, and her many friends and neighbors in the community. A luncheon followed the services.

Private committal services and burial of ashes was 7:00 Thursday evening at the Inverness Cemetery. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

Memorials will be given to the Intermountain Children's Home in Helena OR Donor's choice.



EVELYN MARIE (DAHLER) PIERSON

Born: September 7, 1924 - Died: June 27, 2001

Liberty County Times

July 25, 2001

***Evelyn Pierson***

Evelyn Marie Pierson, age 76, passed away on June 27, 2001 at the Kallispell Regional Medical Center.

Evelyn was born on September 7, 1924 in Joplin, Montana to Martin and Nellie Dahler. She attended schools in Joplin, graduating from Joplin High School in 1942.

Evelyn married Clyde Pierson on July 3, 1953 in Sandpoint, Idaho. She had worked for Glacier Dairy for seven years, and worked as the bookkeeper for Clyde Pierson Trucking until 1978, then worked for Western States Insurance until she retired in 1990.

She was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church, Evergreen Fireman's Ladies Auxiliary, Helena Flats Ladies Group, and the Montana Log Truckers Association.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

Evelyn is survived by three sons: Lloyd and wife Eileen Pierson, Tracy Pierson, and Layne and wife Shelly Pierson, all of Kallispell; two daughters: Joy and husband Bert Baldauf of Somers, Montana, and Lynne and husband Ron Gibson of San Antonio, Texas; eight grandchildren; one brother Lloyd Dahler and his wife Betty of Atlanta, Georgia; numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was from 10:00 am until Noon on Saturday June 30, 2001 at the Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services were at 5:00 pm on Saturday at Calvary Lutheran Church in Evergreen with the Rev. Bob Nilsen officiating.

Burial followed at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kallispell with a reception after the service at the Evergreen Fire Hall.

The family has requested memorials in her name be given to Calvary Lutheran Church.

Arrangements under the direction of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

## PERCY FRANKLIN "TINY" PIMLEY

**Born: March 3, 1933 – Died: November 1, 2001**

**Liberty County Times**

**December 19, 2001**

### *Percy Pimley*

Percy Franklin (Tiny) Pimley of Minden, Nevada, died at the Carson-Tahoe Hospital in Nevada on November 1, 2001.

He was born March 3, 1933 in Joplin, Montana to Percy Francis and Estella Jesse Skonard Pimley. He married Helen Seidel November 3, 1956 in Havre. They moved to the Carson City/Minden, Nevada area in 1964.

Funeral services were held November 7, 2001 at the Waltons Chapel of the Valley in Carson City, Nevada, with interment at the Waltons Carson Gardens Cemetery in Carson City.

Percy worked in the construction industry. He was a past member of Labor Union 169 and a member of the American Association of Retired Persons.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting and spending time with his children.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 41 years Helen in 1998, his parents, and brothers Jesse, Anson and Orville.

He is survived by his son Mark of Minden, Jane Heaser of Ridgecrest, California, Ruth Johnson, Susan Batty and Anna Maltox of Carson City, Ellen Albitzer and Judy Pierce of Dayton, Nevada; brothers Vern and Don of Joplin, Montana; sisters Viola Ness of Hingham, Montana and Joyce Easton of Conrad, Montana; and 13 grandchildren as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

## ELEANOR IRENE RATHBUN

Born: September 1, 1905 - Died: May 3, 2001

Liberty County Times

May 9, 2001



### ***Eleanor Rathbun***

Eleanor Irene Rathbun, 95 years of age, died Thursday May 3, 2001 at a Havre care center of natural causes. Funeral services were at 11:00 am Tuesday May, 2001 at Messiah Lutheran Church with pastor Tim Hauge officiating. Burial followed at the Highland Cemetery. Fellowship followed burial at Messiah Lutheran Church. Memorials in Eleanor's honor may be made to: Hi-

line Ambulance Service, c/o Bobbie Langel, Box 64, Rudyard, MT 59540, or to a person's choice. Services and arrangements under the direction of Holland and Bonine Funeral Home.

Eleanor was born September 1, 1905 to Anthony J. and Nettie (Greb) Alex at Kensal, North Dakota. Eleanor moved with her family from Kensal in 1912 to homestead northwest of Hingham. She attended North Hingham Grade School, Hingham and Rudyard High Schools.

On October 6, 1924 Eleanor married Earl "Pat" Rathbun in Havre. This was a double ceremony with Phillip "Jim" Rathbun and Aleta Citkus. After marriage, Eleanor and Pat farmed in Hingham. Eleanor and Pat Rathbun had three children. They moved to the city of Hingham in the early 1940s and continued to farm until the 1970s. Her husband passed away in June 1985. She remained in Hingham until November 1989 at which time she moved to the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre.

Eleanor enjoyed crocheting, knitting, bowling, baking bread, making doughnuts and playing Bingo. She was active in Royal Neighbors and the Odd Fellows.

Eleanor was preceded in death by

her parents, husband, five brothers: Eddie, Harry, Tony, John, and Glen Alex; one sister Myrtle Ditmar; an infant daughter Irene Rathbun; and great-grandson Jason Groseclose.

She is survived by her daughter Carole Anderson of Kalispell; son Robert and Barbara Rathbun of Gildford; sister Mildred Sedivy; and eight grandchildren including: Bill Rathbun, Beverly Groseclose, Frank Zabaleta, Kitty Zabaleta, Patrick Anderson, Lori Johnson, Diane Sibley, and Kelley Anderson; 15 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

## H. JACK RHODES

Born: October 22, 1911 - Died: August 2, 2001

Liberty County Times

August 8, 2001



### **H. Jack Rhodes**

H. Jack Rhodes was born October 22, 1911 at Sandy Center, Texas. He was one of nine children born to Robert and Alice (Walker) Rhodes. Jack grew up in Arkansas and received his formal education there. He moved to southern California and began working as a plumber. He was engaged in the plumbing trade throughout his life.

Jack married Mary E. Hooter in California in 1950. They traveled and worked in the southern United States. They lived at Pineville, Louisiana for four years. Jack was injured while working at Fallon, Nevada so he retired in 1965. The Rhodes' moved to

Dennison, Texas where Jack worked part-time as a car salesman for his son Robert. They came to Sheridan, Montana in 1985 to live closer to their youngest son Jack. They moved to Rudyard in 1991 and have lived there since.

Jack's health remained fairly good until this past year. He recently moved to the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre, where he died peacefully on the evening of Thursday August 2, 2001. He was 89 years old.

Jack is a recovered alcoholic and a proud member of Alcoholics Anonymous dating back to 1962. He was also proud to help organize a Boy Scout troop in Louisiana and served as a Scoutmaster for several years. After moving to Rudyard, Jack enjoyed helping at his son's store, Jack's Grocery, where he worked diligently in the produce department. Although Jack was self-educated and had very little training, he was a fast learner and developed many skills. For instance, during the short time he sold automobiles he became an exceptional car salesman!

Jack's hobbies were many. He loved to fish. He enjoyed playing cards, especially Poker. He collected rocks and antique bottles. Before his eyesight failed, he was

an avid reader; in recent years he enjoyed 'books on tape.' His favorite readings were mysteries, and his favorite author was Agatha Christy. He also enjoyed working in his vegetable garden or 'linkering' in his garage.

Jack is survived by his wife of 51 years, Mary Rhodes of Rudyard; one daughter Mary Mathews and husband Ben of Apple Valley, California; five sons: Daniel and wife Karen of Glendora, California, Arthur and wife Pam of LeGrande, Oregon, Robert and wife Gloria of McKinney, Texas, Thomas of Fallon, Nevada, and Jack and wife Jane of Rudyard; 12 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; one sister Roberta VanDerheagen of Little Rock, Arkansas; and numerous nephews and nieces. Jack was preceded in death by his parents, by two brothers, and by five sisters.

"Softly and Tenderly." Pallbearers were Mark Rhodes, Darrold Hutchinson, Dan Redding, Lyle Harrison, Ken Watson, and Dave Strissel.

Following burial at the Rudyard Cemetery, a luncheon was held at the church. Memorials will be given to the Hill County Hospice in Havre. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 pm Saturday August 25, 2001 at the Cornerstone Bible Church in Glendora, California. Rev. Donald Shoff will officiate and Jack's son Daniel, will read scripture passages.

Funeral services were 10:00 am Monday August 6, 2001 at Calvary Evangelical Church in Rudyard with Pastor Nolan Spent officiating. Scripture readings were shared by grandchildren Anne and Mark Rhodes. The eulogist was daughter-in-law Jane Rhodes. Caroline Hall served as pianist and the congregation sang "The Old Rugged Cross," "Amazing Grace," and

## JOHN A. RICHTER, SR.

Born: June 3, 1918 - Died: January 22, 2001

Liberty County Times

January 31, 2001



### **John A. Richter, Sr.**

John A. Richter, Sr. age 82, passed away January 22, 2001 at a Havre Care Center of natural causes. Cremation has taken place. Memorial services were at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2001 at First Lutheran Church. Burial of cremated remains will be at a later date.

John was born June 3, 1918 to George and Margaret (Schwan) Richter at the family homestead at Alma, Montana, the second of 14 children. He was schooled in Alma. John was raised on the family farm, farmed with his father, and joined the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). When his father passed away in 1938 John became, at the age of 19, literally the father of the family. He assumed all the responsibilities and debts of his father, which he worked diligently to repay. To do this, John worked at various jobs around the state, including the railroad, oil fields, and a garage that he opened in Sun River, Montana.

On September 30, 1942 John married Edna "June" Norenberg at Hingham, Montana. To this union six children were born. He and June bought a farm south of Gildford which they operated for several years. After selling the farm, John worked as a mechanic for the remainder of his working career. He worked at Lipp Motors in Hingham for 22 years, AC Supply in Havre and Great Falls for six years, and B&R Implement in Havre for five years. In 1977 John went into business for himself as Richter Farm Service in Havre, MT, which he operated until 1988, when he retired due to medical reasons.

John was considered by many to be the best mechanic in northern Montana, and while operating his business he assisted Robert Bold in teaching diesel mechanics at Northern Montana College. But in John's opinion, as he often told his sons, "You can't learn it all from books, boys, you have to get your hands dirty." At various times, John's three youngest sons worked with him in the business before pursuing careers of their own. His younger brother Ray also worked for him for a short time.

John is survived by his wife Edna of Havre; daughter Shirley Clouse of Havre; four sons: John A. Jr. and wife Judy Richter of Post Falls, Idaho, Russell and wife Rita of Lolo, Lee Richter of Havre, and Alvin Richter of Petaluma, California; two sisters: Frances Fraser of Joplin, and Virginia and husband Charlie Adams of Inverness; two brothers: Chris and wife Pearl Richter of Hingham, and Frank and wife Grace Richter of Joplin; ten grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a son Ronald Richter, six brothers: Horrionemus, Joe, Jake, George, Ray and Eddy; and four sisters: Margaret Richter, Mary Mader, Lena Shore, and Agnes Mader.

Memorials in John's honor may be made to: American Cancer Society, 1599 Clifton Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 or to American Heart Assoc. 7272 Greenville Ave, Dallas, TX 75231-4596. Services and arrangements were under the direction of the Holland and Bonine Funeral Home, Havre, Montana.

## **JACK F. ROACH**

**Born: May 13, 1916 - Died: November 13, 2001**

**Liberty County Times**

**December 12, 2001**

### ***Jack F. Roach***

Jack Roach, 85, departed this life for the great unknown on 13 November 2001. He died of complications from renal failure in Van Nuys, CA, his home for the past fifty years.

Jack was born on a homestead south of Malta, MT on 13 May 1916, first child and oldest son of Andrew J. (Jack) Roach and Elizabeth (Rust) Roach. While Father Roach was on his way to Malta to fetch a doctor, Elizabeth delivered her son with the aid of her sister. From that moment on to the end of his life, Jack was independent and self-sufficient. (Examples: During his second year in high school, he rode freight trains to Chicago to see the 1933 World's Fair. After graduating he, Walter and Alex Keldrauk, and Joe Bergsieker spent one winter gold prospecting near Johnny, NV.) He grew up in Montana and North Dakota, with schooling in Benedict, ND, Valier, Havre, and Chester, MT. He graduated from Chester High

School in 1935. From then until 1941, Jack served in the Civilian Conservation Corps, worked at home, on farms, attended several trade schools, and was a census taker for Liberty County in the 1940 Census. He entered the US Army in February 1941 as a private, soon was selected for officer training and, upon being commissioned, was posted to the 33rd Signal Division. He saw action in New Guinea and the Philippine Is-

lands. Following his discharge in early 1946 he married his wartime love, Mary Palfi, of New Jersey. He enrolled at the University of California at Los Angeles, graduating with a degree in electrical engineering in 1949. He then began his long career in electrical engineering design, invention, and management. Jack was a senior design engineer at Hughes Aircraft and Lockheed Aircraft for seven years. With Walter Keldrauk and several others, he formed a company that designed and produced precision power supplies and transistor test equipment. Following the sale of that company, he formed a company for the standardization of electronic test equipment. Jack retired in and spent his remaining years with Mary, the true love of his life, in traveling, camping, rock hunting, metal locating (with locators of his design), and gardening.

Jack was preceded in death by his father in 1955 and his mother in 1989. He leaves his wife, Mary, of Van Nuys; brothers Jim (Elaine) of Berryton, KS; Arthur (Mary Jo) of Darby, MT; Bill (Joan) of Hamilton, MT; and sister Jean Heydon Penrod of Hamilton, MT. Jack is buried in the San Fernando Mission Cemetery, San Fernando, CA.

## MARGARET PEGGY (CLARK) ROSS

Born: September 23, 1907 - Died: June 22, 2001

Liberty County Times

June 27, 2001



### **Margaret 'Peggy' Ross**

Margaret 'Peggy' (Clark) Ross was born on September 23, 1907 at Brainard, Minnesota. She was one of five children born to Marten and Josephine (Kroleek) Clark. Peggy grew up in Minnesota and received her education there, graduating from high school in Minneapolis in 1925. In the few years that followed, she worked with two sisters at a greeting card company in the Twin Cities.

Peggy married Donald Arthur Ross on February 4, 1928 at Zimmerman, Minnesota. Don worked in sales for the International Harvester Corporation; his job required frequent moves throughout Minnesota, Wyoming, and Montana. During the mid-1930s while living in Upton, Wyoming, Peggy worked as a mid-wife and helped deliver many babies. Most of her time was dedicated to being a

homemaker and mother of four children. During their years in Montana the Ross' lived in the communities of Billings, Joplin, Missoula, and Florence. Following their retirement in 1976, they moved back to Joplin to be near a daughter and family. They had been happily married for 57 years when Don died in 1985. Peggy remained in her home north of Joplin until her health began to fail in 1996, when she moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester. She recently suffered a stroke and died at the Chester hospital on Friday evening June 22, 2001. She was 93 years old.

The Ross' made many cherished memories and friendships where they went. They were active at the Florence Carlton Community Church for many years; Peggy taught Sunday School and led adult Bible studies. After moving back to the Hi-Line, she enjoyed attending the Alliance Church in Chester.

Her hobbies were many. She enjoyed knitting, vegetable and flower gardening, painting nature scenes and landscapes, and playing 'Scrabble' and Solitaire. In her quiet time at home Peggy loved to read, especially novels and spiritual literature, and she continued to be an avid reader until her recent stroke. She loved people and stayed in close contact with her many friends, even into her later years.

Peggy is survived by two sons: Clark Ross and wife Jocelyn of Galivants Ferry, South Carolina, and Leland Ross and wife Lilly of

Corvallis; two daughters: Dawn Bjornstad and husband Eugene of Joplin, and Glee Clark of Reno, Nevada; 12 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren; one foster son David Rico of El Paso, Texas; one sister Mary Selln of Cambridge, Minnesota; and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Peggy was preceded in death not only by her parents and husband, but also by one brother Christopher Clark, and two sisters Dora Stevenson and Ella Feiger.

Funeral services will be toady (Wednesday) June 27 at 3:00 pm at the Chester Alliance Church. Pastoral family member Dave Beedy will officiate. Special music will be provided by granddaughters Lisa Beedy and Melissa Ross. Pallbearers will be Barney Bjornstad, Robert Bjornstad, Cameron Bjornstad, Mike Ross, Kip Lybeck, and Larry Anderson. Memorial bearers will include the fellow residents, caregivers, and staff at the

Liberty County Nursing Home. A reception will be held at the Alliance Church. Undesignated memorials will be given to the Liberty County Nursing Home.

A memorial service for residents will be held at 10:00 am Friday June 29 at the nursing home. This service will be conducted by Rev. Kama Morton.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

## ALICE ELEANOR (KENFIELD) SANVIK

Born: March 29, 1913 - Died: June 30, 2001

Liberty County Times

July 25, 2001



### **Alice Sanvik**

Alice Eleanor Sanvik, 88 years of age, retired school teacher and farm wife, died Saturday June 30, 2001, at a Havre care facility of natural causes.

Alice was born March 29, 1913 to Theo and Ida (Hauge) Kenfield on their family farm north of Inverness. Alice graduated from Rudyard High School. After studying education at the University of Montana and Eastern Montana College, she took her teacher's exam and began teaching at the Grassy Butte School north of Joplin in 1932.

Alice married Obert Sanvik in 1934. They farmed north of Rudyard for over 40 years. Their daughter Darla was born in 1936. In 1942 Alice resumed her teaching career and over the next 30 years taught at a number of schools along the Hi-Line: Goldstone School, Minnesota School, Mariner School (north of Hingham), and at the Rudyard Elementary

School. During the course of her teaching, Alice worked toward her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, which she received from Northern Montana College in 1971 at the age of 58.

After their retirement, Alice and Obert lived in Arizona for five years before moving to Hot Springs, Montana in 1980. Alice moved to Havre in July of 1997 to be near her sister. Alice's hobbies included sewing, crafts, reading and gardening.

Alice was preceded in death by her husband Obert on June 17, 1993, her daughter Darla on January 1, 1951, and six brothers.

Alice is survived by her sister Olive Klemme of Hare, Montana, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Her funeral service was held at

Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard. Pastor Tim Hauge from Hingham officiated. Iris White was the organist and soloists were Dennis and Barry Kenfield. Donna Kapperud wrote and read the eulogy. Paul and Wayne Wolery ushers. Pallbearers were Dirk Kenfield, Brad Kenfield, Doug Kenfield, Joe DeMartin, Lowell Strissel, and Don Smith. A reception followed the service; committal was at the Highland Cemetery in Havre.



## BARBARA ANN (TILLIE) SCHAEFER

Born: September 25, 1924 - Died: February 23, 2001

Liberty County Times

February 28, 2001



### Barbara "Tillie" Schaefer

Barbara Ann "Tillie" Schaefer was born on the family homestead in the Goldstone community north of Inverness, Montana on September 25th, 1924. Her parents were Adam and Kathrina (Beck) Mangold. Barbara had a twin-sister (Marie) and she was one of 15 children in the Mangold family. She received her education at Inverness and graduated from I.H.S. in 1942. In the few years that followed, Barbara worked at Sanvik's Store in Rudyard and as a clerk in a Cut Bank business.

She married Melvin L. Schaefer on January 6th, 1945 at Inverness. They lived on the Schaefer farm 18 miles north of Chester. They took over the farming operations in 1948 when Melvin's folks moved to the Flathead Valley. Tillie worked as a farm wife, homemaker, and mother of three children. They lived and worked on the farm until 1970, then moved to Chester. Melvin died in 1974. Tillie continued to live in her Chester home and remained active in the community since that time.

Her general health began to decline about two years ago. In January of 2001 she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Following a two week's stay at the Liberty

County Nursing Home, Barbara was recently transferred to the Chester hospital. She died at the hospital on Friday morning (February 23rd, 2001). She was 76 years old.

Barbara was a longtime member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Inverness; she was baptized, confirmed, and married there. After moving to the Chester community, she became very active at St. Mary's Catholic Church; she was a member of the Altar Society, the Liturgy committee, and Bible study groups. Other memberships included the Bears Den Homemaker's Club and the Hi-Line bowling leagues in Chester and Rudyard.

Her hobbies included gardening, photography, sewing, and calligraphy. She collected bells, snow globes, and antique Christmas ornaments. Barbara enjoyed cooking; some of the family favorites were her homemade noodle soup, her ginger bread cookies, her cucumbers-and-cream, and her onions-and-oil recipes.

During her high school years Tillie played trumpet in the band. Her love for music continued as she enjoyed local concerts, variety shows on TNN, and (of course) the Lawrence Welk show. She liked to keep up on current events, so she looked forward to the daily newspaper and the 5 o'clock news on television.

Barbara enjoyed those family trips to the Flathead Valley to help with the cherry harvest, to care for the sheep, or to cut Christmas trees. One of her most memorable trips was to Hawaii with her son, Roger, and his wife Barb.

Barbara was proud of her home and she kept it immaculate! Still, it was always warm and welcoming to her family and friends. The grandchildren looked forward to their "over-nighters" at Gramma's house. If a friend or neighbor was in need, she tried to be there for them. She liked to share the "fruits of her labor" from her flower and vegetable gardens. She was a loyal mother and a good friend...

Survivors include her three children, Roger Schaefer (and wife, Barb) of Omaha, Nebraska, Don Schaefer of Chester, and Elayne Wickum (and husband, Mark) of Chester; four grandchildren, Shanon Schaefer-Koontz (and wife, Diane), Jeannean Marshall (and husband, Scot), Justin Wickum, and Chad Wickum; two great-grandchildren, Taylor and Trey; three sisters-in-law, Catherine Mangold of Havre, Molly Mangold of Billings, and Maxine Ward of Chester; two brothers-in-law, Chuck Cross of Rudyard and Aden Ward of Chester; and numerous nieces, nephews, and godchildren. Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, parents, three sisters (Rosa, Helen, and Marie), and 11 brothers (Frank, Andrew, Walter, Leon, Mike, Nick, Joe, George, Anton, Adam, and Peter).

Vigil Prayers were recited at 7:00 p.m. Sunday evening (February 25th) at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester. The Funeral Mass was celebrated by Father Joseph Diekhans at 11:00 a.m. Monday (February 26th) at the Church. Dennis Mangold was altar server and also read the scripture selections. Greeters were Ray Seidlitz, Bob Mattson, and Joe Seidlitz. Pianist was Richie Hamel and the choir sang several favorites, including "On Eagle's Wings", "Prayer of St. Francis", "Ave Maria", and "23rd Psalm". The communion gifts were presented by Lee Smith and Lillian Coil. Eucharistic ministers were Judy Alisch, Pat Ludwig, and Marje Dahinden. Joyce Spicher shared the eulogy. Pallbearers were Wayne, Bill, and Ron Mangold, Scot Marshall, Ron Ward, Tom Graff, Larry Evans, and Marlin Cross. Special pallbearers were Tillie's grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Following burial at the Chester Cemetery, a memorial luncheon was held at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. Memorials will be given to the "Gift of Life" in Great Falls, the Hi-Line Health Foundation in Chester, or donor's choice...

## ALICE MARIE (NELSON) SHEPHERD

Born: October 27, 1925 - Died: April 15, 2001

Liberty County Times

April 25, 2001



### **Alice Shepherd**

Alice Marie (Nelson) Shepherd was born at Missoula, Montana on October 27, 1925. She was the youngest of two daughters born to Otto Nelson and Esther Montelius. Alice grew up in Missoula and received her education there, graduating from Hellgate High School in 1943. She continued her schooling at the University of Montana for a short time. She accepted a teaching position at Rudyard where she taught commercial classes to high school students for the next two years (many of those students were her age or older). Alice moved back to Missoula and took a bookkeeping job at the Buttrey's Department Store.

While there she met her husband-to-be, Neil Shepherd. They were married in Missoula on October 26, 1946. Soon after, they moved to Chester where they worked on the Shepherd farm and raised their family of two. They built a home in Chester in 1952. In addition to being a homemaker, Alice worked part-time at the Abstract, Assessor, and Treasurer's Office in Chester. She also served as an occasional substitute teacher at the Chester School.

In 1972 the Shepherds sold their

Chester home and moved to Great Falls, although they maintained their farming operation in Chester. While in Great Falls Alice was offered a job at the Cascade County Treasurer's Office. She worked there until 1982 when they moved back to the farm near Chester. During the next five years she worked part-time at the Liberty County Treasurer's Office in Chester.

The Shepherds enjoyed their winter trips to Hemet, California where they were regulars at the Casa Del Sol RV Park. They loved RV camping and traveling, and were longtime members of the Good Sam's Club. Even though Alice suffered from diabetes and a heart ailment these past five years, she still looked forward to their trips South.

In the Fall of 1999 the Shepherds moved back to Great Falls and have lived at the Park Plaza. Alice's health recently took a turn for the worse and she was admitted to Benefis East. She died at the Great Falls hospital on the afternoon of Easter Sunday April 15, 2001. She was 75 years old.

In addition to her husband Neil of Great Falls, Alice is survived by her son Roger and wife Julie of Chester; her daughter Dawn Marie Lockwood and husband Scott of Helena; eight grandchildren including: Rob, Terri, Cora, Lon, Megann, Ryan, Kim and Sean; 12 great-grandchildren; her sister June Koepplin of Missoula; her only two cousins Lorraine Wood, and Lillian Olmstead both of Missoula; and numerous nephews and nieces. Alice was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 am Friday April 20, 2001 at the United Methodist Church in Chester, Montana, with Rev. Kama Morton officiating. The eulogist was nephew Dan Shepherd. The congregation sang "How Great Thou Art," accompanied by organist Karen Stack. Special vocal music by Wayne

Alice was a longtime member of the Chester United Methodist Church and had served as church secretary many years ago. Other memberships included Chester American Legion Auxiliary, Liberty County Broken Mountains Genealogical Society, Great Falls Elks Lodge, and Great Falls Shriners Club. When her kids were involved in the Chester school system, she served as chaperone to Girl's State for several years. Alice was also a member of the Joplin Eastern Star, serving as a past Rainbow Mother Advisor and was awarded the Grand Cross of Colors.

Alice enjoyed her hobbies. She loved knitting, crocheting, and embroidery. She collected music boxes and spoons. In her younger years she enjoyed bowling and golfing. She was an avid reader. Alice was also a good cook—one of her favorite family specialties was her delicious German Chocolate cakes. She always took pride in her personal appearance and was an immaculate housekeeper. She and Neil were happy to have celebrated 54 years of married life together.

Wardell was "Amazing Grace." Kama Morton sang the "Lord's Prayer." Ushers were John Englund and Tom Osterman. Pallbearers were Rob Shepherd, Lon Shepherd, Ryan Leighton, Barry Denton, Stuart McCracken, and Dan Shepherd. Interment was at the Chester Cemetery. A luncheon followed at the church. Memorials will be given to the American Diabetes Association or the Chester United Methodist Church.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

## ALVA NATHAN (ALVIE) SHETTEL

Born: February 14, 1903 - Died: January 13, 2001

Liberty Times County

January 17, 2001



### **Alva Shettel**

Alva Nathan ("Alvie") Shettel was born on February 14th, 1903 at Webb, Iowa. He was one of eight children born to John and Iona (Snider) Shettel. The family lived on a Minnesota farm until 1910, then moved to Montana and homesteaded near Joplin. Alvie received his formal education at a country school near Bison, Montana.

Those early years in Montana were tough. At age 15 Alva began working to help support the family. He hauled hay, coal, and lumber, broke sod, did repair jobs, and worked on the Great Northern Railroad.

On October 30th, 1930 Alva married Mildred Mae Swank at Shelby, Montana. They made their home on a farm 18 miles north of Joplin. Within a short time they had four children, so their lives were kept busy. They moved to Chester in 1936. They sold the north Joplin farm in 1942 and purchased a place seven miles northeast of Chester, where three more children joined the family. Alvie loved to farm, but he worked other jobs to supplement his income over the years. He did house-moving jobs, ran a repair shop in Chester, did carpentry work, and hauled many loads of coal, oil, water, wheat, and hay for contract

pay. Alvie and Mildred made their home on this Chester area farm for 50 years. Mildred died in 1991. Alvie continued to live at home until his health began to fail in 1998, when he moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home. He died at the Chester rest home on Saturday evening (January 13th, 2001). He was 97 years old.

Alva was an active member of the Chester United Methodist Church; he served on the church council for many years and helped build the new existing sanctuary. He never missed Dr. Buker's Bible study group at the church. He was also instrumental in the early organization of the Liberty County Museum, spending countless hours collecting, displaying, and cataloging museum items. In addition, he was a longtime member of the Hi-Line Auto Motor Club and was very proud of the many antique cars he had restored over the years. Alva was a member of the Farmer's Union and the Democratic Party.

After their retirement in 1975, the Shettel's enjoyed travelling in their motorhome to various states to visit family and friends. They also enjoyed bowling in the Chester and Rudyard leagues and playing cards (especially "Canasta"). When Mildred died, they had been married 61 years.

In addition to restoring old cars, Alvie had a collection of miniature toy cars. He also collected books dealing with antique cars and machinery. In his quiet time he enjoyed reading; he was especially fond of Montana historicals.

He is survived by four sons, Franklin Shettel of Great Falls, Ralph Shettel of Great Falls, Jim Shettel of Dodson, and Jerry Shettel of Chester; three daughters, Frances Hawks of Chester, Doris Courturier of Grant, Michigan, and Dorothy Forster of Fernley, Nevada; 25 grandchildren; 41 great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces. Alva was preceded in

death not only by his wife and parents, but also by two sons (Donny and John), two grandchildren (Carmen and Joshua), three brothers (Levi, Roy, and Clarence), and four sisters (Clara, Florence, Alice, and Lois).

Funeral service will be 2:00 P.M. Wednesday (today, January 17th) at the Chester United Methodist Church. Reverend Kama Morton and Reverend Chuck Woodworth will officiate. Organist will be Karen Stack. Wayne Wardell will sing "The Lord's Prayer" and Kama will sing "Bringing in the Sheaves". The congregation will sing "In the Garden". The usher will be Ed Swank. Pallbearers will be Charles Green, Cliff Hanson, Chel Eveland, Dick Gebhardt, Bob Nordstrom, and Dick Burrows. Memorial bearers are listed as "all of Alvie's many friends". Interment will be in the Chester Cemetery. A reception will follow at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. Memorials to donor's choice.

## ALVIN RAY SMITH

Born: June 17, 1932 - Died: March 24, 2001

Liberty County Times

March 28, 2001



### **Alvin Ray Smith**

Alvin Ray Smith, age 68, passed away late Friday evening March 24, 2001 at the Liberty County Hospital in Chester following an extended illness.

Alvin was born at Sugar City, Idaho on June 17th, 1932. He was the seventh of 11 children born to Ben M. Smith and Blanch Burnham. He grew up in Idaho and received his formal education at Sugar City.

Alvin enlisted in the US Marine Corps in 1951. He served during the Korean Conflict and attained the rank of Private First Class. Following his honorable discharge in 1953, Alvin returned to Idaho and remained in the Marine Corps Reserves until 1959.

During those early post-war years in Idaho, Alvin worked as a ranch hand and laborer in the mines at Cobalt. He met Carol Lorraine Jewett and they were married on March 17th, 1963 at Rigby, Idaho. They made their home in Dillon where Alvin worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at the East Bench Irrigation System. The Smith's raised a family of six children.

In 1975 they transferred to Chester where Alvin continued his job with the Bureau as the tender of Tiber Dam (now known as Lake Elwell). Carol died on September 16, 1989. Alvin retired the following year.

He bought a home in Hingham and has lived there since. He enjoyed travelling up and down the Hi-Line, visiting with the many friends he made during those years at the lake.

Alvin's memberships included the Dillon Elks Lodge, the Chester American Legion, and the Hi-Line Sportsman's Club. He was an avid fan of high school wrestling, especially when his sons were active in the Chester School system. He loved hunting, fishing, and camping. As a hobby, he collected clocks and animal figurines. He also enjoyed playing Pinochle and woodworking projects. Alvin prided himself in being an "all around handyman" as he could fix almost anything. In his quiet time at home he enjoyed watching old John Wayne movies and "Jeopardy" on television.

Although he suffered from prostate cancer and other health problems these past few years, he continued to stay active. Alvin was thankful for a guide-trip into the mountains with his son Kelly and a family reunion trip to the Washington coast in 1999.

Alvin was preceded in death not only by his wife and parents, but also by a daughter Ginger in 1968, three brothers, and one sister.

He is survived by three sons and their spouses: Michael and Valerie Smith of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Timothy and Violet Pratt of Hawaii; and Kelly and Jamie Smith of Choteau; two daughters and their partners: Karen Yeager and Toby Dailey of Cut Bank, and Susan Graham and Marvin Sprinkle of Dillon; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; one brother, Lewis Smith of Sunset, Utah; five sisters: Kathryn Farley of Idaho Falls, Idaho, Vendia Deathridge of Olympia, Washington, Alta Johnson of Pahrump, Nevada, Ethel Vehawn of California, and Blanch Jones of Sugar City, Idaho; and numerous nephews and nieces. Alvin is also survived by a very special friend, Mary Kahre of Gildford.

Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 29th at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Chester. Officiants will be Gale Christenot and Hugh Brown. Kathy Hilton will serve as pianist. Selected hymns will be "In the Garden" and "The Old Rugged Cross". Pallbearers will be Dennis Snyder, Larry Lappe, Donnie Dunn, Dewayne Dunn, Ricky Martinez, and Wes Salisbury. Ushers and honorary bearers will be Toby Dunn and Jerry Fraser. The eulogist will be John Troy. A reception will follow at the Grand Bar.

Graveside services will be 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 30th at the Mountainview Cemetery in Dillon. Dedication of the grave and prayers will be recited by Ted Hathaway. A bagpipe rendition of "Amazing Grace" will be played. Members of the Dillon V.F.W. and American Legion will provide military rites. A luncheon will follow at the L.D.S. Church in Dillon.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

## DORIS MARLENE SORENSEN

Born: February 23, 1915 - Died: February 12, 2001

Liberty County Times

February 21, 2001



### **Doris Sorensen**

Doris Marlene Sorensen was born at Minneapolis, Minnesota on February 23rd, 1915. Her parents, Charles and Katherine (Wang) Golberg, had homesteaded north of Rudyard, Montana in 1908, so Doris grew up on the farm. She attended a country school before finishing her education in Rudyard. Following her graduation from Rudyard High School in 1932, Doris went to Northfield, Minnesota to attend St. Olaf College, where she majored in history and psychology.

She married Lyle Anderson on November 28th, 1936. Together they had a son, but the marriage ended in divorce.

Doris' second husband was Isaac Rugtvedt, whom she wed on June 8th, 1939. The Rugtvedt's had three children, who they raised on their north Rudyard farm. Doris worked diligently as a farmwife and homemaker for 30 years. They moved to Rudyard in 1965. Isaac died two years later.

Doris' third marriage was to Harry Sorensen in May of 1969. They made their home in Great Falls until Harry's death in 1973. Doris returned to Rudyard and lived there from that time on.

She began dating a Chester man, George Mattson, and they became good friends and travelling companions for 15 years. They enjoyed attending dances and other social events throughout the Hi-Line. George died in 1994.

Doris' health began to fail a few years ago. In July of 2000 she moved to the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre. She died at the rest home on the early morning of Monday (February 12th, 2001). She was 85 years old.

Doris was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. She was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard, where she taught Sunday and Bible school in her earlier years. In more recent years (before her health failed) she attended church services at Our Savior's in Chester.

Other memberships included the "Daughters-of-the-Nile" in Helena, the Rudyard Senior Center, and the Rudyard Historical Museum. Doris served as a 4-H leader for 15 years when her children were active in the program. When she was married to Harry, she ran a small ceramic shop in Great Falls. She taught ceramics and kiln-fired the finished products for her students. After returning to Rudyard in the mid-1970's, she continued to stay active in the ceramic business.

Doris had many hobbies, including dancing, ceramics, gardening, fishing, and playing cards (her favorites were pinochle, canasta, and whist). She also enjoyed sewing and handiwork; she made many quilts and afghans for her family over the years. In her private time at home Doris enjoyed reading, especially romance novels and home/garden magazines. But probably her greatest enjoyments in life were those "get-togethers" with family and friends. She often reminisced about their family reunions in Wisconsin and other social gatherings in the Hi-Line.

Doris is survived by sons, Dennis Anderson (and wife, Shirley) of Rudyard, Charles Rugtvedt (and wife, Darlene) of Bellevue, Washington, and David Rugtvedt of Chester; one daughter, Iris Buck (and husband, Mike) of Idaho Falls, Idaho; six grandchildren, including

Craig, Janet, Stacy, Arthur, Jeri, and Glenn; and eight great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husbands, parents, and a grandson (Kevin Rugtvedt).

Funeral services were conducted at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard at 11:00 a.m. Saturday (February 17th) by Pastors Peter Erickson and Tim Singleton. Organist was Stanleigh Barbie and the congregation sang "Amazing Grace". Two of Doris' favorite hymns, "In the Garden" and "My God and I", were performed by Terry Stevenson. Her granddaughter, Jeri Rugtvedt, shared a special reading. Ushers were Darwin Anderson and Jerry Copenhaver. Pallbearers included Bill Gorder, Stu Smith, Lyle Harrison, Scott Patrick, Bob Toner, and Paul Wolery. Honorary bearers were old friends Morris Smith, Roland Ritter, Cliff Ulmen, Bud Een, and Albert Budeau. Interment was at the Rudyard Cemetery. A luncheon followed at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester. Memorials will be given to the Rudyard Historical Museum.

## DARYL RODNEY SPICHER

Born: February 10, 1940 - Died: September 29, 2001

Liberty County Times

October 10, 2001



### **Daryl Spicher:**

Daryl Rodney Spicher was born on February 10, 1940 at Havre, Montana. He was one of five children born to Rodney and Hildegard (Gehlen) Spicher. Daryl grew up on the family farm near Hingham and received his formal education there. During his school years he received the nickname "Lightning" which complimented his personality throughout his life. He graduated from Hingham High School in 1958, then began his career as a Montana dryland farmer.

Daryl married his best friend, Joyce Mangold, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Inverness on October 14, 1961. They lived and raised their sons on the Spicher farm two miles south of Hingham (in the same home where Daryl grew up). This home provided special memories during their 40 years of married life together.

Two years ago Daryl was diagnosed with lung cancer. Throughout his intensive medical treatment he remained positive and stayed active in the community. Since August 20th he received personal care from visiting Hospice nurses and family members. Daryl died peacefully at his Hingham farm home Saturday

evening September 29, 2001. He was 61 years old.

Daryl was baptized and confirmed at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Hingham. He continued to be active in the church and was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Other memberships over the years included Havre Elks, the Hingham Volunteer Fire Dept., the Frontier RC Pilots Club, and the Beaver Creek Golf Club in Havre. Daryl was also active in the husbands group that supported the national W.I.F.E. organization. In addition he assisted in the early planning and maintenance of the Hingham Park.

Daryl's hobbies were many. He loved to fly—be it behind the stick of his Champ or the controls of an RC airplane! Golfing was one of his favorite pastimes; he was a member of Tuesday Night Men's League in Havre for 10 years, and was fortunate to shoot a "hole-in-one" at Polson a few years ago. In addition he was a charter member and organizer of the annual 4th of July Golf Tourney in West Glacier. Daryl's other interests included hunting, fishing, traveling, photography, stained-glass art, computers and cards. In his quiet time at home he enjoyed reading and watching TV quiz shows. He always looked forward to socializing and drinking coffee with friends.

A dedicated farmer, Daryl was pleased to have been a Hi-Line pioneer in "no-till" farming practices. His greatest love was for his family; he was extremely proud of his sons and their families.

Survivors include his wife Joyce of Hingham; his sons and their spouses: Daniel and Julie of Conrad, and Robert and Jackie of Hingham; grandchildren Michael, Andrea, Jordan, Delainey, and Sheridan; his only brother Bill and wife Sharon of Hingham; two sis-

ters: Charlene Bibler, and Gail Meyer, both of Great Falls; his life long friend and mentor, Dewey Dolezal of Polson; numerous nieces and nephews, and his favorite pet a golden retriever named "Dirt".

Daryl was preceded in death by his parents, a son Daryl Joseph "Joey," a sister Lynna, and his in-laws Joe and Amelia Mangold.

Vigil Prayers were recited by Father Joseph Diekhans at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Oct. 3, 2001 at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Hingham. Special readings were by Norma Lipp. Organist was Sharon Spicher, and the congregation sang "Prayer to St. Francis" and "May the Lord Bless You and Keep You." A taped selection by Lee Ann Womack was "I Hope You Dance." A coffee hour followed in the church basement.

Funeral Mass was celebrated by Father Joe at 10:30 am Thursday at the church. Scripture readings were by Dan and Rob Spicher. Organist Iris White accompanied vocalist Marcus Jochim, who performed "How Great Thou Art," "On Eagles Wings," "The Lord's Prayer" and "Prayer to St. Francis". Greeters were Jerry Lipp, Bill Rathbun, and Chris Richter. Other participants were Dan and Terry Hybner as altar servers, Jerry and Mary Lois Hybner as Eucharistic Ministers, and Ray Gehlen as Eulogist. Daryl's grandchildren presented the communion gifts. Pallbearers included Rod Spicher, Mike Lipp, Dennis Kenfield, Don Hanson, Dick Hansen, and Alan Sterry.

Graveside services followed at the Hingham Cemetery. Father Joe offered prayers. Daryl's family provided balloon and floral tributes. A five-airplane "fly-over" was performed by Charlie Inman, Bill Sheets, Joe Minnehan, Willard Gustafson, and Bill Spicher (who flew Daryl's Champ). A luncheon followed at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel.

## BERTRAND PAUL STACK

Born: March 13, 1914 - Died: October 25, 2001

Liberty County Times

October 31, 2001



### **Bertrand Stack**

Bertrand Paul Stack was born on March 13, 1914 and died of cancer at the Big Sandy Medical Center Nursing Home on October 25, 2001. His parents were Fred and Ellen (Nellie) McKeon Stack, who had come from Michigan and were living on the old Carter place south of Big Sandy at the time. Fred worked for Virgille

Blankenbaker, and soon the family moved north of Highway 87, 15 miles west of Big Sandy, where Fred proved up on some land and had a homesteader shack built.

Bert grew up there, attending school at the Mt. Vernon Country School and graduating from Big Sandy High School in 1935. He took two years off from school to work in the CCC. Bert remembers working on the Blankenbaker farm from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for \$1 a day, plus room and board, and all the money went to his family.

Bert married Lucille Schlack, whose family lived nearby on November 21, 1940. The couple remained on the farm when the elder Stacks moved to the Fairfield area, and then bought land two miles east, 1 mile south of the Inga Store, where they lived for the next 39 years.

Bert and Lucille had three sons: Francis Paul, Gary Willis (who died when he was 12) and Donald

Lee. They built a new home on the property in the 50s, which still remains there. Bert was a diligent worker who took pride in his equipment and the farm and is remembered by all as being mild and even-tempered, patient and kind. Days were spent farming; in the evenings they enjoyed attending dances at the Spring Coulee Club House and visiting and playing cards with their friends and family.

They traveled quite a lot, to Oregon to see Francis and his family, to Utah and later to California to see Don and the girls, and to Canada and Europe. The older grandchildren came to spend time during the summer with Grandpa and Grandma on the farm, and remember riding with Grandpa on the tractor or combine. In 1982 the couple retired and moved into the Schlack home in Big Sandy, where they lived until just recently.

Bert was raised by his Irish fam-

ily in the Catholic faith. After marrying Lucille, he joined the Lutheran church and was a member of Christ Lutheran until the end.

Bert was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers Harold and Gerald, and a son Gary.

He is survived by his wife Lucille; a brother Chester of Stanwood, Washington; a sister Marie Ferris of Choteau; sons Francis of Chester, and Don of Aliso Viejo, California; grandchildren Michelle Bahnmiller of Big Sandy, Dara Coates of Great Falls, Sean and Jason of Boise, Idaho, and Montana, Dallas and Ireland Stack of California; and six great-grandsons.

Memorials may be given to Christ Lutheran Church, Big Sandy Medical Center, or a cancer society of your choice.

Funeral services were held Tuesday Oct. 30, 2001 at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Big Sandy. Burial followed at the Highland Cemetery in Great Falls at 3:00 p.m. Benton Funeral Home handled arrangements.

## CLAYTON WALLACE STEPHENS

Born: September 11, 1931 - Died: June 25, 2001

Liberty County Times

July 4, 2001



### **Clayton Stephens**

Clayton Wallace Stephens, age 69, died from heart failure at his Valier home on the morning of Monday, June 25, 2001.

At his request there will be no traditional funeral services. Cremation with private burial of ashes in the Valier Lakeview Cemetery is planned. A community memorial reception was at 3:00 p.m. Friday, June 29th at the Valier Civic Center. Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester handled the cremation and arrangements. Undesignated memorials will be given to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Clay was born at Ozawakie, Kansas on September 11, 1931. His parents were Alvora Ray Stephens and Carole Ellen May, and he was one of eight children. He grew up and received his education in Kansas, graduating from Ozawakie High School in 1949. In 1951 Clay enlisted in the US Navy. He attained the rank of Aircraft Electrician 2nd Class and served on the *USS Boxer* during the Korean Conflict. Following his honorable discharge in 1954, he returned to Kansas.

Stephens continued his education at Kansas State University at Manhattan, where he graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy. He took a job with the federal government working as a land operations officer for the BIA; Clay worked on five different Indian Reservations and retired after 25 years of service.

Clay married Bonnie Ellen VandenBos on September 24, 1964 at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Since 1974 and following Clay's retirement from the BIA, they made their home in the Valier community. He worked for the Anciant Mariner in Conrad, the Marias Valley Golf & County Club in Shelby, and in wine sales. In 1983 Clay and Bonnie opened the Red Onion restaurant in Brady. Two years later they purchased a restaurant/lounge in Chester, which they also called the Red Onion; they operated this business until 1993, then sold it due to personal health concerns. They have continued to live in Valier.

Clay was a member of the North American Mycological Association, the Montana Native Plant Society, and the North American Bluebird Society. He had served on the Valier City Council, the Board of Directors for the Great Northern Botanical Association, and the certification committee for AERO. He was also active in Scouts for 13 years and the Hunter's Safety program. In 1996 Clay spent a month in Russia as a restaurant consultant with VOCA.

Clay's hobbies included reading, hunting, fishing, and cooking. He enjoyed fruit tree and mushroom culture. Of interest was the fact that he established Bluebird trails from the Marias River to Dearborn.

Survivors include his wife Bonnie of Valier; two sons: Rob of Terrebonne, Oregon, and Doug of Yuma, Arizona; one daughter Michelle Teske of Missoula; six grandchildren including Chad, Brent, Sara, James, Matthew, and Chloe; two brothers: Rod Stephens of Valley Falls, Kansas, and Dick Stephens of Oskaloosa, Kansas; one sister Ona Wells of Meridan, Kansas; and numerous nephews and nieces. Clay was preceded in death by his parents, one son Jim, one brother Bud, and three sisters: Eleanor, Delpha, and Leona.



## ERNEST JOHN "ERNIE" TEMPEL

Born: February 14, 1920 - Died: May 6, 2001



### **Ernest J. Tempel**

Ernest John ("Ernie") Tempel was born at Everett, Washington on Valentine's Day (February 14th, 1920). He was the second of seven children born to Gus and Louise (Heyen) Tempel. Ernie grew up on the family homestead 28 miles north of Joplin, Montana. He attended the Tingdahl Country School through grade 8, then finished his formal education at Joplin High School. In the few years that followed, he worked on the family farm and the sugar beet fields at Chinook.

Ernie enlisted into the U.S. Navy in 1942. He served during World War II in the Asiatic-Pacific and American Campaigns. He attained the rank of Motor Machinist's Mate, 1st class. He served on three ships, including the USS L.S.T., the USS John Penn, and the USS Libra. Of interest was the fact that two of these vessels were destroyed in battle and Ernie was fortunate to survive and assist in the rescue of hundreds of fellow shipmen. Following his honorable discharge in 1946, he returned to Montana.

Ernie worked at the Anaconda Smelter in Great Falls for several years. During that time he pursued his love of flying and obtained his private, commercial, and sea-plane licenses. He eventually returned to the family farm.

### **Liberty County Times**

**May 16, 2001**

He married Marilyn Gillis on December 4th, 1954 at Klamath Falls, Oregon. In addition to farming in the north Joplin community, Ernie was one of the first aerial crop-sprayers in the Golden Triangle area. He and his brother-in-law, Enoch Anderson, ran Tempel-Anderson Spraying Service for many years. Ernie also raised hogs and cattle to compliment his farming operation. The Tempel's lived on the farm and raised their family of three. In later years they traveled between the farm and their home in Joplin. Ernie never officially retired and enjoyed helping out on the farm whenever he could. These past five years he suffered from a chronic lung ailment. He was recently admitted to the Liberty County Hospital in Chester, where he died on the afternoon of Sunday (May 6th, 2001). He was 81 years old.

Ernie's memberships over the years included the Immanuel Lutheran Church north of Joplin, the V.F.W. Post in Chester, and the N.F.O. He also served on the Tingdahl school board and was a "die-hard" Republican!

His hobbies were many. In his early days he enjoyed boating and water skiing, and he always maintained a large vegetable garden each year. He loved photography; he was never without a camera of some sort and accumulated a large collection of photos and films. He also enjoyed wood-working; he made everything from furniture to salad bowls to handcarved walnuts! Ernie was an avid fan of professional car racing; if he was too busy to watch the Indy and Daytona races, he would tape the events for later viewing. In his quiet time he enjoyed reading, especially informational publications. He also enjoyed television; he watched the news and weather channels and his favorite shows were "Emeril Live" and "The Simpsons". Ernie kept a diary of daily events of himself and his family up until the time of his recent

hospitalization. He loved his grandkids and followed them through their births, confirmations, sports, and other activities. For his 80th birthday his family bought him a new 4-wheeler, which he loved to zip around the farmstead and give rides to the grandkids.

Ernie was remarkable in the fact that he could fix or build almost anything. Neighbors and friends looked to him for advice and help on various projects. He was self-taught in engineering skills and became a "computer whiz" in his 70's. In fact, he recently designed an air-seeder on the computer, then went on to build it for their use on the farm.

His family shared some personal comments. Ernie was always an early riser. He took pride in his work and his life, but was never boastful. He maintained his dry wit and humor, even during his last illness. His wife, Marilyn, said he was the most calm and understanding man she has ever know. She was proud to report that they had spent only 14 days apart during their 46 1/2 years of married life together!

Survivors include his wife of Joplin; 2 sons and spouses, Ronald and Sara Tempel of Joplin and Robert and Sherry Tempel of Great Falls; 1 daughter, Susan Rader of Great Falls; 7 grandchildren, including Ryan, Bruce, Ellyssa, Nick, Mike, Bryon, and Shawna; 2 brothers, Kenneth Tempel of Chester and Clinton Tempel of Great Falls; 2 sisters, Dorothy Heydon of Bozeman and Ellen Overton of Great Falls; and numerous nephews and nieces. Ernie was preceded in death by his parents, and infant brother, and a sister (Maggie Anderson).

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Friday (May 11th) at Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin. Pastor Tim Singleton officiated. Iris White was the organist and the congregation sang "Amazing Grace" and "Beyond the Sunset". Family members in a vocal ensemble performed "In the Garden" and "How Great Thou Art"; the vocalists were Gaynell Tempel, Stacy St. John, and Scot Tempel. Ushers and greeters were Russ and David Tempel and

Lloyd and Wayne Wolery. Scripture readers were Sara Tempel and Shawna Rader. Eulogist was Connie Anderson. Pallbearers included Delbert Anderson, Rich Conrad, Greg Tempel, Scot Tempel, Tim Tempel, and Earl Colbry. Honorary bearers were Ted Tempel, Tom Wood Sr., Vern Pimley, Ed Tempel, John Tempel, Rex Gullick, and Norbert VanDessel. Burial services were held at the Joplin Cemetery. Military "Taps" were played and the veteran's flag was presented to the family by Ernie's friend, Rex Gullick. A luncheon followed at Kjos Hall. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester. Memorials will be given to the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Liberty County Hospital, or donor's choice...

## LUCILLE (POPPLER) THORSON

Born: January 11, 1917 - Died: February 6, 2001

Liberty County Times

February 14, 2001



### **Lucille Thorson**

Lucille (Poppler) Thorson was born at Alma, Montana on January 11, 1917. She was one of seven children born to Benjamin and Ruth (Knudson) Poppler. Lucille received her early education at the Burke Country School near the family farm. She finished her formal education in Joplin, graduating from Joplin High School in 1935.

Lucille married her childhood sweetheart, Clifford G. Thorson, on February 18, 1938 at Havre, Montana. Soon after, World War II broke out. Cliff contributed to the war effort by working as a chauffeur at McDonald-Douglas Aircraft in Los Angeles, then as a riveter for Boeing Corporation in Seattle, and finally as an airplane mechanic in Great Falls. They returned to the family farm 30 miles north of Joplin in 1945. They lived, worked, and raised their family in the Joplin community from that time on. The Thorsons retired from farming in 1980.

A devoted couple, Lucille and Cliff were inseparable during their 60 years of married life together. Cliff passed away on June 6, 1998. Lucille remained at home in Joplin and continued to be as active as she could. She was recently admitted to the Liberty County Hospital in Chester where she died on the morning of Tuesday February 6, 2001. She was 84 years old.

Lucille was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and was a lifetime member of the Bethel Church in Joplin. She was active in WELCA and was a Sunday School teacher for many years.

Lucille's hobbies included gardening, sewing, and embroidery. The Thorsons enjoyed bowling in the Hi-Line leagues and playing cards with family and friends. Lucille was especially fond of Whist, rummy, and Casino. She also enjoyed cooking; her family will always remember her delicious breads, gingersnaps, and Norwegian pastries. Lucille loved to listen to music, especially Christian hymns and the old tapes by Eddy Arnold and Jim Reeves. Still young-at-heart, she enjoyed keeping up on local high school sporting events. And just for the fun of it, she had a large collection of teddy bears.

Lucille was devoted to her family and friends. She had a warm heart and a good sense of humor. That's probably why she was affectionately called "Grandma Lucy" by many in the Joplin community.

Lucille is survived by three children and spouses including

Nancy and Larry Olson of Joplin, Jerry and Gloria Thorson of Joplin, and Candy Nelson of Billings and Kenny Nelson of Chinook; 10 grandchildren; Scott, Todd, Heidi, Kari, Tate, Cody, Allyson, Windy, Travis, and Ryan; seven great-grandchildren: Brandon, Cory, Khloe, Katey, McKenzie, Madison, and Mariah; one brother Bud Poppler of Joplin; two sisters Blanche Anderson of Rudyard, and Loraine Brickman of Long Boat Key, Florida; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, three sisters Sarah, Joyce, and Laura, and a grandson Casey Lane Thorson.

Funeral services were conducted at 11:00 am Saturday February 10, 2001 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin by Pastor Tim Singleton. Debbie Brownlee served as organist and the congregation sang "In the Garden" and "How Great Thou Art." Vocalist Judy Lake performed "Because He Lives," and "The Old Rugged Cross." Readers were Cindy Pimley and Paul Wolery. Ushers were Dale Pimley and Larry Martinson. Lucille's grandsons were pallbearers. Her family and friends were listed as memorial bearers. Interment was at the Joplin Cemetery. A luncheon followed at Kjos Hall.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

## HULDA PAULINE (GEIGER) TOLLEFSON

Born: September 5, 1914 - Died: June 27, 2001

Liberty County Times

July 4, 2001



### **Hulda Tollefson**

Hulda Pauline Tollefson, age 86, former teacher and homemaker, passed away on Wednesday, June 27, 2001 at Northern Montana Hospital in Havre, MT of natural causes. Her funeral is 10:00 am Monday July 2, 2001 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard with burial at 1:30 pm at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. Memorials are suggested to the Goldstone Lutheran Church. Arrangements are under the direction of Holland and Bonine Funeral Home, Havre.

Hulda was born September 5, 1914 near LaCoste, Texas, the daughter of William and Augusta (Reus) Geiger. She graduated from LaCoste High School in 1931 and went on to college at Texas Lutheran College in Sequin, Texas and the University of San Antonio where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. Her extra curricular activities during her schooling were volleyball and band.

Hulda taught elementary school in Texas until 1946 when she married Alfred Tollefson on November 4, 1946 and moved to his family farm north of Rudyard, MT. She enjoyed the life of a farm wife and was an avid gardener.

Hulda was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Castroville, Texas and became a long-time active member of Goldstone Lutheran Church north of Rudyard. She spent many years serving as Sunday School and Vacation Bible School Superintendent. Hulda's dedication to teaching touched the lives of countless young people in both Texas and Montana. She served the Lord faithfully by making hundreds of quilts to share with needy people all over the world.

Hulda was preceded in death by her parents; husband Alfred; one sister; one brother; and one nephew.

Surviving are her daughter Carolyn Frederickson of Tyler, Texas; sons Alfred Tollefson, Jr. of Helena, and Calvin Tollefson of Havre; sister Laura Geiger of San Antonio, Texas; five

grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

## HELEN RUTH (NEECE) TWEDT

Born: March 18, 1941 - Died: December 9, 2001



**Helen Twedt**

Helen Ruth Twedt was born March 18, 1941 at Hugo, Oklahoma. She was the only child of Opal Glen and Harry Neece. Her father was in the military, so Helen moved a lot during her formative years. She received her elementary education at San Antonio, Texas. She obtained her secondary education at Stevensville, Newfoundland, where she graduated from Harmon High School in 1958.

Helen moved to Spokane, Washington and began working at the Baghdad Bowling Alley (a business owned by two Rudyard men, Robert Rigg and Buster Ness). A mutual Rudyard friend Allan Twedt, came to Spokane to help at the bowling center during the winter months. Helen and

Allan met and began dating. They were married on March 5, 1960 in Spokane.

The Twedts made their home in the Rudyard community where they farmed south of town. Helen enjoyed her life as a farm wife, homemaker, and mother of two.

In the 1980s Helen worked as a travel agent on the Hi-Line. She always had an interest in antiques and collectibles, so Helen and a friend, Donna Horel, began dealing in antiques. They attended many antique shows throughout the upper Northwestern states. Helen has been an independent antique dealer since 1993.

### Liberty County Times

December 19, 2001

The Twedts moved from the farm into Rudyard in 1988. They were active in community affairs. Helen's health was excellent until two years ago, when she was diagnosed with cancer. She received the gamut of treatments and enjoyed periods of remission; however, her condition deteriorated these past few months. Following a month's stay at the Liberty County Hospital, she died on Sunday evening December 9, 2001. She was 60 years old.

After Helen came to Rudyard in 1960, she received her baptism and confirmation at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. She was active in WELCA and served as a Sunday school teacher for many years. Helen was also a charter member of the Rudyard Hobbie Club; this women's club has diminished over the year to just seven members. Helen affectionately referred to this group as the Classy 7 Club.

A member of the Farmer's Union, Helen helped to organize the annual convention for several years and assisted at the summer youth camps. Her hobbies were many. She enjoyed garage sales, bowling, camping and traveling. In her quiet time at home she liked to read and watch television. Her favorite author was Stephen King and her favorite TV shows were "As the World Turns," "E.R.," and "Survivor." Helen collected many things, but was especially fond of Fiesta dishware, Marilyn Monroe and Roy Rogers memorabilia, Beanie Babies, handkerchiefs, and assorted antiques.

Helen was an animal lover; throughout her life she had many pets, including cats, dogs, chickens and peacocks. During these last few years, especially during her illness, she enjoyed the companionship and comfort of her

pet kitty "Tweety." Helen also appreciated watching and feeding the deer at their home near Seeley Lake.

Helen had a bubbly personality with a big smile and a friendly attitude. It was no wonder that she was so easy to like! She will surely be missed by her loving family and dedicated friends.

Survivors include her husband Allan of Rudyard; one son Ken Twedt (and wife Chris) of Seeley Lake and Rudyard; one daughter, Deb Schmidt (and husband, Mike) of Warren, Minnesota; and 5 grandchildren (Chance and Kall Twedt, and Katie, Kelsey, and Daniel Schmidt). Helen was preceded in death by her parents.

Memorial services were conducted at 11:00 am Thursday, December 13, 2001 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard by Pastor Tim Singleton. Scripture readings were by Suzie Twedt and the eulogy was by Jim Twedt. The organist was Deb Brownlee and the congregation sang "Amazing Grace." Jeff Wehr vocalist performed "The Lord's Prayer" and "On Eagles Wings." Ushers were Donna Horel and Barb Rathbun. Grace Ness served as Greeter. Pallbearers were the remaining members of the now "Classy Six" Club: Linda Wehr, Sandi Copenhaver, Joann Langel, Shirley Anderson, Rachel Blake, and Elva Elling. The service ended with a favorite taped selection by Helen: "Seasons in the Sun."

Graveside services and burial of the ashes followed at the Rudyard Cemetery.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester. A reception was held at the church.

Memorials will be given to "Paws Up" Humane Society in Seeley Lake, the Hi-Line Heath Foundation in Chester, or donor's choice.

## EMMA A. (SPARKS) VANDER VEN

Born: October 7, 1921 - Died: April 13, 2001

Liberty County Times

April 18, 2001

### ***Emma Vander Ven***

Emma A. (Sparks) Vander Ven, age 79, a Coast Guard veteran who was instrumental in gathering names of women veterans to be engraved on the Women's Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, died Friday April 13, 2001 at a Billings hospital of complications following heart surgery.

A Vigil Service was 7:00 pm Tuesday May 17 at St. Leo's Catholic Church in Lewistown. Funeral Liturgy was 10:30 am Wednesday May 18 at St. Leo's followed by burial with military honors in Mount Calvary Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Lewistown Kiwanis Scholarship Fund.

Emma was born October 7, 1921 in Hazen, Arkansas and graduated from Maplevale High School in Arkansas. She entered the Coast Guard in 1943 and served in Alaska during World War II.

During her military service she met Edwin Vander Ven, and they were married February 28, 1946 in Seattle, Washington. They lived in Havre until 1958 then moved to Lewistown. She worked at St. Leo's School hot lunch program in the early 1960s, and later was secretary to the Fergus County Superintendent of Schools.

Emma was a member of St. Leo's

Catholic Church and St. Rita's Guild, Central Montana Traildusters, and Burlington northern Railroad Retired Veterans Association.

She was active in the Kiwanis Club for many years, as well as Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts.

Emma was known for her cinnamon rolls, was an accomplished seamstress and enjoyed growing flowers.

Her husband Edwin died in 1996.

Survivors include daughters: Lea Krudener of Worland, Wyoming, and Rea Englund of Chester; sons Ken Vander Ven of Lewistown, and Neil Vander Ven of Port Townsend, Washington; a sister Maxine Creel of Pearl, Mississippi; brothers David L. Sparks and Ross A. Sparks of Little Rock, Arkansas; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Creel Funeral Home of Lewistown in charge of arrangements.

## FLORENCE M. (SHAFER) VANDESANDT

Born: February 4, 1905 - Died: April 26, 2001

Liberty County Times

May 2, 2001

### ***Florence VandeSandt***

Florence M. VandeSandt, age 96, died Thursday morning at a Havre hospital of natural causes. Funeral services were held at 10:00 am Monday April 30, 2001 at Messiah Lutheran Church with Pastor Tim Hauge officiating. Burial followed at the Highland Cemetery. Memorials in Florence's honor may be made to Senior Citizens Center or a charity of one's choice. Services and arrangements are under the direction of Holland & Bonine Funeral Home, Havre.

Florence was born February 4, 1905 in Arthur, North Dakota to Herbert and Anna (Clawiter) Shafer. As a child she moved with her parents to Montana in 1911 and they homesteaded 24 miles north of Gildford. Florence attended country school and high school in Havre where she lived with the Dr. Almas family for room and board. The Almas home had a passage underneath it that led to what is now 'Havre Beneath the Streets.'

She married Carl VandeSandt November 13, 1925 in Fort Benton. They farmed and ranched north of Gildford and raised four children. They remained on the farm until Carl's death in March of 1956. Florence moved to Gildford in 1957 where she lived until 1981 and then moved to Havre.

Throughout her life Florence enjoyed horses, rodeos, gardening, sewing, quilting, crocheting, playing cards and Bingo. She liked to attend the Senior Citizens activities and family get togethers.

She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Rudyard.

In July of 2000 Florence moved into the Northern Montana Care Center so she could play Bingo twice a week instead of just once.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Carl VandeSandt on March 26, 1956, and two brothers: Kenneth Shafer and Wayne Shafer.

Florence is survived by her children: Alice V. and Anthony Wong of Honolulu, Hawaii, Gilbert "Bud" and Margaret VandeSandt of Gildford, Lloyd "Hap" and Sonya VandeSandt of Gildford, Marjorie and Max Boume of Ethridge, Montana; ten grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.



## VIOLA (GLEISNER) WEHR

Born: May 25, 1911 - Died: July 28, 2001

Liberty County Times

August 15, 2001

### **Viola Wehr**

Viola Gleisner Wehr, 90 was received into the arms of her savior July 28, 2001 at Heritage Place in Kalispell. She was born May 25, 1911 in Rudyard to Joseph and Matilde Didi Gleisner.

Her marriage to William Wehr took place June 5, 1932, at the ranch near Rudyard where she spent her childhood days.

She attended a rural grade school near Rudyard and graduated from four years of high school in Havre in 1928. Her lifelong goal to become a teacher was realized after enrolling in 1950 at Western Montana College in Dillon. In 1960 she attended the University of Montana in Missoula to complete her education.

Her first teaching position was in Rudyard. She moved with her husband to Big Sandy where she continued teaching. In 1947, they and their three sons moved to Kalispell, where she and her husband owned and operated Wehr's Grocery store for six years. She taught at Montford School for three years then began her teaching career for District #5 at Cornelius Hedges where she taught for five years as a first grade teacher. She completed her career as a first grade teacher for Russell School for 15 more years. She was loved and respected by her students and co-workers.

She was very active as president of the Parent Teachers Association on a local and district level. She was president of the Flathead Retired Teachers Association, charter member of Alpha Delta Kappa, Life member of Montana Federation of Women's Club, a member of American Association of University Women and a faithful and active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bill; and

a granddaughter, Laurie Wehr.

She is survived by her three sons, Richard "Dick" Wehr and wife Carol of Sequim, Washington, Roger Wehr of Spokane, and Gary Wehr and wife Virginia of Lynwood, Washington; five grandchildren, Guy Wehr and wife Kelly and son Garrett, Dana Jones and husband Brent and Alburn Lee, Linda Wehr, Kristie Wehr, and Lisa Wehr; one sister, Florence Jenkins and husband Ralph of West Seattle, Washington; with numerous

relatives.

Funeral services were held August 3rd, 2001 at Trinity Lutheran Church with Rev. Dan Wurster officiating.

The family suggest memorials be given to Bill Ludwig Scholarship Fund of Trinity Lutheran School, 495 5th Ave W.N, Kalispell, MT 59901; or Trinity Lutheran Church, 400 W. California, Kalispell, MT 59901. Arrangements were under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.



## KENNETH L. WILSON

Born: February 22, 1934 - Died: July 10, 2001

The Sentinel - Havre

July 18, 2001

### KENNETH WILSON

Kenneth L. Wilson, 67, Havre, died Tuesday, July 10, 2001 at the family farm south of Hingham. Cause of death is under investigation by the coroner.

Wilson was born Feb. 22, 1934 to Roy A. and Dorothy (Johnson) Wilson in Riedel. He attended schools in Harlem, Havre and Gildford. He graduated from Gildford High School.



Wilson

Wilson joined the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1955. He returned to Havre and in 1956 went to work for the Great Northern Railway as a fireman until 1964. On Nov. 17, 1957, he married Caroline Becker in Havre at the Van Orsdel United Methodist Church. They lived in Havre.

He worked as a carpenter, farmed north of Rudyard and later south of Hingham and west of Box Elder.

He was a member of the Eagles Club and Sons of Norway.

He was preceded in death by his father, Roy Wilson; mother, Dorothy Wilson; brothers, Marvin "Red" Wilson and Alvin "Bud" Wilson.

Survivors include his wife, Caroline Wilson of Havre; daughter, Cindy Lu Wilson of Havre; daughter-in-law, Marlene Wilson of Havre; sons, Bryan Wilson, Kenneth J. Wilson and Bart Wilson, all of Havre; brother, Tiny Wilson of Havre; sisters, Betty Ost of Spokane, Wash., Rose Brown of Vancouver, Wash., Lilly Howard of Sweet Home, Ore. and Eva Calahan of Santa Anna, Calif.; five grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to The American Cancer Society, Star Route Box 36, Box 22K, Havre, MT 59501 or to the donor's choice.

## BERNECE MARIE (SHIPMAN) WOLERY

Born: September 14, 1908 - Died: December 16, 2001

Liberty County Times

December 26, 2001



### Bernece Wolery

Bernece Marie (Shipman) Wolery was born September 14, 1908 at New Auburn, Wisconsin. She was one of four children born to Earnest and Mary (Vaugh) Shipman. Her mother died during the flu epidemic in 1918, so Bernece was raised in Wisconsin by her grandmother Vaugh. She received her education there, graduating from New Auburn High School in 1927.

Bernece came to Montana to be near her father Earnest. He married Anna Schwartz and together they raised a new family of five. While living in Rudyard, Bernece kept books for the Soderholm family business. She eventually moved to Havre to continue her education at Northern Montana College. She worked as a housekeeper for the Roper and Koefod families in Havre. After she received her teacher's certificate, Bernece began teaching at the Red Rock Creek School north of Havre. In the few years that followed, she continued to teach at various country schools on the Hi-Line. She was teaching at the Grassy Butte School north of Inverness when she met her husband-to-be, Olyn C. Wolery. They were married in Havre on May 27, 1939.

The Wolerys initially farmed in the Goldstone community north of Rudyard. Bernece worked as a substitute teacher for a few years, then devoted her time to homemaking and motherhood. They raised their family of four on their north Inverness farm, the place they called 'home' for 50+ years.

Bernece and Olyn moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester in 1997. Bernece died at the rest home on this past Sunday evening December 16, 2001. Even though she was diagnosed with polio as a child, then developed complicating diabetes as an adult, Bernece was blessed with 93 years of life.

Bernece was a long time member of the Minneota Friendly Club. She had served as Clerk of the Grassy Butte School Board and had also served on the Inverness School Board.

Her hobbies included sewing, crocheting, reading, and

crossword puzzles. She loved music, especially the "old-time hymns" and enjoyed playing the piano and singing. Her greatest enjoyment was taking care of her family and friends. Bernece was an exceptional hostess; coffee and cookies were always available, and she could whip-up a wonderful meal on very short notice. She will be remembered for her delicious homemade cookies and maple sticks. Mostly, she will be remembered as a gentle, caring woman who loved to serve the ones she loved.

Survivors include her husband of 62 years, Olyn of Chester; three sons and their spouses: Leroy and Marilyn Wolery of Gildford, Sterling and Betty Ann Wolery of Joplin, and Merlin and Patricia Wolery of Rudyard; one daughter and her spouse Coleen and Ron Vestal of Aurora, Colorado; one brother Ercel Shipman of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin; five sisters: Ann

Tracht of Kalispell, Louise Richter of Omak, Washington, Doris Een of Rudyard, Marion Gilson of Guernsey, Wyoming, and Donna Nealy of Chester; 10 grandchildren: Darwin, Craig, Derek, Jill, Jane, Julie, Trevor, Heather, Ryan, and Holly; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces. Bernece was preceded in death by her parents, one brother Raymond Shipman, one sister Ruthie Smith, and one granddaughter Jolene Wolery.

Funeral Services were conducted at 2:00 pm Thursday December 20, 2001 at our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard by Bernece's nephew, Pastor Dale Wolery of California. Special readings were by grandchildren, Ryan Vestal, Heather Wolery, and Jane Beadle. A vocal duet "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," was performed by Carol Bangs and Leslie Smith. The congregation sang "Joy to the World." Several taped selections including "Through Every Storm" sung by Sarah Wolery, and "Going Home for Christmas" sung by Steven Curtis Chapman were played. Granddaughters serving as pianists were Jill Reinker and Heather Wolery. Bernece's grandchildren served as pallbearers and the ushers were Ken Wolery and Lyle Harrison.

Following burial at the Rudyard Cemetery, a reception was held at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.