

Damien Scott 'Kaos' Baca, 26

Damien Scott "Kaos" Baca, 26, ascended to God the morning of April 6, 2001.

He was born Sept. 17, 1974, in Nuremberg, Germany.

He is survived by his wife, Stacy Houge, and his daughter, Ayla Baca of Kalispell; his parents, Henry and Linda Baca of Lawton, Okla.; a brother, Darren Henry Baca of Denver, Colo.; a niece, Christen Marie Nielsen of Lawton, Okla.; maternal grandfather, Perry D. Celentano and paternal grandmother, Mathilde T. Walters of Warner Robins, Ga.; numerous aunts and uncles; and the Rainbow Family of Living Light.

This beautiful, deep-thinking, loving husband, father, son, and brother spent a good portion of his short, rich life feeding hungry people wherever he encountered them. His world view was infinite,

and his heart was of a size that encompassed his entire family with unconditional love, stretching beyond him to wrap itself around everyone that he knew.

He was an Eagle Scout; champion campsite-cobbler-cooker; Vigil Member of the Order of the Arrow, named "Ahoweli Lungwamen"; Willful Dreamer; former altar server; confirmed as "Gregory," a Roman Catholic; U.S. Army Europe swimming champion; graduate of Southeastern Technical School of Culinary Arts in St. Augustine, Fla.; a Freedom Fighter and Rainbow Warrior.

Visitation will be today from 1-8 p.m. at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2001 at the Columbia Mortuary. Burial will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

William 'Bill' J. Badgley, 83

William "Bill" J. Badgley, 83, died Sept. 25, 2001, at the Havre hospital of complications from asbestosis and congestive heart failure.

He was born March 6, 1918, to Wm. H. and Agnes Crowley Badgley in Eureka. That year he moved with his family to Jordan where his folks had a homestead. He enjoyed riding horses in the wide open spaces. He attended a one room school there until 1930, when they moved to Wyola, because of the drought and ranched until 1936. That year they moved back to Eureka and bought a ranch. He worked in the woods and helped around the ranch.

On March 4, 1941, he joined the Army. On March 19, 1942, he boarded the Queen Elizabeth and ended up in Australia. He served with the 116 Medics 41st Infantry Division, Company A, B, and C. He was a combat medic in the islands, evacuating casualties off the front lines. He was rotated home in August 1945.

He married Marjorie Hume on Oct. 10, 1945, in Eureka. He worked in the woods and on the ranch.

From 1949 to 1953 he worked at the Libby Zonilite mine driving a dump truck. He moved to Rexford and from 1953 until 1958 he worked in the woods for J. Neil's Lumber Company and as an independent short logger using horses. He hired on with the Forest Ser-

vice in August of 1958 and retired in June of 1979 because of his wife getting cancer.

He married Linnea Roseburg on Nov. 8, 1982, and remained living in Rexford.

He enjoyed traveling, boating, fishing, walking and being with people. He was a snow bird for 16 years, spending most of that winter time in Earp, Calif., at the Wheeler Inn.

He was a member of the V.F.W.

He was preceded in death by both parents, his brother Ross, an infant daughter and his wife Marjorie.

He is survived by his wife Lin; three sisters, Phyllis and husband Gilchrist Kincaid of Central Point, Ore., Agnes Pluid of Kalispell, and Patricia Byers of Salem, Ore., formerly of Libby; a sister-in-law, Betty Badgley of Clarkston, Wash.; his son, Michael F. Badgley of Havre; his daughter Barbara and husband Passon Fournier of Havre; stepchildren Virginia Radovich of Great Falls, Bruce Little of Butte, Guy Little of Menahga, Minn., and Lynn Little of Butte; and six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be today at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. Burial will follow at the Tobacco Valley Cemetery with military honors.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

Edward B. Bailey, 90

Edward B. Bailey, 90, of Kalispell, went home to be with the Lord on Aug. 1, 2001, following a brief illness.

He was born on Aug. 14, 1910, in Havre, the second son of John and Eva Jane Fuller Bailey. His boyhood was filled with wonderful memories of waiting for his father to return from week-long trips as a locomotive engineer for the Great Northern Railroad, swimming in the Milk River, playing basketball and football for the Havre Blue Devils and Northern Montana College and enjoying his close and loving brothers and sisters.

He believed that the "unexamined life is not worth living" so he spent his nearly 91 years pursuing the interests, skills and talents that would develop not only himself but his family, his neighbors and especially young people.

Following undergraduate work at Northern Montana College and the University of Minnesota, he graduated from University of Montana at Missoula with a bachelor of arts degree in English and history and a master's degree from the University of Washington in art education. He began his teaching career in Manhattan, followed by administrative positions in Cut Bank, Chester and Eureka, before accepting the position of English and social studies instructor at Flathead County High School in 1951. Shortly thereafter, he developed the high school's first art department beginning with only one class.

His greatest teaching strength lay in the belief that everyone had potential. He was known for encouraging not only talented artists but bringing out the best in young people from troubled families. He always took the time to listen, attentively, in any conversation and to remember minute details of those conversations. Many students have continued to write him or come by the house in the 25 years since his retirement. He coached basketball in several locations and was especially proud of his Chester High School team that won the northern division Class C championship in the early 1940s.

He participated enthusiastically in the development of art appre-



ciation in the Flathead Valley. He was one of six founding members of the Hockaday Center for the Arts and his watercolors of the Conrad Mansion were used as the centerpiece for several decorative plates sold in the gift shop. He loved to garden and for several years raised roses for the annual rose show. His children remember many Augusts when the refrigerator was filled with roses in perfect bloom waiting for the show!

In the mid-1970s, he became interested in physical fitness with his friend Larry O'Neill and twice participated in the national Senior Olympics. He was a 50-year member of the First Presbyterian Church. Other associations included several years as a Boy Scout leader and the Kalispell Retired Teachers Association.

Perhaps his greatest legacy will be the 60 years of loving companionship to his wife Maxine who had been his sister Sadie's best friend and then became his. His children and grandchildren have benefited in countless ways from the time and resources he invested in their education, music lessons and sports activities as well as his complete and unconditional love for them.

He is survived by his wife and best friend of 60 years, Maxine E. Bailey, of Kalispell; two sons, John D. Bailey and wife Robin of Kalispell, James E. Bailey of Spokane; one daughter, Helen Bradley of Yakima, Wash.; grandchildren Chris Bailey and wife Elizabeth of Mukilteo, Wash., Katie French and husband Dale of Portland, Ore., Brent Bradley of San Francisco, Calif.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by all of his siblings, Earl Bailey, Sadie Stiene, John Bailey, Ada Hargens, and Charles Bailey.

His family wishes to honor and celebrate his life with a memorial service Saturday at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church and especially invites former students and teachers to join in the celebration. A family interment will precede the service.

The family requests any memorial be made to the Hockaday Center, the Glacier Chorale and Orchestra or a charity of choice.

The family also wishes to thank the staff of Brendan House for their loving care during his last few months and for their continued care of Maxine.

Ilse Gertrude Bailey, 80

Ilse Gertrude Bailey, 80, of Columbia Falls, died Oct. 4, 2001, at North Valley Extended Care in Whitefish.

She was born on Oct. 20, 1920, in Berlin, Germany, to Mr. and Mrs. Murl. She married Edward R. Bailey on Dec. 15, 1949, and they were remarried at the Neubiberg Air Base Chapel on Dec. 25, 1949.

For 25 years they made their

home in the Deer Park area of Columbia Falls.

She is survived by a brother, his wife and their son in Germany.

A graveside service and interment will be held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Arrangements are under the direction of Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Kenneth Judson Bailey, 96

Kenneth Judson Bailey, 96, died April 29, 2001, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

He was born May 31, 1904, in Great Falls, to Benjamin Judson and Nellie Clare Switzer Bailey.

Memorial services will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. at Lakeside Chapel in Lakeside

with the Rev. John Ulrick officiating.

The family requests memorials be made to the Shriner's Children's Hospital, 840 Helena Ave., P.O. Box 5539, Helena, MT 59604.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Burton Aaron Baker, 77

Burton Aaron Baker, 77, died Feb. 19, 2001 at St. John Lutheran Hospital. He was born on April 16, 1923 in Libby to Louis Henry and Emma Sophia Barchenger Baker.

He is preceded in death by his parents and by brothers Louis, Clarence, Walter and Sylvester.

He is survived by his brothers Perce, and Benjamin and his wife Mildred; sister Leah Clough and husband Arthur, all of Libby; brother Victor and his wife Madelaine, and

sister-in-law Opal Baker-Stevens, all of Kalispell; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be conducted on Thursday at 2 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church. Burial will be at the Libby Cemetery.

Donations may be made to Baker Memorial Fund, St. John's Lutheran Church, Libby.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson and Vial Funeral Home.

Margaret B. Zauner Baker, 86

Margaret B. Zauner Baker, 86, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2001, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

She was born on April 15, 1914, in New Hradec, N.D., to Wendolin and Katherine (Kalousek) Polensky. Her parents immigrated from Czechoslovakia. She was raised with her two brothers and five sisters on a wheat farm in North Dakota.

On Sept. 3, 1932, Margaret married John Zauner in Dickinson, N.D. To this union three sons were born. The family moved to Kalispell in 1947, where Margaret worked as a sales lady at Buttrey's, Hummer's and Hillstead's. John passed away on Dec. 8, 1973, and Margaret remarried on Sept. 16, 1978, to William Baker of Whitefish. William passed away on Dec. 14, 1981.

She was a 53-year member of St. Matthew's Catholic Church and involved in the Daughters of Isabella and Council of Catholic Women. She also was a



past member of Ladies of the Moose in Whitefish. Some of Margaret's favorite pastimes were going to church, visiting with friends, making fried chicken, playing pinochle and, especially, dancing and singing along with old tunes.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, John and William, two brothers and five sisters.

She is survived by three sons, John and his wife Mary Ann, Dave and his wife Rosalie, and Fred and his wife Shirley, all of Kalispell; eight grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and a special niece, Kathy Shurtleff and her husband Dwight of Kalispell.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held Wednesday, Feb. 14, at noon in St. Matthew's Catholic Church. Burial will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with a vigil service following at 7 p.m. in Johnson Mortuary Chapel.

The family suggests memorial donations be made to the Flathead Association for Catholic Education (F.A.C.E.), P.O. Box 8862, Kalispell, MT 59904.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Sylvia Edith Loudon Bakken, 85

Sylvia Edith Loudon Bakken, 85, went to be with the Lord Friday, March 2, 2001, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

She was born to Jake and Elsie Loudon in Kalispell on Sept. 27, 1915. She grew up in the Lower Valley, receiving her early education in the Flathead. She graduated from nursing school at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula and then served in the Army during World War II. She married Peter Bakken and had two daughters while living in Libby. They lived in Oregon for a few years before settling in Kalispell. She worked at the Immanuel Lutheran Home until she retired.

Sylvia tirelessly helped others and volunteered at her church, Bethlehem Lutheran, and was active in the Sons of Norway. She was a best friend to all she met and was a loving and giving wife, mother, sister and grandmother. She also was a great organizer of family reunions and left a legacy

of God's unconditional love and care for all.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Peter; one daughter, Judi Parker; her parents; her sister, Clara Kendall; her brothers, Harold Loudon and Cal Loudon; and a sister-in-law, Betty Loudon.

She is survived by a daughter, Linda Ward and her husband, Keith; a grandson, Chad Ward; and a granddaughter, Kristen Ward, all of Missoula; a brother, Bob Loudon and his wife, Dorcas, of Bigfork; sisters-in-law, Betty Loudon and Bunny Loudon of Kalispell; a brother-in-law, Glen Kendall of Spokane; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 7, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church with the Rev. Len Ericksen officiating. Burial will follow at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Kenneth Judson Bailey, 96, died on April 29, 2001, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

He was born May 31, 1904, in Great Falls, to Benjamin Judson and Nellie Clare Switzer Bailey, the first white child born in the Madison Valley in Montana.

He married Ethel F.G. Laskewitz, who preceded him in death in 1992.

He is survived by sons Richard K., a musician of San Jose, Calif., Stanley E., retired airline pilot, Carson City, Nev., and Dr. James J., a medical researcher with the National Institutes of Health, Chevy Chase, Md.; six grandchildren, Deborah A., Scott R., Dr. Bradley B., Andrea L., and Aaron K.; two great-grandchildren, Jacob R. and Alexis A.

Ken, as he was known to friends, was known as an organization man; an active member in the many interests represented by organizations listed below.

He claimed membership as a charter member of the Great Falls chapter, Order of DeMolay. He was a member of Cascade and Bigfork Lodges of AF&AM. He was a 32 degree Scottish Rite Mason, Valley of Great Falls, and a member of Algeria Shrine.

He belonged to the Phantom Chorus of Great Falls, an interest in music which caused him to build the first recording machine in Great Falls, perhaps in Montana. It was during this time that he recorded the 12 grand piano recital of Miss LaLaberte at the Grand Theater, and several recordings of the Blackfeet Indian Tribal Band, along with recordings of their smaller ensembles. He also made the audition recording of John P. Wuerthner which resulted in his performance on piano for the Major Bowes Amateur Hour.

Early in his business career he joined the Great Falls chapter of Lions International. He served on several of their committees, most notably the "stunt" committee. He served a term as president of the local Lions, and a term as governor of Lions International district 37C, which included clubs in Montana and Alberta, Canada. It was required that the governor visit each club in 37C, which he accomplished mostly by piloting his private aircraft, a 1946 North American Navion in which he amassed over 2000 hours.

He was a member of the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce. He chaired the aviation committee for several years, and in that capacity was asked, and served, as president of the northwest Aviation Council (an organizational coalition of the CAA, airlines, fixed base operators, and private aircraft owners). He served as president of the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce, and as an officer and director of the Montana state chamber.

He was civil defense director for Great Falls and Cascade County for several years, including the 1964 flood.

He was a member of B.P.O. Elks lodges of Great Falls and Kalispell.

He was an organizer and at one time the Commodore of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for Flathead Lake. The unit monitored boating safety and coordinated search and rescue on the lake with the Flat-

head County sheriff's office.

He was one of the original members of a group of friends that meet every morning for coffee, jokes, games, news, and general conversation in Lakeside, loosely labeled the Lakeside Coffee Klatch.

He was always fascinated with new technology. He built his own crystal radio set, and held one of the first amateur radio licenses. This interest in electricity and electronics led to his membership in the IBEW and his subsequent employment by the Montana Power Company. At age 21, he was promoted to the position of load dispatcher at Rainbow Dam (the youngest man in MPC employment to hold that position.) he worked for MPC for 15 years.

During his time with the power company he acquired the dealership for Kohler Light Plants. He sold and installed a number of these to the farms and ranches in the area. With his home built recording machine and ancillary equipment, he entered business in Great Falls as the Great Falls Recording Studio concurrent with the agency for the new Hammond Organs in 1936. The Hammond agency was exclusive for all of Montana.

In 1939, the Hammond Instrument Co., awarded him the exclusive franchise for northern Idaho and eastern Washington. The combined operation became the Northwest Hammond Studios with studios in Great Falls and Spokane. Operations after World War II included the 19 northern counties of Wyoming.

During the years of 1942-45 (with no merchandise to sell) he worked on construction of the Malmstrom AFB as an electrician for Goggins & Penney of Great Falls. He also served as a shop instructor at Great Falls High School for one term, and spent the ensuing war years as service manager for the Hammond Instrument Co., in Chicago.

The years 1952-54, saw the sale of the Spokane store and liquidation of Northwest Hammond Studios in Great Falls. The corporate name was changed to Bailey Company, whose principal business was aircraft financing and insuring. Bailey Co., also engaged in mine brokerage for a short period.

He was one of the original organizers of the Montana Corporation, and served as a director and officer for several years.

He organized and provided the principal funding for Montana Salvage Corporation, formed to recover sunken logs in the Flathead

Lake from the old Great Northern Railway site at Somers. Title to the site was obtained to assure access to the lake for the recovery of logs. He and his wife lived at the site for several years, and subsequently moved to Lakeside where he managed a mineral business of some 300 plus properties — a legacy from his sister Lois, while his wife taught school at Lakeside.

He became ill in the fall of 1994, and has lived since January 1995 in an assisted living residence in Kalispell.

He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Amy K, and sisters Lois and Elizabeth.

Memorial services will be held on June 2 at 2 p.m. at Lakeside Chapel in Lakeside with the Rev. John Ulrick officiating.

The family requests that memorials be made to the Shriner Children's Hospital, 840 Helena Ave., P.O. Box 5539, Helena, MT 59604.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Samuel Richard 'Dick' Bailey, 81

Samuel Richard "Dick" Bailey, 81, of Edmonton, Alberta, passed away on Jan. 17, 2001.

He leaves behind a lifetime of memories with his children, Jeff and Allyson Bailey and their children, Sasha, Sarah, and Blayne of Kalispell, Deborah and Allan Watt, Joanne and Gary Durchik, Richard Bailey; foster daughter Sandria and Gordon Sundlie and six additional grandchildren, all of

Edmonton.

He was preceded in death by his wife "Dody" in 1988.

A funeral service will be held on Monday at Glenwood Funeral Home in Edmonton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta, 10985-124 St., Edmonton, Alberta T5M 0H0 or the Edmonton SPCA, 12251-67 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5B 9Z9.

Helen Geneva Seslar Bain

Helen Geneva Seslar Bain went to be with her Lord on Dec. 1, 2001, in Kalispell, while with her daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Gene McCabe.



Helen was born on July 25, 1913, in Harlan, Ind., to Blanche and Harley Hitzeman.

She was previously married to Herbert F. Seslar. They were the parents of two children, Harry Seslar of Antwerp, Ohio, and Karen Seslar of McCabe of Columbia Falls.

She worked as a medical secretary, then as an X-ray technician in the hospital before completing several college courses and becoming the executive secretary for the Walker G. Mulligan Food Brokerage in Ft. Wayne, Ind.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Vincent and Harry; one sister, Vivian; and her late husband, Herbert.

On Oct. 14, 1984, she married James Donald Bain, then of Harlowton. They made their home there for the next 16 years, where they remained active in the community.

Helen is a past worthy matron in Eastern Star and was a part of the Harlowton Women's Club where she enjoyed singing in the chorus and participating in several minstrel shows. Both she and Don were active members of the Federated Church in Harlowton, and Helen loved being involved with the Luncheon Circle and various bazaars and social events. She was an avid bridge player and

even when her vision began to fail, didn't give up.

They loved to entertain, and Helen always delighted her guests with specially planned menus and desserts. She and Don were able to do quite a lot of traveling during their years together, visiting family and friends all across the country. Helen loved learning, and would not hesitate to try something new and different. Her sense of humor and zest for life blessed all who were fortunate enough to know her.

In 2000, Don and Helen moved to Kalispell, and to the Buffalo Hill Terrace, where she resided until her death. They quickly became involved with life at the Terrace, making friends and participating actively in all that was offered.

Helen was Presbyterian and very secure in her faith. She loved the Lord and did not hesitate to give Him praise for the many blessings in her life. She loved all of His creation and felt that he had placed her on this earth for a purpose. Those whose lives she touched have no doubt that her purpose was fulfilled.

She is survived by her husband Don at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell; her son Harry; daughter Karen; stepdaughter Nanci Bain of Allentown, Pa., step-son Jim . Bain of Rogers, Ark.; five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and two stepgrandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Buffalo Hill Terrace Friday at 1:30 p.m. Interment will take place in Antwerp, Ohio, following cremation.

Memorials can be made to Buffalo Hill Terrace or to the Federated Church in Harlowton.

Roberta 'Bobbie' Ann Baldree, 44

Roberta "Bobbie" Ann Baldree, 44, passed away on July 28, 2001, at her home in Kalispell of natural causes.

She was born on May 5, 1957, in Whitefish to James Robert and Julia U. Erickson Weber.

She married Dan Baldree on Sept. 9, 1992, in Kalispell. She was employed at Wal-Mart in Kalispell for the last six years after returning from running a team operation with her husband in cross country trucking.

She will be greatly missed by all of her fellow associates and all her friends and family.

She was preceded in death by her father, James Weber; her grandparents Olaf and Julia Erickson; and grandmother Clara Dunlock.



She is survived by her husband Dan Baldree of Kalispell; two daughters, Dana Holdridge and Dustie Jackson and husband Kerin, all of Abilene, Texas; her mother, Julia Weber of Kalispell; six brothers, Danny Weber and wife Teri of Columbia Falls, David Weber of Kalispell, James Weber of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Ron Weber and wife Brenda from Somers, Larry Weber of Las Vegas, and Jim Weber of Spokane; one sister, Randeena Dowling and husband Tim of Kalispell; with numerous aunts and uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services will be held on Monday at 2 p.m. at the Evergreen Alliance Church in Kalispell. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be on Monday from 8 a.m. to noon at Johnson Mortuary Chapel.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Mark Charles Baldwin, 47

Mark Charles Baldwin, 47, passed away on Dec. 22, 2001, at his home in Kalispell.

He was born Nov. 28, 1954, in Kalispell, to Roger and Ann Landry Baldwin. Mark received his early education in Kalispell, graduating from Flathead High School and going on to attend the University of Montana. He then received an associate's degree from Flathead Valley Community College. Mark worked as a chef at various locations throughout the valley for many years.

In May of this year, Mark married Nadirshina Elmira Rishatovna. Mark enjoyed many hobbies, among them woodworking, pottery and especially cooking. He also delighted in his trips to Shelter Island where he spent every summer in peaceful surroundings. It was a joy for him to watch the



eagles which nested at the island.

Mark will be remembered as a loving father, for his sense of humor and as a very generous and considerate man. He will be missed by his family and friends.

Mark was preceded in death by his father.

He is survived by his wife, Elmira Baldwin of Russia; two daughters, Erica and Serena of Kalispell; his mother, Ann Landry Baldwin of Kalispell; two sisters Linda Baldwin of Missoula, Sarah Barrow and husband Donald of Oakland, Calif.; one brother, Gray Baldwin and wife Diane of Salem, Ore.; three nephews and one niece.

Memorial services will be held today at 1:30 p.m. at the Brendan House in Kalispell.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1002, Kalispell, MT 59903.

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

David Stanley Ballenger, 64

David Stanley Ballenger, 64, passed away Feb. 3, 2001 at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. He was born on July 23, 1936 in Kalispell to Henry and Eva Nowman Ballenger.



He was born and raised in the Flathead Valley spending his entire life in the Lower Valley area. He graduated from Flathead High School in 1954. He married Lois Drewry on July 19, 1960. The wedding ceremony was on the farm where he grew up. He farmed in Lower Valley, raised pigs, spent much time in the woods and enjoyed building and making things. His family and friends will miss his great sense of humor and detailed memory of family history and events.

He was a member of Christian Center Assembly of God, serving on the Board of Deacons for nearly 30 years, as well as teaching Sunday school. He led the county nursing home church services for 10 years. He also served on the Demersville school board for 14 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents Henry and Eva Ballenger.

He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Lois; one son, Barry Earl Ballenger and his wife Suzanna of Kalispell; three daughters, Brenda Fay Keightley and her husband James of Yakima, Wash., Victoria Kay Graham and her husband Doug of LaCross, Wis., Melinda Marie Amy Redmann and her husband Trent of Woodbury, Minn.; nine grandchildren, Holly and Tayna Ballenger, Josh, Alyssa and Jordan Keightley, Kyle, Kirk, Kaleb, and Karlee Graham, and baby Redmann on the way; six sisters, Laura Crone and her husband Lloyd of Old Town, Idaho, Mary Ballenger of Togo, West Africa, Helen Benes and her husband Don of Clancy, Betty Volin and her husband Ray of Rancho Murieta, Calif., Bonita Thomas and her husband Bruce of Spokane, and Birdie Faris and her husband Terry of Kalispell; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Christian Center with Rev. R D. Ross officiating. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Robert W. Barkley, 82

Robert W. Barkley, 82, passed away on Oct. 9, 2001, at North valley Extended Care in Whitefish.

He was born on June 22, 1919, in South Bend, Ind., to Benjamin and Edith Barkley. At the age of 9, he moved to Montana with his mother and father, where they stayed with grandparents up in the North Fork at Trail Creek. Some of his fondest memories and stories were of all the people that lived here.

As a young man, he belonged to the CCCs, and worked for the Forest Service at the Hornet Peak Lookout station.

He married Doris Fredenberg on Sept. 2, 1941. They just recently celebrated their 60th anniversary.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II where he saw action at Okinawa. After he was discharged, he returned to the work he loved the most, logging and working as a small

sawmill operator for many years in the McMannamy Draw and Rhodes Draw areas, where he also resided.

After retirement, he moved to Columbia Falls, where he resided until his death.

He is survived by his wife Doris Barkley; four children, daughters Sherry and her husband Larry McIlhargey, Donna and her husband John Schneider; sons, Ben and his wife Judy Barkley, James and his wife Donna Barkley; 19 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with the Rev. Bob Van Alstine officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to St. LaBre Indian School, Ashland, MT 59004-1001.

Arrangements are under the direction of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Orlena Barnard, 87

Orlena Barnard, 87, of Polson, died of natural causes Sept. 27, 2001, at St. Patrick Hospital. She was "Mom" to many family members and friends.

She was born March 17, 1914, in Oskaloosa, Iowa, to Lue and Clara Halliburton. Her family moved to Missouri, to Wyoming and ended up in eastern Montana. She was proud to be the first in her family to graduate from high school in 1932.

In 1958, she and her family moved to Fairbanks, Alaska, where they homesteaded on the Chena Hot Springs Road and ran the Davis Long Mill until 1975. While living there she shot a Boone and Crockett moose. Her coffee pot was always on and she enjoyed company. She was famous for her fabulous hot buns and pies. She enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles, nature and especially the color change in the tamarack trees in the spring and fall.

On April 19, 1978, she married Monty Barnard. They spent most of their 23 wonderful and adventurous years in the Arizona desert on their fire agate mining claims. She enjoyed prowling the desert looking for woodpecker holes. She took many pictures of the desert flowers and cacti. With her family

still in Alaska, Orlena and Monty made many trips between Alaska, Montana and Arizona. At 85, she was talked into getting a computer and forced to use it. It replaced her old typewriter and she sent out daily e-mails to family and friends across the U.S.

She will be missed by her husband, Monty, of Polson; two sons, Earl "Hap" Hahn and his wife Kay of Victor, Lue Hahn and his wife Susan of Fairbanks; a daughter-in-law, Tinny Hahn of Fairbanks; step-children Montana Barnard and his wife Jude of Deer Park, Wash., Flossie Caverly and her husband Ken of Bigfork; 19 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren, a niece, two nephews and many, many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lue and Clara Halliburton, three brothers, Carl, Leland, and Lue Jr., and one sister, Alsina and her eldest son, Harold Hahn of Fairbanks, Alaska.

As was her request, no services will be held. "Our beloved wife, mom and grandma will truly be missed but never forgotten."

Arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Memorial Funeral Home.

Curtis LeRoy Barnhart, 89

Curtis LeRoy Barnhart, 89, died of natural causes at the Village Health Care Center in Missoula, on Wednesday, May 9, 2001.

He was born Dec. 24, 1911, in Dickinson, N.D., to Horace and Ellen Barnhart, the second of 10 children.

He married Helen E. Lyonais on Sept. 19, 1940, in Fairview. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in September 2000.

They moved to Portland, in 1942, where he was employed by the Southern Pacific Railroad and then Galvanizing Corporation. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II and served on the USS LST-636 from February 1944 until December 1945. He served in the Philippine Liberation and the Asiatic-Pacific area campaign.

He and Helen moved to the Flathead in 1946, living in Columbia Falls. He worked as a mechanic's helper for the Bureau of Reclamation in Hungry Horse during the construction of the Hungry Horse Dam. He retired in 1981 from the Anaconda Aluminum Company after 27 years.

He was a member of the V.F.W.; Knights of Columbus; and North Valley Senior Citizens Center.

He was a hard working, loving husband and father. He enjoyed raising and maintaining a large garden.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sons, Joseph Curtis Barnhart and James LeRoy Barnhart; a sister, Esther Davidson;

and two brothers, Irvin and Raymond Barnhart.

He is survived by his wife, Helen of Missoula; a daughter, Joyce Olson and her husband Ben of Missoula; a son, Jerel Barnhart and his wife Christine of Waretown, N.J.; a sister, Bessie Faries of Dallas, Texas; five brothers, Floyd Barnhart of Columbia Falls, Oren Barnhart and his wife Bobbie of Kalispell, Glenn Barnhart and his wife Mary of Portland, Leland Barnhart and his wife Ileta of Portland, Neil Barnhart and his wife Mary of Griffin, Ga.; a sister-in-law, Irene Barnhart of Columbia Falls; six grandchildren, Ben, Bob, Chris Olson, Joy Twite, Tammi Walters and Brock Barnhart; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Viewing will be Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday from 10 a.m. to noon at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Mass of Christian burial will be Monday at 2 p.m. at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls. The Rev. Joe Pat Moran will officiate. Burial will follow in Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery with military graveside honors by the V.F.W. There will be a luncheon at the church following the interment service.

The family has suggested that memorials be made to favorite charity in Curtis' name.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Helen Elizabeth Barnhart, 83

Helen Elizabeth Barnhart, 83, died of natural causes at The Village Health Care Center in Missoula on Aug. 18, 2001.

She was the daughter of Severin "Pete" and Nellie Cray Lyonais, born on June 17, 1918, on a farm east of Williston, N.D. She graduated from Notre Dame High School in Willow City, N.D., in 1935. She moved with her parents to Dore, N.D., in the Yellowstone Valley.

She married Curtis Barnhart on Sept. 19, 1940, in Fairview. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in September of 2000.

They farmed in Dore. In the fall of 1941 they moved to Portland. After her husband returned from Naval service they moved to Columbia Falls in the spring of 1946. From 1953, until 1960, they ran Pete's Rooming House.

She worked five years for the Hungry Horse News and 16 years at Kalispell Regional Hospital. She belonged to St. Richard's Parish Altar Society and served as president for two years. She was the wedding receptionist at the church for 15 years. She belonged to the Daughters of Isabella; VFW Auxiliary; Birch Grove Club; Senior Citizens; RSVP; and MSCA.

She was a loving, caring wife, mother, grandmother and great-

grandmother. She always had a smile and loved to visit. Friends and relatives were always welcomed into her home. She loved flowers and plants.

She was preceded in death by her husband Curtis Barnhart; her parents; two sons, Joseph Curtis Barnhart and James LeRoy Barnhart; two brothers and one sister.

She is survived by a daughter, Joyce Olson and her husband Ben of Missoula; a son Jerel Barnhart and his wife Christine of Waretown, N.J.; and a sister Alice Sicheley of Mount Angel, Ore.; six grandchildren, Ben, Bob, Chris Olson, Joy Twite, Tammi Walters and Brock Barnhart; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Viewing will be from noon to 8 p.m. today at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. A vigil service will be recited at 7 p.m. today at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Mass of the Christian burial will be Friday at 1 p.m. at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls. The Rev. Joe Pat Moran will officiate. Burial will follow in Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell. There will be a luncheon following the interment service at the church.

The family has suggested the memorials be made to a favorite charity in her name.

Gerald 'Jerry' D. Barnes, 83

Gerald D. "Jerry" Barnes, 83, of Sequim, Wash., died July 1, 2001, in Port Angeles, Wash.

He was born to Wesley and Elsie (Beller) Barnes in Columbia Falls and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1936 before moving to Spokane.

He was a car dealer in

Spokane, Port Townsend and Port Angeles, then an insurance agent for 40 years. He retired in 1999.

At his request, there were no services.

Cremation has already taken place, under the direction of Harper-Ridgeview Funeral Chapel.

Verda A. Barnes, 56

Verda A. Barnes, 56, died on June 10, 2001 at her home in Kalispell. She was born on Jan. 30, 1945.

Cremation will take place

and no services are scheduled at this time.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Shana Barnes, 16

Shana Barnes, angel with an attitude, left this world on July 21, 2001. "She joins her grandfather now and many others who have gone before her and wait with open arms to



take care of our little girl." She was 16 and will always be her family's cheerleader. She lived life to the fullest and always saw the best in people. She delighted in making people happy and bringing her positive spirit to those that needed inspiration.

She attended Columbia Falls High School and this is where she found her place in the world as a Wildcat cheerleader. She will always be remembered by her fellow cheerleaders and many close dear friends. "Our love for Shana goes on forever."

A memorial fund has been established in her name at Glacier Bank in Columbia Falls. The donations to this fund will support the Wildcats cheerleading program she loved so dearly.

Services will be at Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish at 4 p.m. on Thursday followed by a celebration of her life reception at

the Barnes residence located at 245 Browns Meadow Road in Kila. Everyone is welcome.

Mitch, Michelle and Tyler Barnes invite everyone who knew her and loved her to join them in honoring her at their home.

She has a large immediate family and extended families in Rhode Island, Montana, California, and Texas, all of whom loved her and nurtured her and raised her from a child into the beautiful young woman she was, and will always be to her family.

Her family includes her grandmothers, Billie Rosa and Cynthia Barnes; great-grandmother Phyllis Oakley; aunts and uncles, Dawn and Tom Lively, their children Bobby, Christine and Carrie; Bridget and John Cunha, their children, Jennifer and Justin; Darrin and Mary Barnes, their children, Heather and Brooke; Liz and Randal Welsh, their children Larrissa and Amanda; Annette and Rick Cisne, their children, Katie and Rikki Jo.

When she was very young she was blessed with Ben and Marge Regules who helped her family learn to be loving and responsible parents for her.

"We will be forever grateful for all the love and support we have received for Shana."

Arnold Reid Barta, 70

Arnold Reid Barta, 70, of Columbia Falls, passed away April 17, 2001, near his home on Middle Road.

He was born Feb. 9, 1931, near Ross Fork in Fergus County to Valerian and Florence Barta.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1953. He worked at a mine in Climax, Colo., for several years as a millwright. He then worked on construction until his employment at the Anaconda Aluminum Plant in Columbia Falls. He retired in 1990.

He was married to Bonnie Bechtel which ended in divorce in 1980.

He is survived his stepson, Robert Bechtel and his wife, Debbie, of Columbia Falls; his three brothers, Bob and Ila Barta of Columbia Falls, Donald and Louise Barta of Salt Lake City, and Dennis Barta of Lewistown; his sisters, Bethel Sparks of

Lewistown, Jean and Ed Thyen of Columbia Falls, Patsy and Andre Zamales of Seattle, and Beverly and Rick Moskowsky of Martinez, Calif.; a brother-in-law, Bob Peres of Vaughn; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Shirley Peres.

A memorial service with a gathering of friends and family will be held Friday at 2 p.m. at the Kalispell Eagles Lodge, where he was a member.

Inurnment will be in the City Cemetery in Lewistown at a later date.

The family has suggested that memorials be made to the Bad Rock Fire Department, the Columbia Falls Ambulance, or to ALERT.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is in charge of arrangements.

Stephen Lewis Bassett, 39

Stephen Lewis Bassett, 39, passed away on Friday, March 23, 2001, at his home in Somers. He was born on Dec. 27, 1961, in San Antonio, Texas, to Marvin and Sue (Muckleroy) Bassett.

He graduated from University High School in Spokane and went on to attend Aircraft Technical College in Spokane. He went to work as an aircraft mechanic for AVION in Texas for a few years before returning to Spokane and working for Braniff Airlines. He later worked for Bell RV in Spokane and at the Glacier Pines RV Park.

He liked to play golf, fish and watch "Jeopardy." He loved his music.

He was preceded in death by his father, Marvin Bassett.

He is survived by his mother, Sue Bassett of Somers; his companion, Terri Gleason; a brother, Mark Bassett and his wife, Deborah, of Houston, Texas; two sisters, Susan Bishop and her husband, Jim, of Spokane, and Sarah Bassett; two nieces, Madelynn Bishop and Megan Bassett; and two nephews, Morgan Bishop and Richard Bassett.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, at the Johnson Mortuary Chapel.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Donna Mae Bastrom, 68

Donna Mae Bastrom, 68, a Whitefish resident, passed away on June 14, 2001, at the North Valley Hospital in Whitefish. She wouldn't give up fighting the life taking disease of pancreatic cancer.

She was born Dec. 11, 1932, in Whitefish, the daughter of Mae and Robert Hines. She married Elmer LeRoy Bastrom on June 10, 1950, in Kalispell.

She belonged and served in the Democratic Women's Club. She was an active member of St. Charles Catholic Church. She loved serving the Lord and her loved ones and will be dearly missed. She also enjoyed her yard and flowers and needlepoint.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert Hines and a sister, JoAnn McDowell.

She is survived by her husband, Elmer Bastrom in Whitefish; her mother Mae Hines in Whitefish; a son Ron Bastrom in Stanford; a daughter Kathy Torgerson in Hot Springs; five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

A Christian wake service will be at 5 p.m. on Sunday at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. A Mass of the Christian burial will be at 11 a.m. on Monday at St. Charles Catholic Church with the Rev. Charles Roman officiating. Burial will follow at the Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell.

Cynthia S. Bays, 49

Cynthia S. Bays, 49, passed away at her home in Whitefish on Sept. 29, 2001. A loving wife, mother, and grandmother, she fought leukemia bravely for two years, and will be missed greatly by her family and friends. She was born May 10, 1952 in Pontiac, Mich., to James and Adell Crews Ewer.

She graduated from Waterford Mott High School in 1970, and attended Albion College.

On April 21, 1967, she accepted an invitation to the ninth grade dance. Four years later, on June 18, 1971, she married her dance partner, Frank Bays. Partners in both life and business, they combined raising a family and work.

For twenty-five years, they worked side-by-side for their own



company, NBC-Maps. The mother of two boys, Matthew and Christopher, she committed many Saturdays to football and basketball games, as well as baking cookies for the entire team.

She is survived by her husband Frank of Whitefish; two brothers, Michael Ewer of Orlando, Fla., David Ewer of Palm Springs, Calif.; two sons, Matthew and wife Jill and son Jett Bays of Round Rock, Texas; Christopher Bays of Fargo, N.D.; and numerous friends and extended family.

Funeral services will be held today at 2 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary Chapel. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Cindy Bays Memorial Scholarship for Whitefish High School, P.O. Box 280, Whitefish, MT 59937.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

D. Max Beard, 90

D. Max Beard, 90, a native of Whitefish and 1930 graduate of Whitefish High School, died in Silver Spring, Md., on Dec. 20, 2001.

He was Glacier National Park's first staff photographer and later a pioneer in the field of high-speed photography. He was the youngest son of Edgar L. Beard, Whitefish's secretary to the Chamber of Commerce back in the mid-1920's. His older brothers played baseball and football in Whitefish.

He left his Glacier Park position to attend college in Washington state. At the beginning of World War II, he went to Washington, D.C., to join the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Ordnance located in the old Naval Gun Factory, as their first and only official photographer. Beginning without equipment, personnel or space, he developed a photographic laboratory and procedures, which helped in the development of aircraft-launched torpedoes, underwater mines, and ocean mine depth charges and fuses. He held patents to early photographic equipment including shoulder-mounted cameras and darkroom equipment.

As fast-moving weapons systems changed the technology of warfare after WWII, so did the field of photography. New photographic equipment was required to electronically record the performance of weapons and materials. In order to photograph an object moving at 5,000 feet per second, camera speeds of over 1 million frames per second were necessary. Beard's experience and ingenuity helped in the development of the new instrumentation required for the accurate timing and synchronizing of the various components to record actions all completed within a fraction of a second. His division also developed equipment for data recording, including offset printing, lithography, motion pictures, and sound recordings.

By his retirement in 1971, the Naval Ordnance Laboratory had, under his leadership, developed a world-class ordnance research instrumentation facility participating in basic materials and systems research for the underwater and space programs; ballistics and re-entry research; and weapons systems.

For 10 years, he was the United States' representative to the International Congress on High-Speed Photography. He served as the



Chairman for the Fifth International Congress in 1960, which was held in Washington, D.C. He was a former governor and a life fellow in the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. He

was a past president of the Washington Chapter of the Society of Photographic Engineers.

Mr. Beard, who was born in a two-room house in Fruita, Colo., in 1911, was the last baby delivered by his grandfather, a local pioneer doctor. He spent most of his youth in northwest Montana, where he developed an interest in photography. While in the seventh grade, his hobby of trick photography brought him to the attention of the local photo developer, a prominent photographer, R.E. "Ted" Marble; who hired him in his studio where he worked throughout his high school years.

He was Glacier National Park's first staff photographer. His park photographs include those of President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the dedication of the Going-to-the-Sun Road and Logan Pass in 1934. He worked his way through college as college photographer, graduating in 1940 with a B.S. degree in chemistry from Washington State College (now University).

After 80 years with the federal government, he retired to build a summer cabin on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River on the Glacier View Golf Course, which borders Glacier National Park. For another 29 years he and his wife, Florence, shared their time between their Glacier and Silver Spring homes. He continued to use his photographic skills through the park volunteer program and assisted the park archivist with restoring photographs and converting old glass-plate negatives to modern film negatives, including some that he had photographed during the 1930s. He also added to the park's photographic collection.

Survivors include Florence, his beloved wife of 64 years; two sons, Ron of Silver Spring, Md., and Ken of Fernandina Beach, Fla.; two daughters, Helen Bailey of Brentwood, Tenn., and Bev Weidmann of Gaithersburg, Md.; 15 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren.

Ruth Simonson Wirz Beaudry, 84

Ruth Simonson Wirz Beaudry, 84, of Ronan, passed away at St. Patrick's Hospital on Aug. 19, 2001, of a brain hemorrhage.

She was born Sept. 9, 1916, in Halsey, Neb., in a sod house. She grew up in Nebraska and graduated from Polk High School.

She married George Wirz in 1937. They moved to Montana in the summer of 1940 and to Ronan in 1950. He died in 1978. She then married Wallace Beaudry in November of 1983. They had resided in Ronan since then.

She is survived by her husband of Ronan; sons George Phillip and Terri Wirz of Charlo; daughters Mary Dyer of Salt Lake City, Dorothy "Dode" and Bob Hall of Canby, Ore., Eula and Don Rider of Missoula, Rebecca "Becky" and Verle "Pic" Olsen of Kalispell, and Wendy and Bill Dodson of Troy; 15

grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren; sister and brothers Barbara and Robert Yandt of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Maurice Simonson of Columbia Falls.

She was preceded in death by her brothers Russell, Galen, Keith and Harvey Simonson.

Friends may pay their respects on Wednesday from 3-8 p.m. at Shrider's Mortuary in Ronan. Funeral services will be held on Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Ronan United Methodist Church. Grave-side services will follow at Pleasant View Cemetery in St. Ignatius.

The family suggests that memorials be made to the Ronan Senior Citizens Center or the charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Shrider's Mortuary in Ronan.

Raymond K. 'Ray' Beck, 55

Raymond K. "Ray" Beck, 55, passed away June 25, 2001, at his home in Kalispell.

He was born March 7, 1946, in Baker to Tom and Lydia Beck. He was raised in Miles City and later moved to Longmont, Colo., where he was a dry waller in construction. In 1973 he moved to the Flathead Valley and continued dry walling.

He was an avid fisherman and loved to hunt and walk, but his passion was sketching and painting. He was preceded in death by his grandparents and father.

He is survived by his mother,

Lydia Beck of Columbia Falls; two brothers, Tom Beck of Hungry Horse and Randy Beck of Columbia Falls; five sisters, Sandra Lundstrom of Columbia Falls, Meridith Blakenship of Salt Lake City, Utah, Linda Holiday of Las Vegas, Nev., Rita Hawkins of Dayton, and Wendy Witte of Shelton, Neb.; numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, and nieces.

Cremation has taken place and private family services will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

David Robert Becker, 55

David Robert Becker, 55, died on June 13, 2001, at home in Kalispell after a short illness with lung cancer.

He was born Oct. 14, 1945, to Robert J. Becker Sr. and Virginia M. Petrusha Becker.

He graduated from Libby High School and served four years in the U.S. Air Force. He was married for 17 years to his beloved wife, Josie Dochtermann. He was employed by Champion Lumber Company for 14 years and was also self-employed as a tile layer in Kalispell.

He belonged to the Catholic church. He loved his family, enjoyed the outdoors and horses. He was a kind, loving man who will be greatly missed by many.

He was preceded in death by his father in 1989.

He is survived by his mother, Virginia Petrusha Becker; his



brother Robert J. Jr. and his wife Jean and sons Christopher, Adam and daughter Nicole; his sisters Vicki Duffy and husband Vic and their children Todd, Eric and Shauna; Susan Neuman and husband Ernie and their children Jennifer, Sarah and Andrew; Bunny Lynn Masolo and her husband Joe, and their children Gina Marie, Tricia, and Rob; Tricia Auger and her husband Jerry and their children Eli and Victoria; his daughters Robin Basnett and Jennifer Moeller, her husband Brant and their daughter Gabrielle; four sons, Jeff Basnett and his wife Cindy and children Erika, Zackary and Kaedon, Matt Becker and wife Heather, and children Matt Jr., Gaelan, and Brenan, and Mike Becker and wife Kim and their daughter Kaitlyn; Martin Derr and his children Jennifer, Sam and James; and many aunts, uncles and people who really loved him; special friends Lynn and Marilyn Barker, Gary Siebold, and friends at Nickel Charlie's.

A family memorial will be held in July at Smokey Hollow.

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Gilman S. Beito, 88

Gilman S. Beito, 88, a longtime Troy resident, died on Aug. 5, 2001, at the Libby Care Center from natural causes. He was born Sept. 13, 1912, at Strathcona, Minn., to Gilbert and Sophia Underdahl Beito.

He married Beulah Osse on Oct. 13, 1940, in Middle River, Minn. He and his family moved to Troy in 1956. He worked as a sawyer until he was 70 years old.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Beulah, and one daughter, Ione.

He is survived by three sons including Gilbert Beito and his wife Arlyne of Troy; three brothers, two sisters, 12 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Troy Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1-8 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

Jerry Belstad, 62

Jerry Belstad, 62, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 25, 2001, at his home in Kalispell.

He was born on May 4, 1939, in Van Hook, N.D., to Olivia and Hans Belstad. He attended schools in North Dakota, graduating from New Town High School in 1957.

He married Joyce Cartwright on June 27, 1959, in New Town, N.D. They had three children. They moved to Kalispell in 1965, where he started his barbering career. He started with Bill Denny at Denny's Barber Shop.

He started his own barber shop on Main Street in Kalispell, known as J Bar J. He loved cutting hair and swapping the many tales about fishing with his customers. He cut several generations of hair, father, son and grandsons. Most recently he owned and operated Jerry's Barber Shop in Columbia Falls for the past 15 years. He suffered a heart attack two months ago, and so reluctantly he was forced to sell his barber shop.

He was very proud of his Norwegian heritage. He had joined the Sons of Norway in the past five years so he could learn to speak Norwegian. He often spoke to his family in Norwegian, which they



did not understand. He took great pride in telling them what he had just said to them. He also had started teaching his grandchildren Norwegian. Being able to speak Norwegian, he was able to locate relatives in Norway and this past June had a wonderful reunion with them.

He always put his family first, and loved taking them camping and fishing, where they would sit around the camp fire talking about the big one that got away.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hans and Olivia Belstad; two brothers, Robert and Darrell Belstad; and one grandson, Kyle Allyn Linrude.

He is survived by his wife Joyce of Kalispell; one daughter, Tanya Lundgren and her husband Ed of Kalispell; two sons, Jerry Belstad Jr. and his wife Becky of Rexford, and Steve Belstad and his fiancée Jeanette of Kalispell; two brothers, Harold Belstad of Chester, and Russ Belstad of Port Angeles, Wash.; two sisters, Cleo Black of Junction City, Ore., and Helen Stoldorf of Phoenix, Az.; 11 grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

As Jerry would say to his family, "til vi motest igjen (till we meet again)."

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with Deacon Fred Topp officiating.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Helen E. Benes, 61

Helen E. Benes, 61, of Clancy, went peacefully to be with her heavenly Father on Dec. 29, 2001, after a short but courageous battle with cancer. She went Home from home, surrounded by her loving family.



Helen was born Nov. 24, 1940, the fourth child of Henry E. and Eva M. Ballenger. Her childhood was spent on the family farm in Lower Valley near Kalispell. She graduated from Flathead County High School in 1958 and Links Business College, Boise, Idaho, in 1961.

On Feb. 11, 1962, she married Donald J. Benes in Kalispell. Don's work with IBM took them to Pullman, Wash., in 1964. While there, Helen was employed by several departments at Washington State University. In 1967 their daughter, Kimberley Kay, was born. For the past 22 years they have made their home near Helena on Saddle Mountain where they built the log home they had always wanted.

Helen was a member of the First Assembly of God Church in Helena, where she was active in Missions and taught Missionettes. After retirement from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana in 1994, she and Don started Puzzles Plus and traveled throughout the Northwest selling their arts and crafts. Helen was a master seamstress and delighted in sharing her creations with friends and family.

In addition to her love of sewing, Helen also enjoyed the outdoors, which included hiking,

fishing, crosscountry skiing, raising beautiful flowers and a playing a good round of golf. Her latest passion was loving and spoiling her three granddaughters. She was an incredible hostess and enjoyed opening her home to family, friends and neighbors. Helen touched many lives with her servant heart and gracious, generous ways. She never met a stranger, and all who knew her loved her.

Helen's father, mother and older brother, David, preceded her in death.

She is survived by her husband Don of Clancy; daughter Kim and husband Mike Tobiason and their three daughters, Sydnee, MacKenzie and Madisyn of Billings. She is also survived by her five sisters, Laura A. Crone an husband Lloyd, Oldtown, Idaho, Mary Ballenger, Lome, Togo, West Africa, Betty B. Volin and husband Ray, Rancho Murieta, Calif., Bonita Thomas and husband Bruce, Madrid, Spain, Birdie B. Faris, husband Terry of Kalispell; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

"A special thanks to Dr. Tom Weiner, the Cancer Treatment Center staff, nurses from Home-Link, and the many family and friends that helped make Helen's final days comfortable. We appreciate each and every one of you."

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at First Assembly of God Church, 2210 Dodge Ave., Helena. Graveside services and interment will be at Fort Harrison. Retz Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be sent to the First Assembly of God Missions Fund, 2210 Dodge Ave., Helena, MT, 59601, the American Cancer Society or the charity of one's choice.

Jerome Dale Belstad Sr., 62

Jerome Dale Belstad Sr., 62, died on Oct. 25, 2001, at his home in Kalispell.

He was born on May 4, 1939, in Van Hook, N.D., to Hans

and Olivia Belstad.

Arrangements are pending.

Arrangements are under the direction of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory.

Clarence Joseph Bengtson, 92

Clarence Joseph Bengtson, 92, long-time Glacier Park and Lake Five resident, died April 12, 2001, of natural causes.

He was born Sept. 17, 1908, in St. Hilarie, Minn. Then in May of 1929, he rode a freight train west and got off at East Glacier, Glacier National Park. This would begin his 45-year career on park road work and maintenance supervision on both the east and west sides of the park, earning him the nickname "Mr. Roads."

It was on the east side of Glacier that he met his wife Winifred L. Dyer. They were married Dec. 23, 1936, and shared 60 years together, the last 22 years at their home near Lake Five.

Upon his retirement from Glacier in 1975, he enjoyed working in his yard and garden, walks with his dogs, and not a day went by that he didn't do at least one crossword puzzle. After working 45 years, under nine superintendents, he was an endless source of park knowledge, and as always eager to reminisce and share stories of his many years in Glacier.

He is survived by three sisters,



Alice Rux, Gladys Turney, and Evelyn Nelson; four sons, Chuck and his wife, Susan, Jim and his wife, Stacey, Tom and his wife, Sharon and John, all of

West Glacier; three daughters, Susan McDonald and her husband, Jim, of LaGrange, Ky., Karen Hileman and her husband, Todd, of West Glacier, Mary Johnson and her husband, Kyle, of Columbia Falls; 25 grandchildren, one great-grandson, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, two sisters, a grandson and his wife, Winifred.

A family memorial service has already taken place.

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

The family requests memorials be made to Hospice Home Option, 1280 Burns Way, Kalispell.

Roy H. Bengtson, 94

Roy H. Bengtson, 94, of Hot Springs, died on Dec. 15, 2000, in Evergreen Hospital, Kirkland, Wash.

He was born on the family homestead in Karlstad, Minn., on Dec. 22, 1905, the third child of Hannah and Charles Bengtson. In 1918, he moved with his mother and siblings to Whitefish, arriving by train on Oct. 28. There they joined his father and older brother, Quentin, who had gone ahead to work in a blacksmith shop and to homestead near where the Big Mountain ski area is now located. After attending school in Whitefish, he received most of his education in the school of "hard knocks."

As a young man, he worked in Cook's Grocery Store and in local dairies. In 1929, the family purchased the Miller dairy property, and he made his home there until selling the ranch in 1950. During World War II, he helped the war effort by raising grain and livestock. In 1949, he married Anna Bakken, who survived him and lives in Hamilton.

For many of the years from 1928 until retiring in 1979, he worked on the roads in Glacier Park, helping with the construction and maintenance of the Going to the Sun Highway. Upon retirement, he was honored for being the longest employed member of the

Glacier Park crew.

After retirement, he and his wife enjoyed trips to her home country, Norway. They also traveled to Mexico, Canada, Iceland, Hawaii, and spent several winters in Arizona. The couple lived in and near Kalispell until moving to Hot Springs in 1992. He spent his last months with family in Redmond, Wash.

He was preceded in death by an infant brother, Walter, who died from the Spanish flu in Whitefish on Armistice Day 1918; brothers Quentin and Archie; and sisters Ethel Taylor, Rose Christensen, and Dahlia McMillan; and stepson, Einor Norbeck.

He is survived by sisters, Violet Howard of Fresno, Calif., Lily Holden of San Rafael, Calif., and Eileen Bondurant of Everett, Wash.; stepson, Ted Bakken of Nak Nek, Alaska; six grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Friends are invited to join the family at a memorial service in Whitefish on May 27.

For specific time and place call Helen Bengtson Nash in Redmond, Wash., at 425-882-0405.

He had great respect for the work of the Salvation Army and anyone wishing to give a memorial is encouraged to contact the local Salvation Army.

Earl W. Bennett, 66

Earl W. Bennett, 66, passed away on May 23, 2001, at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane.

He was born on Sept. 21, 1934, in Castana, Iowa, to Samuel and Maurine Cutter Bennett. He attended schools in South Sioux City, Neb., before moving to Deer Lodge, as a senior.

He graduated from Powell County High school in Deer Lodge in 1952. After high school, he served in the military for six months, before being honorably discharged for medical reasons. He moved to Spokane, where he attended Kinman Business University, graduating with his degree in 1955.

He married Donna Craft on June 9, 1957. She passed away on July 31, 1981. He married his second wife Faye Kelly on June 1, 1985, in Shelby.

He worked for 21 years in various auto dealerships as an accountant; six years as the city clerk of Shelby; and two years as an accountant for Yellowstone Petroleum. He was chairman for the Toole County school board for many years. He worked for 15 years as the administrative assistant to the Flathead County Commissioners. He semi-retired on Sept. 21, 2000.

He was a member of the Church of Christ, selected United Way Volunteer of the Year, was an avid reader, dearly loved his job with Flathead County, and truly loved God.

He took great delight in his family and grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife Donna; and three brothers, Robert, Alan, and Donald Bennett.

He is survived by his wife Faye Bennett; three children, Timothy Bennett, Diana Lynn Fransen and Keith Bennett; four stepchildren, David Kelly, Jeff Kelly, Greg Kelly and Patricia Callahan; two brothers, Charles and James Bennett,



and a half sister, Martha Schumacher; and 19 grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. today at Christian Center Assembly of God Church, with Evangelist Milton Caraway officiating. A reception will follow at the church.

Urn burial will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday at Mountain View Cemetery in Shelby.

The family requests memorials be made to the Mountain State Children's Home, P.O. Box 1097, Longmont, CO 80502.

Arrangements are under the direction of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Dr. Donald H. Benner, 45

Dr. Donald H. Benner, 45, a Moscow, Idaho dentist and former Flathead Valley resident, passed away on April 10, 2001 of injuries received in an airplane accident



south of Spokane, Wash. He was born March 18, 1956 in Kalispell to Henry and Ida Goldy Benner, the youngest of ten siblings.

He received his early education in Columbia Falls, graduating from high school there in 1974. He then attended Flathead Valley Community College, the University of Montana and graduated with his business degree from Montana State University, following which he attended dental school in Portland, Ore. He married Flori Swanson in Eureka in 1978, they later divorced.

He moved his family from Portland to Moscow, Idaho in 1988 where he opened his dental practice at which he worked until his death. He loved flying and was active in the Angel Flight (Emergency Flight Program). He spoke at area schools on self-esteem. He established a dental facility at the Lamb Center in New York City,

providing dental care to the homeless community. Besides flying, he enjoyed cars, photography, horses, and traveling. He had recently flown around the countries of Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland. He was always a person who was willing to help other people.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Carl and Stanley.

He is survived by three children, Ryan of Moscow, Idaho, and Riley and Chelsie of Viola, Idaho; three sisters, Hattie Stahlberg and husband Gerry of Kalispell, Jeannine Wagner of Billings, and Donna Besel of Gillette, Wyo.; four brothers, Raymond of Billings, Ben and wife Lanell of Anaconda, George and wife Doris of Baker, and Rodney of Laurel; and numerous nieces, nephews and two aunts.

Funeral services will be on Thursday at 2 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary Chapel. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls. The family suggests memorial gifts be given to Angel Flight, 3237 Donald Douglas Loop South, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Jack Charles Berg, 79

Jack Charles Berg, 79, passed away on Jan. 19, 2001 at his home in Kalispell. He was born Aug. 17, 1921 in Cleveland, Ohio to Charles and Hennrieta Johnson Berg.

He received his early education in Cleveland but due to the death of his father had to go to work at an early age. He worked at various jobs including foundry work and work with the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps).

He enlisted in the Air Force in 1941 serving through World War II and the Korean conflict. He met and married Grace Tanner in October of 1945 in Canton, Ohio. After separating from the service in 1961, the family settled in Riverside, Calif. He worked for Metropolitan Life Insurance for the next 10 years. In the early 70s, he and his wife moved to Sacramento. He enjoyed gardening and

especially loved his fishing trips to the coast.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Grace, in 2000; one brother, one sister, and one grandson.

He is survived by six sons, Thomas of Hemet, Calif., George and Debi of Kalispell, Mark and Debbie of Sherman, Texas, James and Barbara of Huntington Beach, Calif., John and Liz of Winters, Calif., and Christopher of Phoenix, Ariz.; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held today at noon at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery with Rev. Dan Heskett of Northridge Lutheran Church officiating. Veterans Honors by the United Veterans of the Flathead.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Ella Pederson Berosik, 88

Ella Pederson Berosik, 88, went to be with her Heavenly Father on Sunday, July 1, 2001, at Heritage Place in Kalispell. She was born on April 9, 1913, in Orrin, N.D., to Knudt and Kari (Iverson) Pederson.



Her parents, born in Norway, homesteaded in North Dakota. She was the 10th of 11 children in a strict Lutheran family. After graduation from Noonan High School, she moved to Alexander, N.D., to live and work with one of her sisters. She was called home to care for her parents, who both died when she was in her early 20s.

She married Joseph Berosik in Crosby, N.D., on May 26, 1936. The couple raised three children.

Joe and Ella farmed about 1,000 acres at Noonan until about 1951. The family spent several winters in Vancouver, Wash. When Joe was not farming, he worked in the trucking business. In 1952, the couple moved to 80 acres in the Helena Flats area near Kalispell. Later, they went into the trucking business full-time. From the time they were married until the time of her death, they did everything together. She accompanied her husband everywhere, and was even capable of driving the 18-

wheeler herself. She also worked as a waitress at Jordan's Café and as a housekeeper at the Red Lion Inn. In 1984, the couple moved to Apache Junction, Ariz., and were snowbirds for about three years.

She enjoyed flower gardening and intricate crafts, including crocheting and oil painting. She also played the piano for her church, taught Sunday School and participated in mission programs. She was a member of the Christian Center in Kalispell.

She is survived by her loving husband of 65 years, Joe Berosik of Kalispell; three children, Marlene Rusch and her husband, Roger, of Federal Way, Wash., Joe Berosik, Jr., and his wife, Karen, of Kalispell, and Jerrold Berosik and his wife, Sally, of Columbia Falls; 11 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; a sister, Inga Daras of Seattle, Wash.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 7, at the Christian Center Assembly of God with burial at Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be on Friday at Johnson Mortuary from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday at the Christian Center one hour prior to the service.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Lowell Albert Betcher, 83

Lowell Albert Betcher, 83, died Aug. 13, 2001, in Las Vegas.

He was born on May 25, 1918, in Browning. He served in the Navy during World War II.

He moved to Las Vegas in 1957 and was a pit boss and dealer for several casinos. He had a love for the game of golf. He was a member of the American Legion.

He is survived by his daughters, Janet Krueger and Lee Llarnas of Las Vegas and Maggie Williams of Boulder City, Nev.;

brother Ernie Betcher of Portland; sisters, Doris Hodges of Portland, Carol Esteb and Betty Garret of El Cajon, Calif.; and six grandchildren.

Visitation will be Monday from 11 a.m. to noon at Davis Paradise Valley Funeral Home in Las Vegas. Graveside services will follow at 1:20 p.m. at Southern Nevada Veteran's Memorial Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Davis Paradise Valley Funeral Home.

Norman Beyer, 80

Norman Beyer, 80, of Kalispell, passed away at his home on Dec. 18, 2001, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

He was born in East Helena, the youngest of five children. He attended Carroll College in Helena. He served in the Marine Corps during World War II as a forward observer in Guadalcanal. He managed the state employment office in Red Lodge, Hamilton, and Kalispell where he retired Aug. 30, 1974.

Norman had a passion for learning. He believed that all youth should be able to have the right to higher education at an affordable price to achieve better jobs and self-fulfillment. He worked around the clock to make his dreams come true. In 1967, along with several other visionary citizens, Norman became one of the founders of Flathead Valley Community College. His picture is displayed in the entrance of the college.

He was an active member of the Shrine and Masons. Norman was raised Feb. 15, 1979 as a 3rd degree Mason. On April 27, 1979, he was dubbed a knight and created a member of Cyrene Commandery No. 10, stationed at Kalispell. He was an active member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell. His desire to serve his community will always be greatly



appreciated.

His wife and lifetime companion, Ruby Beyer, three daughters, one son, four in-laws, seven grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren survive him. His immediate family and in-laws are Barbara Brooks and her husband Leroy Brooks of Hamilton, Camille Williams of Anchorage, Alaska and her husband Barry Williams, Coleen Jones of Covington, Wash., and her husband Richard Kline; Rene Beyer of Butte and his wife Lougeina Beyer, and a sister, Thelma Crouse of Bozeman.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Delores Federspiel in 1985.

Visitation for close family and friends will be at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church from 10-10:45 a.m. on Saturday. Funeral services will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Saturday at 11 a.m. A full Masonic service will be held at the Conrad Cemetery with graveside rights following the service.

Donations may be given to the Shrine Transportation Department, c/o Robert Stephens, 15 Juanita Way, Kalispell, MT 59903; or Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Professional View, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

The family is deeply indebted to the loving care given by Hospice and all the support of the community and friends.

Arrangements are under the direction of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Alta Virginia Biggar, 74

Alta Virginia Biggar, 74, passed away Nov. 2, 1901, after a courageous battle against cancer.

The fourth child of eight born to Lloyd and Hazel Moore, Oct. 22, 1927, she grew up and went to school in Castle Rock, Colo.

She married her beloved husband of 55 years on Sept. 7, 1947. They moved to the Flathead area in 1961 where they raised four children, Debbie, David, Rebecca, and Robert.

A devoted member of the United Methodist Church, she loved life and lived for her family, flowers, and her beautiful handmade quilts. Her grandchildren were a continuous joy in her life. They



adored the hours she devoted just to them, and each will miss her in their own special way.

She was a special person who touched all of our lives with her kind and loving spirit.

She is survived by her husband David L. of Polson; Debbie and Marc Clark of Reno, and children, Timothy, Adam, and Kayla; David B. and Debbie Biggar of Bigfork and children, Bonnie, Bryce, Bryan, Seth, Tyler, and Katelin; Rebecca and Roger Layton and Emily of Bozeman; Robert M. Biggar and Terri and their children. She is also survived by her sisters, Ida Richards, Jean Evans, and her brother Alvin Moore.

In lieu of flowers memorial may be made to the American Cancer Society. Services are pending at the First United Methodist Church in Polson.

Lincoln Dominique Billedeaux, 83

Lincoln Dominique Billedeaux, 83, passed away on Nov. 5, 2001, at the Summerlin Hospital in Las Vegas.

Lincoln was born on July 5, 1918, in Kalispell, to William and Mollie Galbraith Billedeaux.

He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1942 to 1945. He attended school in Browning, and later attended Seattle University where he graduated with a degree in Administration.

Lincoln held numerous positions with the state, county, interior, labor and defense departments in Montana, Nevada, Washington, and California. His latest position before retiring was as Community Services Analyst Aide where he was selected the County Employee of the Year in 1986, in Los Angeles County.

Lincoln was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the

American Legion in Washington.

Lincoln was preceded by his parents and all of his siblings, brothers, John, Dominic, Pinky, and Dwight; sisters, Anna Kipling, June Paisley, Wilma Goss, and Clara Marie Smith.

He is survived by several nieces, nephews, and relatives in Washington, Nevada, California, and Montana. He is survived by two special friends, Al and Vern in Las Vegas.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday at St. Matthew's Catholic Church with the Rev. Rudolph Bullman as celebrant. Committal services will follow at C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery with full military honors by the United Veterans of the Flathead.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Francis L. Bitney, 74

Francis L. Bitney, 74, passed away on Jan. 23, 2001, at his home in Evergreen. He fought bravely against pancreatic cancer and made it to the millennium, against very long odds.



He lived an extraordinary and productive life. His intense enthusiasm for the projects of his life as a long-time Kalispell businessman and real estate developer will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.

His accomplishments are numerous. Two of the most noted are the introduction of cable television to northern Montana, and the rebuilding of the Kalispell Mercantile.

His life came full circle in his later years. He was able to re-visit Japan, where he served his country as a U.S. Marine, at the end of World War II. His poignant photographs of post-war Japan made

Japanese news programs, and are on display at the War Memorial museum on the base in Sasebo, Japan. Phil and Kanoka Eakins, the young couple who hosted the Bitneys on his return, honored him by naming their new baby Francis.

It is impossible to remember his life without a special mention of his union with Joanna Bitney. They were partners in every sense of the word. The fruit of this union and the spirit of this man will live on forever.

He is survived by Joanna Bitney, his wife of 53 years; five children and their spouses, Doug and Jane Bitney of Missoula, Vicki and Dan Longpre of Chillicothe, Ohio, Dan and Connie Bitney of Conrad, Kathy and Allen Dahl of Great Falls, and Amy and John Andrews of Kalispell; he is also remembered and loved by his A.F.S. Spanish children, Carlos, Juan, Maria and Lalo; his 16 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. They have all had the great pleasure of riding on grandpa's knee, bouncing to his "Hobbly Hoy" refrain. He loved all of his grandchildren deeply and

was proud of each one. The grandchildren are, Matt Bitney, Leigh Bitney, Tiffany Bitney Curtis, and Dale Curtis, Mariah Bitney, Chris Bitney, Hayley Bitney, Emilie Longpre, Tyler Longpre, Braedan Longpre, Kailey Longpre, Autumn Dahl, Seth Dahl, Tanna Dahl, Elysia Andrews, Carlie Andrews, Emma Andrews, and great-granddaughter Sierra Jo Curtis; brother Duane Bitney of Kalispell; and sister Darlene Neil of Sacramento, Calif.; numerous nieces and nephews.

A private family burial will be held Friday at C.E. Conrad Cemetery, Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at the First Presbyterian Church in Kalispell with the Rev. Glenn Burfeind officiating. Memorials in his name may be made to the Make A Wish foundation, or KidsSports in Kalispell.

Arrangements are under the direction of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

This paid obituary is being run a second time at the request of the family.

Bunny Black

Bunny Black of Whitefish passed away Jan. 6, 2001, at the North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

Born Bernice M. Black in Scranton, Kan., to John Wesley Black and Melissa Rebecca Black, she was the last survivor of seven brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her nephew Dennis Nichols of Florida, as well as many other nephews and nieces, and her friend, Doris Nelson, of Whitefish.

She worked for 32 years at Kalispell Regional Hospital, first as an X-ray assistant and then under Drs. Bernard Winter, Carl Hale and Robert Kellemerger, as a histology technician in the pathology department. She received a special award from the hospital after 25 years of service as much for her morale boosting in the office as for her dedication in the lab. She was famous for instituting a morning ritual of fresh, buttered popcorn at her



desk where doctors and staff could stop and casually chat before work, for organizing the Super Bowl chart for the entire hospital each year, and for planning parties and get togethers for the staff that helped work be "fun."

For many years she was an active personality in Whitefish community life. She belonged to and worked hard for the projects of the VFW in Whitefish and the Eagles in Columbia Falls. She participated many years in the Whitefish Carnival, either personally doing fun-loving antics in the parade, organizing parties, or doing much behind-the-scenes work. She was recently honored in the Carnival's Kings Court for her service.

She was well-loved by her community and friends and will be fondly remembered for her good cooking, her kindness and her joyful spirit.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish with Rev. David V. Kauffman officiating. Burial will follow at the Whitefish Cemetery.

Mary E. Black, 90

Mary E. Black, 90, of Polson, passed away at her daughter's home in Ronan, on Jan. 24, 2001, from natural causes.

She was born on Sept. 10, 1910, in Helmville, to Harrie and Ethel Fierce. She moved to the Bitter-root Valley as a child.

She married H.W. "Buck" Black on Aug. 6, 1938, in Polson.

She graduated from the University of Montana. She taught high school English in Victor and Polson.

In 1957, she and her husband moved to their Hillcrest home in Polson, and operated a small orchard.

She liked to play bridge, garden, fish, read, sew, knit, cross-stitch and refinish furniture. She had also enjoyed traveling and had traveled to Europe, Vermont and Alaska.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, PEO, Eastern Star and the Priscilla Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband Buck and her sib-

lings, Frances, Mary Knowlt and Fred.

She is survived by her children daughters, Judy Wolfe and Johnny Hopfinger of Yakima, Wash., Mary Calanche and Gray Eagle of Ronan; sons Laird Black and Ronnie of Roseburg, Ore., Dr. Fred Black and Karolyn of Roseburg; grandchildren Gary Learn, Kristen Hansen and husband, Todd, Andrew Black, Will Learn and wife, Tawney, David Black, Marisha Johnson and husband, Nick, Alexis Black, Darci Learn, Charles Black and wife, Bear Tracks Calanche; great-grandchildren Jonathan Learn, Avry Learn.

A memorial service will be held on Monday at 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Polson, with the Rev. David Anson officiation.

Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, Polson City Library or to the donor's choice.

Arrangements and cremation are by Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory of Polson.

Mary T. Blanchet, 71

Mary T. Blanchet, 71, of Dutton, died of cancer on May 16, 2001.

She was born on Nov. 18, 1929, in Great Falls. She attended elementary school at Ursuline Academy, Collins and Dutton. She attended high school at the Ursuline Academy and graduated from Flathead County High School. In 1948, she attended Kalispell Commercial College.

She married Russ Blanchet on Aug. 12, 1950, in Kalispell. She worked as a secretary for Walter J. Smith Insurance Agency in Kalispell. After her marriage she helped manage the family farm in Dutton.

She was a member of the St. William's Catholic Church and served as a trustee on the Dutton school board.

She enjoyed volunteering at the annual St. William's Catholic Church rummage sale. She loved

her yard and the farm she grew up on. She loved sending cards to family, friends and new acquaintances for every occasion and had the nickname "Hallmark Queen."

She is survived by her husband Russ Blanchet of Dutton; her daughters, Diane Beecher of Havre and Stephanie Trebesch of Billings; sons, Bob Blanchet of Billings and John Blanchet of Dutton; brother Andre Lippens of Great Falls; and nine grandchildren.

A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday at St. William's Catholic Church in Dutton. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. on Monday at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Conrad. Rite of commitment will be in the Dutton Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, or the Gift of Life Family Housing Center.