

June Backen, 41

June Backen, 41, of Billings, died July 7, 2000, at Deaconess Hospital in Billings.

She was born June 11, 1959, at Shelby, to Elbert "Bud" Skillings and Hazel Hamlin Skillings. She moved to Libby with her family in 1962, and at one time she and her husband lived in Columbia Falls.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include her husband Joel of Billings; two daughters and a son, Buddy

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Skillings of Kalispell; sisters Lori DeShazer of Columbia Falls, Cory Snyder of Libby, and Nita McLaury of Seeley Lake; a brother, Jerry Skillings of Libby; three half-sisters including Doris Cook of Troy; two half-brothers and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home Chapel in Libby with the Rev. Darwin Scofield officiating.

Norris G. Bacon, 81

Norris G. Bacon, 81, died July 3, 2000 at Parkview Acres in Dillon.

He was born Feb. 24, 1919 at Bottineau, N.D., to Isham and Hannah Bacon. He was raised in Nohly, Mont., and drafted into the army in 1941. He married Marjory Bowers in 1947 and farmed in the Nohly area until 1964 when they moved to the Flathead Valley.

He worked for the Forest Service until 1976 as a mule packer and cook. He was a member of the Montana Old Time Fiddlers' Association.

He and his wife spend the last five years living in Dillon.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father, one daughter, two brothers, and three sisters.

He is survived by his wife Marjory, two daughters, a son, six grandchildren and two sisters.

Memorial services were held Wednesday at Parkview Acres in Dillon with the Rev. Bill Swanson officiating. Graveside services will be at the Nohly Cemetery on Saturday at 11 a.m. in Nohly

Rod J. Baker, 41

Rod J. Baker, 41, passed away on July 4, 2000 in West Valley, Utah.

He was born in Wolf Point on June 17, 1959 to Eugene P. and Phyllis Higgins Baker. He was a 1977 graduate of Wolf Point High School. On June 30, 1979, he too Ada Volkman for his wife at his parent's home in Columbia Falls. He was a true family man. His wife and children were his life. He was a fan of the Rams and the Lakers and this was his year for both. He had a love of life and a zest for mopar. He and his wife recently celebrated 21 years of marriage and he was very proud of that fact.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Eugene, in September of 1992 and his oldest brother Dick, in July 1985.

He is survived by his wife Ada, and two of their children, Desiree and Paul residing at the family home in West Valley City, his oldest son, David who lives with his wife Karen in Whitefish; two beautiful granddaughters, Kelsey and Megan Baker of Whitefish; his

mother, Phyllis Baker of West Jordan, Utah; three brothers, Bob Baker and wife Diana of Monument, Colo., Bruce Baker of West Valley, Band and his wife Toni of West Valley; two sisters, Carleen Baker of West Jordan and Debbie Norwood of West Valley; his father-in-law, Harold Volkman of Somers; special brother-in-laws, Dave Volkman and wife Cann of West Valley, Vic Volkman and wife Diane of Columbia Falls; Roger Radabah and wife Darline of West Valley, and Bob Radabah of Kalispell; special friends David and Traci Moon of Murray, Utah, and many more relatives and friends whom he cherished until the end. We love and miss you and will see you later Mr. B.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. at Valley View Funeral Home Chapel in West Valley, Utah.

The family will receive friends at a viewing on Friday from 6-8 p.m. at Valley View Funeral Home. Interment will be at Valley View Memorial Park.

Terrance Steven Baker, 29

Terrance Steven Baker, 29, a former Kalispell resident, passed away June 19, 2000, at Capital Medical Center in Olympia, Wash.

He was born on Dec. 29, 1970, in McCleary, Wash., to Lloyd and Wanda Bradshaw Baker. He worked for Quali-Cast Foundry in Chehalis, Wash.

He loved to fish, hunt and play golf. He was also an avid Mariner and Seahawks fan.

He is survived by his wife Jessica at the family home in Toledo, Wash.; two daughters, Kendra Baker of Kalispell; four sisters, Marie Taylor of Chehalis, half-sister Michelle Keifer of Libby, Monica Seeley of Spokane, and Kelly Baker of Rochester; brother Tim Baker of Rainier, Wash.; step-sis-

ter Shelly Nood of Mesa, Ariz.; four step-brothers, Dale Wynne, Oldsmar, Fla., Dwaine Wynne, Port Ritchey, Fla., Daniel Wynne, Kalispell, and Dana Wynne, Tucson, Ariz.; father Lloyd Baker of Kalispell; mother Wanda Klugman of Toledo; grandparents, Dwaine and JoAnn Baker of Centralia; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Friday at 2 p.m. at United Methodist Church, 16 S. Market in Chehalis with the Rev. Don Hartman officiating.

Memorials for leukemia research may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 165, Chehalis, WA 98532.

Cremation was under the care and direction of Newell-Hoerling's Mortuary in Centralia.

Frank T. Balazic, 86

Frank T. Balazic, 86, died Friday, Feb. 18, 2000 at Brendan House in Kalispell.

He was born Nov. 5, 1913, on a homestead outside of Big Sandy, as one of nine children of Martin and Mary Ann Balazic. His father was a farmer and shoemaker, and his mother was a homemaker.

During the Depression, he worked with the Civilian Conservation Corps, and then he joined the Army in 1943. It was at this time that he met and married his wife of 60 years, Hazel. After serving in the European Theater during World War II, he and Hazel settled on a farm and ranch in the Big Sandy area.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting and bowling. In his later years, he was a dedicated school-bus driver. He also loved woodworking and became a



skilled craftsman in his later years.

Above all, he was a loving and devoted family man. He is survived by his loving wife, Hazel, and his four children, Timothy Balazic of Kila, Daniel F. Balazic of Woodinville, Wash., Linda L. Balazic of Big Fork, Wash., and Robert K. Balazic of Woods Bay. He is also survived by three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A Mass of the Christian Burial will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Bigfork, with the Rev. Richard Sodja as celebrant. His will be buried at Lone Pine Cemetery in Bigfork.

A vigil service will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday at St. Catherine's Catholic Church.

The family requests donations to the Brendan House, in lieu of flowers.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Johnson Mortuary and Crematory in Kalispell.

Benjamin 'Benny' F. Bailey, 68

Benjamin "Benny" F. Bailey, 68, died Nov. 24, 2000, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Bailey was born July 26, 1932 in Kalispell to Francis and Vera May Bailey. He was raised in the Flathead Valley.

He was the co-owner of the Sportsman and Ski Haus for many years. He loved the Thompson area so he spent a great deal of his time hunting and fishing there. After retiring from the Sportsman and Ski Haus, he resided at the Middle Thompson Lake area until his death. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Francis and Vera May Bailey; and three brothers,

Richard, Wesley and Lawrence Bailey.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Bailey, at the family home; daughters Janis Broeder and her husband, Dale, and Judy Bailey, and sons Jim and Jon Bailey, all of Kalispell; stepchildren Jon and David Link of Colfax, Wash., and Julie Herro of Spokane, Wash.; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2000, at the Christian Center Assembly of God Church, with the Rev. John Weaver Jr. officiating.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Betty Lucile Hall Bailey, 76

Betty Lucile Hall Bailey, 76, died on Oct. 22, 1999, in Kirkland, Wash.

She was born on Jan. 31, 1923, in Kalispell.

She grew up in the Flathead Valley and moved all over the United States with her husband, Milton, who was in the military. They retired to Lakeside and Kalispell.

She was preceded in death

by her parents; husband, Milton; daughter, Patricia; and two grandchildren.

She is survived by three daughters; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Graveside inurnment will be July 24, at 10 a.m. at the Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell, with the Rev. Bill Baumgarten of Christ Church Episcopal officiating.

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Helen Elaine Baker, 79

Helen Elaine Baker, 79, of Whitefish, died Dec. 26, 2000, at the North Valley Extended Care in Whitefish.

She was born in Columbia Falls, on April 27, 1921, to Mary and Frank Sagen. She attended and graduated from school in Whitefish where she resided all her life. On May 23, 1948, she married John Baker.

She loved all she surveyed and always had a kind and supportive word for all. She was a member of the St. Charles Alter Society and worked diligently for the church. As an active member of Beta Sigma Phi she was involved in Whitefish community social projects, she was named "Girl of the Year." She enjoyed being a member of her cardplaying club as another social activity.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and sisters June, Gladys and Betty.

She is survived by her husband

John at the family home in Whitefish; sons Jim Baker and wife, Geri, of Cut Bank, and John Richard "Rich" Baker and wife, Marietta, of Richfield, Minn.; brothers, Robert Sagen and wife, Betty, of Whitefish, and Frank C. Sagen and wife, Joyce, of Portland; grandchildren, Brandt of Missoula, Heather of Flagstaff, Ariz., Michael of Sacramento, Calif., and Shantell of Browning were special to her; other grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held from 1-8 p.m. today at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish.

A wake service will be held at 7 p.m. today at the Austin Funeral Home. A mass of Christian burial will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday at St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish. The Rev. Charles Roman will officiate. Burial will follow at the Whitefish Cemetery.

Duplicate see page B-1

Jerrald 'Jerry' Baldwin, 82

Jerrald "Jerry" Baldwin, 82, died at his home surrounded by his loving family on Monday, Jan. 31, 2000.

He was born March 4, 1917, in Havre, to Edmond and Bretta Baldwin. He moved to the Flathead Valley when he was 12 years old and lived in the Egan community for years.

He married Dorothy M. Bell in 1940, and moved to Mullan, Idaho, where he worked for the Midnight Mine until returning to the Flathead Valley in 1945. Several months after their return to the valley, they moved to Martin City, where they built the first residential home.

He worked for the Cytonner Mill until 1956. Later that year he went to work for the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant, where he worked until his retirement in 1979.

While living in Martin City, he was the chief of the fire department; the justice of the peace; a member of the Boom Town Builders; and a charter member of the Lions Club, where he held several offices.

In 1958, he moved his family to the Lake Blaine area, to what is now called the family home, where his wife resides.

After retiring, he loved traveling with his wife extensively. They especially loved Arizona, finally settling in the Yuma area for the winters.

He loved the outdoors and loved to

dance.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two older brothers.

He is survived by his loving wife Dorothy Baldwin of Kalispell; son Gary Baldwin and his wife, Flo, of Mead, Wash.; daughters, Faith Howard and husband, Bob, of Martin City and Dianne Murer and husband, Ted, of Kalispell; seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his two sisters and their husbands, Edna and Ernest Johnson of Columbia Falls, and Gladys and Fred Danielson of Kalispell; two brothers and their wives, Merle and Jeannie Baldwin of Kalispell, and Bert and Inez Baldwin of Williamsville, N.Y.; his sister-in-law, Helen Baldwin of Newport, Ore.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and will be deeply missed.

Visitation will be Friday at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home from 4 to 7 p.m. Funeral services will be held at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home on Saturday at 11 a.m., with the Rev. Ray Davis officiating. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers a donation may be made to the donor's choice.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Marion Allene Ball, 85

Marion Allene Ball, 85, went home to be with her Lord on July 23, 2000 after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was born in Kalispell on Jan. 23, 1915 to Charles and Margaret Kelly Johnson.

She spent her childhood and early adult years in Montana. She moved to the Tacoma, Wash., area in 1947 when she married her husband Harry. She lived in Fife for 41 years and was a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Puyallup, Wash. She served in the church's Altar Guild during the late 1960s and early 1970s. She was also a charter member of the Dr. Philip Grenley Orthopedic Guild and participated in many fund-raising ventures for Mary Bridge Children's Hospital.

She enjoyed gardening, reading,

traveling, and many outdoor activities. The thing closest to her heart was her family and friends. She lived at the Tacoma Lutheran Home for the last three and a half years and has made many friends while living there. She was fondly known as "The Little Montana Girl."

Her family wishes to express their profound gratitude to the staff at Tacoma Lutheran Home who have provided excellent care in a loving and nurturing manner for her over the last several years. A special thanks goes to the Franciscan Hospice Team who provided extraordinary care and support to her and her family during the last year.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Harry Ball; two sons, Joseph "Toby" Armstrong and his wife Carlene of Elliston, and Robert

Shenefelt and his wife Ann of Eureka; and one daughter, Robin Neiswender and her husband John of Fife; one brother, William R. Johnson of Kalispell; 17 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday in the Valley Chapel at Mountain View Funeral Home in Lakewood, Wash. Graveside services will be held on Monday at 1 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

The family suggests that donations be made in her name to the Tacoma Lutheran Home at 1301 North Highlands Parkway, Tacoma, WA 98406 or to Franciscan Hospice of Tacoma, at 1717 South J Street, Tacoma, WA 98405.

Virginia Cloer Banther, 75

Virginia Cloer Banther, 75, went home to live with her Lord on Monday, May 22, 2000, at the Britthaven Nursing Home in Franklin, N.C.

She and her husband, Lawrence W. Banther, lived with their children in Mountain City, Ga., for many years. They then moved to Florida and lived in Arcadia and Lake City before moving to Britthaven in December of 1999.

She is survived by her husband Lawrence Banther of Britthaven; three sons, Bobby Banther of Franklin, N.C., Barry Banther of

Tarpon Springs, Fla., and Larry Banther of Lake City, Fla.; one daughter, Ginger Morrel of Kalispell; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. today at the Blue Heights Baptist Church with Barry Banther and Lloyd Hunter officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

The family is at the home of her sister-in-law, Jan VanBuren in Mountain City.

Hunter Funeral Home in Clayton, Ga., is in charge of arrangements.

2000 Lawrence R. 'Larry' Bardwell Jr., 70

Lawrence R. "Larry" Bardwell Jr., 70, of Missoula, died Monday, Jan. 3 at St. Patrick Hospital of natural causes.

He was born Aug. 7, 1929, in Great Falls, to Lawrence and Freda Kost Bardwell, Sr. He attended Great Falls schools.

In 1950, he entered the U.S. Navy. On Dec. 7, 1950, at Treasure Island, Calif., he was united in marriage to Phyllis Gerhart of Belt. They lived in Hawaii and in 1954, he was discharged and they returned to Great Falls.

He started his sales career selling automobiles for City Chevrolet in Great Falls, and Fender Chevrolet in Belt. He and his family moved to Missoula in 1967, and he continued his sales career traveling Western Montana until 1979, when he purchased the Six Mile Tavern, which he and his wife still own.

He was a giving and caring person. He would do what he could to take care of his family and friends. He had a great joy of life and took great pride in his family and work. He met numerous people whom he was proud to call his friends. People were only strangers to him but once. All those who had a chance to know him were blessed to have known him and his generous soul. He will be missed by his family and all who loved and

knew him.

His greatest obsession was with the American automobile and he loved to buy, sell and restore old vehicles. He left behind a multitude of old automobiles and many car parts.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis of Missoula; his children — the oldest son Rick and his children, Katie and Jesse of Missoula, second born son Rodney and partner Pat and their children, Becky and Chris of Mapleton, N.D., third born, daughter Debra and husband Greg Atwell and their children, Robert Marshall "Rob" and Adam of Mesa, Ariz., fourth born, son Dean and his partner Kelly Egan of Missoula; his only sister, Dorothy and her husband George Nielsen of Wolf Creek; aunts, Edna Hamrell and Gladys Bardwell of Great Falls; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Frenchtown Community Church. A gathering of family and friends will be held at the church following the services.

The Malletta Family of Funeral Homes, Sunset Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials in Larry's name to Camp Mak-A-Dream, or the American Diabetes Association.

Gene 'Barney' Barnard, 77

Gene "Barney" Barnard, 77, died Sunday, Feb. 6, 2000, at his home, after a long and courageous battle with liver cancer. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He was born Enos Eugene Barnard on Oct. 3, 1922, in Oshkosh, Wis. He attended elementary, junior and senior high school in Oshkosh, and he graduated in 1940. He played the French horn for many years.

He entered the Army and was a member of the 91st Infantry Division, serving in Italy from 1943-45 during World War II. He was honorably discharged in 1945, having earned a Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster, and a Bronze Star for heroic achievement. He returned to the States and soon married his neighbor and sweetheart from Oshkosh, Monica Maude Strupp, on Dec. 31, 1945 in Oshkosh.

He obtained his master's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1950 and taught at Montana State University for 11 years. He went on to earn his doctorate, specializing in chemical effects on salvia plants, from the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1962. He spent the next 19 years teaching agriculture as a professor of horticulture at the American University of Beirut in Beirut, Lebanon. He became well known for his devotion to students and for introducing the cultivation of strawberries to the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon.

After enduring several years of the Lebanese Civil War, he and Monnie

retired to Oshkosh in 1981, to live with his mother-in-law, Olive Strupp, until her death in 1991. They then followed their lifelong dream of moving back to Montana and settled in Kalispell in 1992.

He enjoyed collecting stamps and coins, classical music and woodworking projects. He was passionate about his family's genealogy and spent many hours online and in county court houses researching records.

He was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Charlotte Gordon Barnard, his father, Enos Eugene Barnard, and his sister, Lois Barnard.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Monica Barnard of Kalispell; daughters, Carol and her husband Capt. (USN) Berry Ormsbee of San Diego, and Charlotte and her husband Tod Stover of Escondido, Calif.; sons, Lt. Col. (USAF ret.) Bruce Barnard and his wife Liz of Manassas, Va., and Clifford Barnard and his wife Becky Sibley of Boulder, Colo.; sister, Jane Butterfield and her husband Lyle of Sheboygan Falls, Wis.; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and two nieces, one nephew and nine grand-nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be directed to Home Options Hospice, 1280 Burns Way, Kalispell, MT 59901.

A memorial service will be held in Wisconsin during the summer.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Cremation.

Peter J. Barrett, 65

Peter J. Barrett, 65, died of cancer on Dec. 17, 2000.

He and his wife, Laurie, lived in Dayton, where they moved after spending nearly 30 years in Pewaukee, Wis.

He was the son of Berneice and A.J. "Hunk" Barrett of Madison, Wis. He graduated from Madison East High School where he participated in football, basketball and track.

He was a man of many accomplishments, but was best known for his success in the sailing world. Beside winning a gold medal in the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico, he earned a silver medal in 1964 in Japan and placed in the top third in the 1960 games in Italy. He earned a silver medal in the Pan American Games; won the U.S. Singlehanded Sailing Championship; the 470 Class National Championship; the Finn Class North Americans; the C-Scow Blue Chip; the A-Scow Inland Championship; and numerous other prestigious sailing events. He was honored last February by the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center as the 2000 Sailor of the Year. It is expected that he will be inducted into the Sailing World Hall of Fame in 2001.

At age 59, he added a PhD in finance to his previously earned doctor of law, master of science in mechanics, and master of business administration. As an undergraduate, he studied engineering and naval architecture.

He worked at North Sails for over 20 years, many of them as its executive vice president. During his time with North Sails, he helped it grow to become one of the largest, most successful sail-making firms in the world. After

leaving North Sails, he joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he taught finance and business law for 13 years. He and his wife Laurie both retired from their teaching positions at UWW in 1997, and moved to their dream home on the shore of Flathead Lake.

They spent three and a half happy years remodeling their home, golfing, sailing, swimming, skiing, hiking, traveling, and enjoying their wonderful children and grandchildren. The grandchildren remember many happy hours of storytelling sessions with their beloved grandfather. His wife, children and friends will remember him not for his many accomplishments, but for his love, kindness, wisdom, and strength of character.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife Laurie; and children Kevin, Bruce and Tara. Tara is a professor of forestry in Missoula. Kevin lives in Madison with his wife, Fatna, and their children, Hakim and Karim, and is completing a PhD in African languages and literature. Bruce and his children, Nola and Robin, also live in Madison, where he is a family physician and researcher. He is also survived by his brother Tim of Madison; aunt Corinne Johnson of Peoria, Ill., and many other loving relatives and friends.

A memorial visitation will be held at the Ryan Funeral Home, 2418 N. Sherman Ave., Madison, on Thursday from 3-4 p.m., followed by a service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Nature Conservancy or Planned Parenthood.

James M. Barrier, 60

James M. Barrier, 60, died Aug. 26, 2000, at his home in Bermuda Dunes, Calif.



He was born in Wallace, Idaho, on Aug. 7, 1940. He retired in March 2000 as a vice president of Kaiser Compositiek in Brea, Calif., involved in the manufacturing of composite products for aircraft and rockets.

He is survived by his wife Lucy of Bermuda Dunes; three stepchildren, Susan Porter and Brian Bailey in Grover Beach and Monte Sereno, Calif., respectively, and Colleen Freemon in Camp Verde, Ariz.; two grandchildren; his mother, Helen Smith of Gresham, Ore.; brother Bill Barrier of Spokane; sisters Janice Erickson

of Gresham, and Brenda Probert of Kalispell.

He was a member of the Flathead County High School Ski Team and represented Kalispell and the state of Montana as an Olympic alpine skier in the 1960 Olympics. He later coached for the U.S. Olympic Ski Team and skied internationally while in the US Army. He belonged to the U.S. Olympic Alumni Association. He served on the board of directors of the Bermuda Dunes Country Club.

A celebration of Jim's life will take place at the Bermuda Dunes Country Club on Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.

For those who desire, donations may be made to The City of Hope, 1500 East Duarte Rd., Duarte, CA 91010 or to International Myeloma Foundation, 2129 Stanley Hills Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

Shauna Lee Barriger, 44

Shauna Lee Barriger, 44, died on Sept. 30, 2000, at her home in Whitefish.

She was born on Aug. 16, 1956, in Flagstaff, Ariz. She will be cremated and a memorial service will be held in Delores, Colo.

She is preceded in death by her stepfather. She is survived by her son, Randy Hemmah of Kalispell, two daughters, her mother, six brothers and sisters.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements for the family.

Tom Barta, 69

Tom Barta, 69, passed away May 23, 2000.

He was born on Sept. 8, 1930, in Kalispell.

He is survived by his two children, daughter Sue Engebritson of Boise, Idaho, and son, Tom Barta of San Diego, Calif.; grandchildren, Angie, Nick and Daniel; great-grandchild Tyler; stepdaughter Debbie Steinberg, step-grandchildren, Amy and Stacy; and his sister, Shirley Barta-Burns; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his sisters Delores and Betty, and his brother, Harry.

He graduated from Bigfork High School in 1949. He was an Army veteran. He went on to work in the logging and construction industries.

His passion was for the great

outdoors, mountains and lakes, streams and rivers surrounding the beautiful Flathead Valley. He was especially fond of the Swan River that was behind the home where he grew up. He spent every day after school fishing and playing up and down the Swan.

He was a free spirit with a great sense of humor and was liked by everyone he came in contact with. He loved to play cards, cribbage and socialize in the evenings with friends. He had a heart of gold and would do anything he could to help those in need.

He touched the hearts of many and in their hearts he will stay.

Services will be held Saturday at noon at the Little Brown Church in Bigfork. A reception will follow.

Marvin S. Bassett, 82

Marvin S. Bassett, 82, passed away May 6, 2000 at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell. He was born August 1, 1917 in Bakersfield, Calif., to Jerry S. and Stella Herrick Bassett.

He was one of five children, having three sisters and one brother. At the age of twelve, he went out on his own, working for a grocer until he was about sixteen. He graduated from high school and began a life of successful business pursuits. He started a fruit market which was his first success as a businessman. He moved from that business to car sales for Oldsmobile, and then to a position as an aircraft inspector in Wichita, Kan. In 1943, he volunteered for military service in World War II. He began training for overseas duty as a pilot and graduated as an officer from the United States air

force school in 1944. He achieved the equivalent of a bachelor of science degree in the military.

On June 7, 1944, he married his wife Sue in San Angelo, Texas. He manufactured the Bassett fifth wheel trailer, took ownership of Bell RV of Kalispell, which is now in Spokane, Wash., and became owner/manager of Leisure World in Kalispell. He was a builder, designer, real estate developer, and chairman of the board of Elite Motor Coach Company

In addition to traveling in the United States, he and his wife have traveled the Alcan Highway, been to Mexico, and to England. He was a lapidary (rock hound), and has a large collection of rocks. He made jewelry, enjoyed going for walks, flying planes, collecting old Cadillacs and donating some of them to local fire departments for

fundraising, and he especially liked spending time in the desert.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Leona Bassett, and a brother, Virgil Bassett.

He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Sue Bassett of Somers; four children, Mark Bassett and his wife Deborah of Houston, Susan Bishop and her husband Jim of Spokane, Sarah Bassett of Somers, and Stephen Bassett of Somers; four grandchildren, Morgan and Madelynn Bishop, and Richard and Maegan Bassett; and two sisters, Verna Mae Holly of Las Vegas, Nev., and Marguerite Burkleeo of Nampa, Idaho.

Memorial services will be held Thursday at 3 p.m. at the Johnson Mortuary Chapel.

Arrangements and cremation are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Arthur 'Art' Bauer, 90

Arthur "Art" Bauer, 90, passed away at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell, on Dec. 4, 2000, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.



He was born on the family farm north of Kalispell, on Feb. 26, 1910, the second child of Ed and Linda Bauer. They had immigrated separately to the Flathead Valley from Lodsz, Poland, married, and started a homestead on Whitefish Stage.

After graduating from the eighth grade at Pine Grove School, he began his working life, farming in the summer and working in logging camps in the winter. Soon he was joined by his younger brother Ervin, and together the Bauer Brothers became full-time farmers, building up a fine 700-acre spread where they raised award-winning certified seed potatoes, alfalfa, grain, and a few cattle. They received a special Conservation District award for planting some of the first windbreaks in the valley and being exceptional stewards of the land.

He was a past member of the

Eagles, the Potato Association, Good Sam's Club, the Lutheran Church, and Lakeside Chapel.

On Dec. 15, 1968, he made the best decision of his life, marrying his wife Athena who became his soulmate and remains devoted to his memory at the family home. He and his brother sold much of their farm land in 1977, and for the next twenty years he enjoyed traveling with the Good Sam's, telling stories and playing pinochle as only he could do, and fishing and hunting with his friends and nephews. He especially enjoyed ice fishing at Duck Lake. "Artie" will always be remembered for his sparkling wit, twinkling blue eyes, and his infectious good humor.

He is survived on the family farm by his wife Athena and his brother Ervin Bauer and his wife Marie; his nieces LaVerne Fredenberg and Dorothy Graham and their children and grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday at 11 a.m. at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials to Immanuel Lutheran Home or the Alzheimer's Association.

James Michael 'Jim' Bauer, 80

James Michael "Jim" Bauer, 80, passed away Sept. 26, 2000, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He was born June 22, 1920, in Devil's Lake, N.D., to Mike and Anna Bauer. At the age of 10, his family moved to Lone Pine, where he was schooled and later graduated.

In 1941, he joined the Navy where he was stationed in the Asiatic/Pacific Theater until 1945.

He married Clara Mae McHenry on June 16, 1943, in San Diego. They moved to Montana where he farmed and worked in saw mills for a number of years in Lone Pine and Seeley Lake. He was the custodian for the Plains Schools from 1962-67, then for the Kalispell School District 5 from 1968-82, when he retired.

He was a wonderful gardener who loved raising flowers. The highlight of his life was being chief cook and bottle washer for the annual Kalispell Junior High staff hunting trip.

He is survived by his wife Clara Bauer of Kalispell and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday at the Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with the Rev. Tim Bartholomew of Stillwater Free Lutheran Church officiating. Urn burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Cemetery. The United Veterans of the Flathead Valley will conduct military honors.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements for the family.

Sylvia Bauer, 90

Sylvia Bauer, age 90, passed away on Aug. 5, 2000, at Heritage Place in Kalispell, of age-related causes. She was born on Sept. 5, 1909, in Minneapolis, Minn., to Markus and Borghilde Braaten.

In October 1927, Sylvia married Rasmus Sampson in Wolf Point, Mont. Rasmus passed away in January 1945 in Seattle, Wash.,. She married John Bauer in December 1948. He passed away in March 1968. She also was preceded in death by two sons and one brother.

Sylvia is survived by a son, Paul Sampson and his wife Juanita of Von, Texas; a daughter, Lillian Flagg and her husband Fred of Cottage Grove, Ore.; seven stepchildren; nine grandchildren; 15

great-grandchildren; a number of great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews; five sisters, Olga Rhodes, Gladys Baker, Helen Bates, Alice Christianson and her husband John, and Mary Schrock and her husband Joe; three brothers, Henry Braaten and his wife Margaret, Merle (Bud) Braaten and his wife Betty; and Arnold Braaten and his wife Norma; and one sister-in-law, Irene Braaten.

Funeral services for Sylvia Bauer will be held Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2000, at 2 p.m. at John son Mortuary. Interment will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Irene E. Baxter, 92

Irene E. Baxter, 92, passed away April 25, 2000, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

She was born April 19, 1908, in Red Lodge, to Milton J. and Marie C. Kelly Tunnickliff.

She moved to Columbia Falls over 40 years ago. She was employed as a cook for several local restaurants in Columbia Falls.

She met her future husband Charles W. Baxter in Columbia Falls, and on June 1, 1955, they were united in marriage at the First Baptist Church in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. On Sept. 5, 1962 she and her husband Charles were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

She enjoyed spending her time working in her vegetable garden.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Charles Baxter; a brother, Howard Tunnickliff; and a niece, Pattie Greg.

She is survived by her sister-in-law, Elta Tunnickliff of Great Falls; three nephews, Donald, Scott, and Ronald Tunnickliff; and a niece, Jackie Lewis.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p.m. at the Johnson Mortuary Chapel. Visitation will be Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Burial will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Frank Bear Sr., 92

Frank Bear Sr., 92, died Sunday, Jan. 30, 2000, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He was born Nov. 27, 1907, in Crested Butte, Colo.

He married Helen Bartosh on Feb. 1, 1937, in Edgewater, Colo. They moved to the Flathead Valley in 1974, where they resided ever since.

He loved the outdoors; he was an avid hunter and loved to go fishing.

He will truly be missed by his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife of

nearly 63 years, Helen; daughters, Janet Wolverton of Klamath Falls, Ore., and Colette Rich of Missoula; sons, Frank M. Bear of Kila, John A. Bear of Kalispell, and Michael J. Bear of Great Falls; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Closed casket respects may be made from 3-8 p.m. Wednesday at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Burial will be held Saturday at Crested Butte Cemetery in Crested Butte.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Harry E. Bear, 81

Harry E. Bear, 81, passed away on Nov. 1, 2000, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He was born Nov. 25, 1918, in Kalispell to John and Edna Algurre Bear. He lived in Kalispell most of his life, graduating from Flathead County High School in 1936.

He served during World War II, first in the U.S. Army from 1937 to 1940, then the U.S. Navy from 1940 to 1946 then the U.S. Coast Guard from 1946 to 1951.

He played in the U. S. Army Band.

He married Lottie Virginia Hill on Jan. 8, 1946 in Baltimore, Md. They moved to Kalispell later that year.

He enjoyed prospecting, gardening, fruit trees, playing clarinet and music. He also enjoyed raising his children.

He worked for the U.S. Government Civil Service as a steam engineer and boiler plant operator.

He was a member of the Montana Multiple Use group and the

G.P.P.A. of California.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Lottie in March of this year, two brothers, and two sisters.

He is survived by two daughters, Kathy Eland of Warren, Mich., and Pam Winn of Cedar City, Utah; six sons, John Bear, Michael Bear, Timothy Bear, Mark Bear and Jason Bear, all of Kalispell, and Richard Bear of Tacoma, Wash.; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary Chapel with the Rev. Daniel Lambert of Easthaven Baptist Church officiating. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials be given to the Jaycee Coats for Kids, P.O. Box 427, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Lila Rose Bear, 83

Lila Rose Bear, 83, passed away Aug. 31, 2000, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

She was born Nov. 9, 1916, to Clarence and Ruth Hanscam Johnson in Harlem. Her family moved to Somers, in the spring of 1920, and she received her early education in the Somers schools. She worked with her mother cooking in logging camps.

She met and married Raymond Bear on Dec. 7, 1936, in Kalispell. They remained in the valley where she worked at various jobs including the cherry warehouse and a number of different restaurants.

She enjoyed reading, embroi-

dery and traveling with seniors' tours. One of her most memorable trips was her cruise to Alaska. She also loved to dance and be with her family to which she was very devoted.

She was preceded in death by her husband Raymond in July of 1970; her parents; one daughter, Hazel Marie Dawdy on Oct. 1, 1985; four brothers and one sister.

She is survived by one son, Ray Bear and wife, Bette; one daughter, Shirley Hughes; one brother, Kevin Johnson and wife, Peggy;



and one sister, Hazel Motichka, all of Kalispell; six grandchildren, Kelly Cannon, Diana McIntyre, Sheryl Underwood, David Bear, Randy Dawdy and Leona Karl; 10 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Johnson Mortuary with the Rev. Daniel Lambert of Easthaven Baptist Church officiating. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be at the Johnson Mortuary on Tuesday from 9 a.m. until the time of services.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Lottie Virginia Bear, 76

Lottie Virginia Bear, 76, died Wednesday, March 1, 2000, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

She was born Sept. 28, 1923, in Chelsea, Mass., the daughter of George and Lillian Tyler Hill. She attended school in Chelsea, until completing the 10th grade.

She loved playing bingo and dancing.

She married Harry E. Bear on Jan. 8, 1946, at Baltimore, Md. They moved to Kalispell later that year.

She worked as a maid at the Blue & White Motel in Kalispell for over 20 years. She was also a homemaker and loved being with her many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She and her husband lived in Kalispell all of their married life except for three years spent in Alaska when Harry was in the U.S. Coast Guard.

She was preceded in death by her daughter Jacqueline Anderson, her parents, three sisters and

a brother.

She is survived by her husband Harry of Kalispell; son John D. Bear and wife, Josephine, of Kalispell; daughter Kathy Eland and husband, Thomas, of Warren, Mich.; sons, Richard S. Bear of Tacoma, Wash., Michael C. Bear and wife, Donna, of Kalispell, Timothy R. Bear of Kalispell; daughter Pam Winni and husband, Dennis, of Cedar City, Utah and son, Mark J. Bear of Kalispell; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday at the Johnson Mortuary Chapel, with the Rev. Daniel Lambert officiating. Burial will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens, in Kalispell. Arrangements and creation are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Memorials may be made to the Montana Association for the Blind, 317 7th St. S., Great Falls, MT 59405.

Lora Lee (Sentovich) Beck

Lora Lee (Sentovich) Beck, 45, co-owner of Bear Creek Guest Ranch, died of cancer, June 5, 2000, at a Cut Bank hospital. Burial took place at the family ranch and a memorial service was held at First Presbyterian Church in Cut Bank.

She was born July 4, 1954, in Lead, South Dakota, and graduated from high school in Naples, Fla., in 1972. She lived and worked in Great Falls from 1974 to 1980. She lived in the Bigfork area from 1981 to 1985, and worked at Sam's, The Bread Board and The Junction. She then attended barber college in Missoula and owned and operat-

ed a barber shop in Kalispell from 1986 until 1989.

She married Bill Beck June 10, 1989. They were business partners at the Bear Creek Guest Ranch near Marias Pass, and she had also obtained a real estate license.

Survivors include her husband, band Bill, and two sons Dane and Dusty Beck, all of Cut Bank; her mother, Lennora Sentovich of Great Falls; her father, Tony Sentovich of Lead; one sister, Sue Jenson of Phoenix, Ariz.; two brothers, Mark Sentovich of Tampa, Fla., and Mitch Sentovich of Naples, Fla.; and her grandmother, Nike Sentovich of Lead.

Geraldine Bedard, 80

Geraldine Bedard, 80, passed away July 24, 2000, in Kalispell.

She was born July 1, 1920, in Missoula County to R.H. Tucklier and Geraldine Bedard.

At the age of 11, she became a resident of the Montana State Training School in Boulder. In 1945, she moved to Warm Springs State Hospital where she lived until 1976. She lived in Libby and Ronan the next year and in 1977, she moved to Kalispell to live at the Schweigert Group Home.

She was a client of Flathead Industries in Kalispell for several years and was employed in the sheltered workshop. She also worked in the activity center cutting rags. She moved to the Friendship House in 1981 and resided there for 15 years.

She made many friends during her years at the Friendship House and was known for her willingness to be helpful. She found strength in her faith as a Catholic and was also associated with Rocky Mountain Baptist Church. She enjoyed attending church services and found special comfort from The Lord's Prayer. She learned many nursery rhymes and songs as a child and enjoyed reciting them as an adult. She enjoyed getting outside, going for drives, and had lots of energy for walking.

Cremation has taken place and burial will take place at a later date at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Diane P. Bedsaul, 62

Diane P. Bedsaul, 62, of Libby, died Oct. 4, 2000, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center of a stroke.

She was born July 1, 1938, at Attica, Ind., to William and Stella Redman.

She was an accountant for 20 years. She moved to Libby in 1999.

She is survived by four children including Rick Williams and his wife, Kerri, and Pam Williams, all of Libby; and seven grandchildren.

Private family services will be held.

Local arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

Frances L. Bell, 80

Frances L. Bell, 80, died Sunday, Feb. 27, 2000, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

She was born on Sept. 29, 1919, in Kalispell, to Henry and Ruth Jones Sievers.

She received her early education in the Flathead Valley, where she also met and married Lawrence Bell on Feb. 2, 1935. She lived in Nyack and the Flathead Valley all her life.

She enjoyed painting and gardening and being a homemaker.

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

She is survived by her son, Ken-

neth Bell and wife Carole of Columbia Falls; two sisters, Alice Soderstrom and Joan Sievers, both of Kalispell; three grandchildren, Brad Bell and wife Kathy of Columbia Falls, Kendy Jensen and husband Craig of Lavina, and Lori Cribb and husband Geoff of Plantation, Fla.; and five great-grandchildren.

Private memorial services will be held at a later date.

Memorial gifts may be given to Hospice, 120 Burns Way, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Paula J. Bell, 75

Paula J. Bell, 75, passed away at her home in Bigfork on Aug. 6, 2000.

She was born Jan. 23, 1925, in Shelby, to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. She grew up in Montana, graduating from Cut Bank High School. She later graduated from Northern Montana College in Havre.

In 1945, she married Horace Bell in Great Falls. After residing in Montana for 32 years, she moved to Reno, Nev., where she was the owner of a large transportation company known as Whittlesea-Bell Incorporated.

She moved back to Montana in 1994, settling in Bigfork, with views of the lake she dearly loved.

She was an active member of the Episcopal Church in Ferndale, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Sparks, Nev., and St. Christopher's in Boulder City, Nev.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Horace, in 1986.

She is survived by her eight children, Nadyne Ritter of Great Falls, Larry Bell, Jerry Bell, and Tim Bell, all of Sparks, Gary Bell, Jim Bell, and Terry Bell, all of Las

Vegas, and Sharlene Dugas of Yakima, Wash.; 24 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Ferndale.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Ferndale, St. Jude's in Boulder City, Nev., or to the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls.

Bigfork Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements for the family.

Alden Beller, 78

Alden Beller, 78, died at his home in Kalispell with his loving family around him on June 11, 2000.

He was born January 23, 1922 to Everett and Ethel Dorris Beller on the family farm near Columbia Falls. He received his schooling at the Bad Rock rural school and in Whitefish, graduating from the Whitefish High School in 1940.

He then received a teaching degree from Northern Montana College in Havre. He furthered his education at Eastern Washington in Cheney, and received his master's degree in education at the University of Montana in Missoula.

Mr. Beller began his teaching career filling in for a short time at the Lakeside school. He taught at the Half Moon rural school and was teacher-principal at the Evergreen School for 7 years. He next taught at the Kalispell Jr. High School before moving to the special class at Flathead High School. Together with his wife, he started programs for the handicapped in Kalispell as director of special services. They wrote the state manual for handicapped programs. He retired from teaching in 1980 after 34 years in the profession.

He then expanded his hobby of clock repair and spent the next several years repairing clocks, delivering and setting up grandfather clocks for several local businesses. He passed this skill on to his son, son-in-law and a nephew.

Mr. Beller spent his life in the service of his Lord, living and doing for others. He was a positive influence for many children and



adults. His later years were spent visiting shut-ins and telling stories at schools, retirement homes and the Central School Museum. He wrote two books on his life in the Flathead, "This I Remember", and also wrote a manual for clock repair. Time spent with his flowers was a special joy.

He was a charter member of Northridge Lutheran Church where he was an active member. He was also active in the Northwest Montana Retired Teacher's Association.

In 1945 he was married to Beth Adele Prestbye who was his partner for 55 years.

She survives him at the family home. Other survivors include his son Don, an orchestra conductor for the Missoula schools, Kathy Buszmann, a CPA, and Jane Carlson, a kindergarten teacher, both from Billings. His AFS son of Sapporo, Japan, Dr. Hiroshi Hayashi is also named among his family. As precious to him as his own children were his daughter-in-law, Janan Beller and his two sons-in-law, Darrell Buszmann and Bill Carlson. Extra special in his life were his grandchildren, Jeff Buszmann, Ashley and Tristan Beller, Shelley Carlson Podrobsky and great-grandson Austin.

Other survivors include his sister, Eunice McKinley, and brother Gene Beller of Kalispell, brother Russell Beller of Troy, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A service of celebration will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Northridge Lutheran Church with burial at Conrad Cemetery. Should one desire, the family suggests memorials to Northridge Lutheran Church or the Central School Museum.

Donald 'Gene' Beller, 74

Donald "Gene" Beller passed away on Sept. 22, 2000, at Colonial Manor in Whitefish, surrounded by family on a bright, crisp fall morning after an eventful life that began 74 years earlier at the Bad Rock family farm.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Guinevere Mae Beller, and five children, Gerry Beller, of West Virginia, Karen Hopseker, of Seattle, Connie Erickson and Susan Clay, both of Kalispell, and Sara Artley of Seattle; an older sister, Eunice McKinley and younger brother Russell; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by daughter Donna; father Everett Beller; mother Ethel Beller; sister Carol Kent; brother Alden Beller;

and sister Baby Gail.

Also known as "Gene" to many of his friends, he spent much of his life working in heavy construction. One of his first jobs was as a crane operator in the construction of Hungry Horse Dam. He participated in the construction of what was then Anaconda Aluminum Company and worked with heavy equipment there for several years.

At a mid-point in his life, he joined Alcoholics Anonymous and played a major role in establishing an AA chapter in Kalispell, as well as other chapters in surrounding



areas. He maintained sobriety for over 32 years, and brought a large number of others to sobriety as well.

He always had a song and a good word for family, friends, and strangers alike. He was an avid fly fisherman, and as a native Montanan reveled in the outdoors.

Those who remember these good times can participate in an open-mike celebration of his life at a reception at the Central Christian Church at 12:30 p.m. on Monday immediately after funeral services at Johnson Funeral Home at 11 a.m. There will be a visitation at Johnson Funeral Home on Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m.

There will be a private family interment at a later date.

Faith Bemis, 92

Faith Bemis, 92, died on June 14, 2000, at Immanuel Lutheran Home, where she had been a resident for the past four years.

She was born July 28, 1907, in a sod house near Max, N.D., on land homesteaded by her parents, William and Emma Zaharee. Her parents emigrated from Russia in 1901, with their two infant boys. She was the fifth of nine children, including four sisters and five brothers. Her parents were successful pioneer farmers, through perseverance, hard work, resourcefulness, and their faith.

She graduated from Minot High School and Minot State Teachers College, with a major in English and a bachelor of arts degree in education. She studied Latin and four years of Russian, and could read, speak, and write Russian.

During college, she worked the summer season in Yellowstone Park at Mammoth Hot Springs as a waitress, colloquially known as "heaver."

She lived in Kalispell for 64 years. She and her husband, Guy Bemis, founded the Kalispell Business College in 1936, shortly after their marriage in Missoula. It was the beauty and sports opportunities offered by the Flathead, as well as a need for a business school, that brought the couple to Kalispell.

For the first three years the school was located in the Kalispell Mercantile building and for the next 12 years it was located at McIntosh Hall. In 1952, the college was moved to their home on College Avenue. It was they who recommended to the city council the name for College Avenue, and it was accepted.



At the time when they built their home, that part of Kalispell was sparsely settled, and was more or less out in the country. The property was acquired from the Conrad family, who lived above them on Woodland Avenue. They both taught for many years in the school, where many well-known Kalispell citizens learned typing, shorthand and office practice.

The Bemis' were members of the Chamber of Commerce and the Flathead Valley Citizens Committee, which promoted the building of the Hungry Horse Dam.

She continued to manage the college after her husband passed away in 1957, and maintained a busy schedule of day and night instructing and supervising. She also provided stenography and typing for Kalispell businesses.

She was active in the Toast Mistress Club and served as president of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Her property was severely flooded in 1964.

She enjoyed being in the outdoors, gardening, raising roses, tending to her fruit trees and especially loved her dogs and cats.

She is survived by three nieces, Patricia Gruzensky of Stockton, Calif., Mary Ortendahl of Orinda, Calif., and Dolores Taylor, of Billings; and two nephews, Donald Zaharee of San Diego, and William Zaharee of Whitmore Lake, Mich.

All who came to know her through her long life found her a unique and special individual, with a strong will to live. She was well-spoken, valued education, enjoyed people and made friends readily through her charm and wit. She will be with us always. She is buried in the C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery next to her husband.

Kenneth Herbert Bennett, 67

Kenneth Herbert Bennett, 67, died Monday, March 13, 2000, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

He was born Jan. 28, 1933, in Manchester, Okla., the son of William Calvin and Juanita Tunnell Bennett. He attended schools in Cedarville, Kan., and later enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving during the Korean Conflict.

On March 20, 1954, he was married to Barbara Denton at El Toro Marine Base, Calif. The couple moved to Montana in 1968, and raised four children.

He worked at the Wonder Bread Company for 17 years, from 1968 to 1980, as a supervisor for the Northwest Montana area. In 1980, he began his own company in telecommunications, serving as owner and operator. In 1985, he also started Duo communications in San Jose, Calif. He retired in 1990, and returned to Kalispell.

He was a member of the Elks and also enjoyed fishing, golfing, hunting, and following grandchildren's sports and school activities. He raised a close loving family and took pride in teaching grandkids how to fish and the building of his



family cabin on Ashley Lake.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Charles Bennett.

Survivors include his wife Barbara Bennett of Kalispell; daughter, Renee' Ewing and her husband, Bruce, of Union City, Calif.; son Lane Bennett and his wife, Marie, of Kalispell; daughters, Lisa Matovich and her husband, Steve, of Union City, Dana Galasso and her husband, Gary, of San Jose; grandchildren, Erin and Rob Ewing, Brittney, Brianne, Rachel and Kendra Bennett, Megan Matovich, Haley and Molly Galasso; one sister, Faye Miller, of Lyman, Colo.; two brothers, Stanley "DeRay" Bennett, of Kansas City, Mo., and Vernon Bennett of Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Johnson Mortuary Chapel, with the Rev. Jim Davey officiating. Burial will follow in Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today at Johnson Mortuary.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made in memory of Kenneth Bennett to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1002, Kalispell, MT 59903-1002.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary.

Velma L. Bennett, 93

Velma L. Bennett, 93, died on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2000, at Lake View Care Center in Bigfork.

She was born on Nov. 5, 1906, in Armor, S.D., to Clark and Minnie Caskey Martin. She was raised and educated in South Dakota.

She moved to Helena in 1957, where she worked as an office worker at the Veterans Hospital. She moved to Bigfork in 1962, where she and her husband Lewis built the first home on Rippling Waters on the Swan River. She worked at the old Kalispell Regional Hospital as an office worker for a period of time.

She loved sewing, was an outstanding cook and loved being around people.

She was a member of the Community United Methodist Church in Bigfork, and sang in the church choir for many years. She was a member of the Eastern Star Temple #79, of Helena, for years.

Her parents; her husband, Lewis; a daughter, Marianne Lemberger; two brothers; and one sister preceded her in death.

She is survived by a daughter, Elaine Stollfuss, of Bigfork; a stepdaughter, Marjorie Johnson, of Seattle; four grandchildren, Gary Paulsen of Irving, Texas, Dr. Michael Paulsen

of Arlington, Texas, Robin Askelson of Austin, Texas, Dotty Lemberger of Flynt, Mich.; stepgranddaughter Cindy Ross of Three Forks; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Community United Methodist Church in Bigfork, with the Rev. Jan Witman officiating. Her ashes will be buried along with her daughter's in Brooking, S.D.

The family request memorials in her name be made to the Bigfork Quick Response Unit.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Bertha Inez Benson, 93

Bertha Inez Benson, 93, died April 1, 2000, at Brendan House.

She was born Aug. 2, 1906, the daughter of William Nevson and Bertha Ellen Farling Andrews in Rexford, Kan. She was educated in Utica schools reaching the eighth grade.

She was a homemaker and raised her family. She enjoyed doing needlework, and while she and her husband, Benjamin Benson, were residents of Brendan House, she made several crafts for the residents there.

She was married to Benjamin Benson in 1970 in Idaho.

They moved to Kalispell, from Dillon, in 1986. He died Nov. 24, 1993. She has been a resident of Brendan House since June of 1993.

She was preceded in death by a son Robert; husbands George Grigg in 1954, and Benjamin Benson in 1993; her parents; two brothers, Dallas and Lloyd Andrews; and two sisters, Goldie and Gertrude.

She is survived by her sons,

William Long and wife, Diane, of Great Falls, George Long and wife, Nancy, of Spokane, Lloyd Isbell and wife, Darlene, of Heron; daughter Jean VanBlarcom and husband, Ray, of Sebastopol, Calif.; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be sent to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1002, Kalispell, MT 59901 or the Montana Heart Association, 623 2nd Ave. East, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Charlene 'Charlie' L. Benton, 60

Charlene "Charlie" L. Benton, 60, passed away on Dec. 30, 2000, at the Brendan House in Kalispell.

She was born on Feb. 26, 1940, in Columbia Falls, to Dewey and Florence Mueller Parrish.

She earned her GED and worked various jobs, including housecleaning and as a deli worker. She loved to knit, crochet, make dolls, and go to bingo.

She was a member of the Moose Lodge in Whitefish, and a member of the Worldwide Church of God.

She was preceded in death by two grandsons, Frederick O. Benton and Duane Benton Jr.; her father, Dewey Parrish; two sisters, Beverly Parrish and Alberta Sagen; one brother, Raymond Parrish; one son-in-law, Timothy Benson; and an adopted son, Russell Brauer.

She is survived by her husband Frederick Benton Sr. of Columbia Falls; three daughters, Bobbie



Sewell and her husband, Eugene, of Salmo, British Columbia, Jeri Hanson and her husband, Walter, of Columbia Falls, and Robbin Benson and her fiance', Kevin Parks, of Columbia Falls; four sons, Frederick Benton Jr. and his wife, Cheryl, of Kalispell, Edward Benton of Martin City, Kenneth Benton of Columbia Falls, and Duane Benton Sr. and his wife, Bobbie, of Columbia Falls; many grandchildren; her mother, Florence Parrish; three sisters, JoJo Brown and her husband, Dale, of Bigfork, Evelyn Boomer of Hall, and Marjorie Surceik and her husband, George; one brother, Phillip Parrish and his wife, Debbie, of San Francisco Bay, Calif.

Funeral services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary with the Rev. Lloyd Barrie of the Worldwide Church of God officiating. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Visitation will be on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Eloise J. Berg, 81

Eloise J. Berg, 81, was called home by her Lord and Savior June 17, 2000, in Kalispell, to join her husband and other family loved ones. She was born July 1, 1918, in Eureka, to Jess Howard and Emma Belle (Leonard) Wetzel.



She grew up in Eureka, and graduated from Eureka public schools. On Aug. 3, 1936, she married Laurence Eugene Berg in Kalispell. She was a homemaker and raised five children. She enjoyed knitting, gardening, sewing, collecting frogs, doing puzzles and being in the mountains picking huckleberries. She loved her grandchildren very much and was a special second mother to them.

She was a member of the Eagles Lodge #1693 in Hamilton, for 19 years, and a current member of Eagles Lodge #234 in Kalispell. She was a part of its march and drill team and earned many awards with them. She was baptized at the First Baptist Church in Eureka, and attended special services at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

She was preceded in death by

her husband of 31 years, Laurence Eugene Berg; her parents, Jess Howard and Emma Belle Wetzel; three brothers, Lloyd Wetzel, Frank Wetzel and Jack Wetzel; one daughter, Patsy Belcher; and two grandsons, Jim Hammons and Robert Eaton.

She is survived by three daughters, Sharon French of Kalispell, Janis Hammons and her partner John Roberts of Coram, and Pam Eaton and her husband Terry of Kalispell; one son, Larry Berg of Portland, Ore.; two sisters, Jean Parker and her husband Claire of Great Falls, and Lela Holder of Eureka; 18 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Eloise J. Berg will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 21, in Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell with Pastor Doug Nemitz officiating. Burial will be at the Tobacco Valley Cemetery in Eureka. Visitation will be Tuesday, June 20 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Johnson Mortuary. The family requests that donations in memory of Eloise Berg be made to the Meals on Wheels program in Kalispell.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Joseph E. "Joe" Bergsieker, 82

Joseph E. "Joe" Bergsieker, 82, passed away June 28, 2000, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He was born on Nov. 24, 1917, in Kalispell, to Ernst and Effie Williamson Bergsieker. He lived in Stryker for a short time before moving to Chester, where he graduated from Chester High School in 1935.

After graduation, he attended and graduated from the Coyne Electronics School in Chicago. On Aug. 12, 1941, he entered the United States Army, where he served four years.

On Sept. 5, 1943, he married Enid Buhmiller at the Olympic Hotel in Seattle. After his discharge from the Army, they settled in Spokane, Wash., before

moving to Kalispell in 1951. He operated his own refrigeration, heating, and air conditioning business for 40 years. However, most everyone knew him as a gunsmith. He built many custom guns and had several pictured on the cover of national magazines.

He was a simple man who appreciated his family and friends. It was his friends stopping by to say hello that meant the most to him after his wife's death. He truly valued the friends he made through gunsmithing.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 46 years, Enid, his parents, and two brothers.

He is survived by one daughter, Sue Graue and her husband,

Steve, of Sand Point, Idaho; one son, Ted Bergsieker and his wife, Mary, of Lolo; seven grandchildren, Joe and Karyn Bergsieker, Amy and Tyler Powell, Anne Bergsieker, Truly and Russ Streng, Marc and Misty Nouchi, Matthew Nouchi, and Christy Nouchi; seven great-grandchildren; and one sister, Mary Potts and her husband, Bill.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at Johnson Mortuary with the Rev. Dennis Jingt officiating. Burial will follow at Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be today from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Alma Sorenson Bergstrom, 100

Alma Sorenson Bergstrom, 100, died on July 10, 2000 at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. She was born on April 24, 1900 in Eau Claire, Wis. Her father was a Norwegian born farmer.



She was the oldest of four children. The family moved to Idaho when she was 5 years old, and to Kalispell when she was 17 years old.

She completed her education in business school and became a bookkeeper in a grocery store. She married a farmer, Rudolph "Rudy" Bergstrom on June 24, 1924.

The couple moved to Somers where he worked for the Great Northern Tie Plant, retiring as their chief engineer.

Her interests were sewing, baking, gardening, TV, and word puzzles. She also listened to George

Ostrom every morning. Most of her life she watched the Atlanta Braves and knew the names of the players.

She was a member of Eidsvold Lutheran Church in Somers until moving to Kalispell where she attended Central Bible Church.

She was a resident of the Immanuel Lutheran Home and recently celebrated her 100th birthday there on April 24.

Her husband Rudolph preceded her in death in 1964.

She is survived by her three children, Dorothy Graham and husband Robert, Raymond and wife Joyce and Rudy and wife Ruth; her sister, Ruth Grovo of Kalispell; nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

At her request, the family will hold a private graveside service at Glacier Memorial Gardens on Wednesday.

Memorials can be made to the Immanuel Lutheran Home.

Lillian Betz, 100

Lillian Betz, 100, passed away on Dec. 15, 2000, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell. She was born on May 22, 1900, in Mount Vernon, Ill., to Charles and Lillian Snodsmith. Her father worked for the railroad; he died when she was 10 years old. She was raised by her two aunts, Emma and Carrie, so that her mother could work as a nurse. She attended school in Mount Vernon, where she graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1917. After graduation, she went to stay with her aunt, Emma, in Du Quoin, Ill., where she worked in the office of the mercantile as well as doing some retail work. On May 28, 1920, she married Nicholas Betz. They moved to California, where he worked for the city of Los Angeles. She enjoyed people, parties and entertaining. During World War II, she worked for Douglas Aircraft in the tool crib, checking out

tools to the workers. Later in life she worked in her son-in-law's hardware and building supply store in Riverside, Calif., staffing the post office known as Station 4.

Her interests included reading, sewing, playing bridge, music, flowers and her family. She had traveled most of the United States, Bermuda, the Caribbean Islands and Hawaii. She moved to Bigfork in 1992.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Nick, in October of 1975, her parents, and one grandson.

She is survived by her daughter Charlotte Trust of Bigfork; two grandsons, six great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at a later date in California.

Arrangements are under the direction of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.