

Ronald J. Birnel

Ronald J. Birnel, 60, died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2002, at his home in Kalispell.

He was born Feb. 14, 1941, the son of Ernest and Esther (Wittlake) Birnel.

At the age of 14, Ron started working at Western Woodwork and Supply with his father, which later became Western Building Center, in the cabinet shop. He attended elementary school in Kalispell and high school at Mount Ellis Academy in Bozeman. He attended Walla Walla College and graduated from Kinnman Business College in Spokane in 1962. After graduating from business college, he came back to work with his dad.

On Aug. 5, 1961, he married Donna Likes in Kalispell, where they made their home one year later. In 1990, he and his son Ron Jr. started their own cabinet and mill-work shop.

Ron loved to be out in the woods cutting firewood, hunting, fishing, camping, backpacking, riding motorcycles, floating



rivers, canoeing, waterskiing, boating on the Hungry Horse Reservoir, and working in their cabinet shop. "He dearly loved his Savior, and is resting in the grave awaiting the resurrection at Christ's return."

Ron was preceded in death by his mother.

He is survived by his father, Ernest Birnel of Loma Linda, Calif; his wife Donna Birnel of Kalispell; two sons, Ron Birnel Jr. and his wife Sonia of Kalispell, and Don Birnel and his wife Rowena of Bellingham, Wash; two daughters, Ronda Thomas and her husband Matt of Kalispell, and Radonna Birnel of Fairfield; one sister, Darlene McIntyre of Loma Linda; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, at 1 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary Chapel with the Rev. Tom Glatts and the Rev. Fred Beavon officiating. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be today from noon to 6 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

William E. 'Bill' Bissertt, 91

William E. "Bill" Bissertt, 91, of Kalispell, died Monday, Oct. 14, 2002, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

During World War II, he was a Navy CB, building bridges, working on the Normandy invasion, stationed in England and Germany.

He worked as a commercial salesman for Sherman Williams Paint in Billings. He purchased and operated the

Marias Inn in Conrad.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma Bissertt; and his daughter, Sheila Renner, of Spokane.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls, with the Rev. Steve Snipstead officiating.

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

Dolores Bitterman, 57

Dolores Bitterman, 57, of Libby, died Saturday, Oct. 12, 2002, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

She is survived by her husband, Tom, at the family home in Libby; two sons, Dean Bitterman of Hamilton, and Dwain Bitterman of

Goldendale, Wash.; and her mother, Hazel Leach, of Seattle.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday and until noon on Friday at Nelson & Vial Funeral Home.

Marian E. Blackmore, 75

Marian E. Blackmore, 75, passed away in Medford, Ore., on Thursday, Feb. 21, 2002.

She was born in Kalispell, in 1925, to Roy "Dick" and Grace (Remore) Metcalf.

She graduated from Thompson Falls High School and from Moorhead State Teachers College in Moorhead, Minn., where she also earned a graduate degree in library science.

In 1950, she married Stephen Blackmore, who preceded her in death in 1988.

Marian was a teacher at Kerby Elementary School for 11 years. She then taught at Illinois Valley High School in Cave Junction, Ore., and finished her career after several years as the high school

librarian.

She was a charter member of the Illinois Valley Golf Club and served as a city councilwoman. She moved to Medford in 1992, where she continued golfing and volunteered at the Red Cross for five years.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, JoAnn and Rich Wold of McMinnville, Ore.; a brother, John Metcalf of Seattle; and a sister, Camilla Bauska of Kalispell. She is also survived by a niece, Leslie Millspaugh, and a nephew, Roy Bauska, both of Seattle and nephews Jack and Greg Bauska of Kalispell.

Arrangements are under Rogue Valley Funeral Alternatives and Crematory in Medford.

Thelma R. Blackwell, 74

Thelma R. Blackwell, 74, formerly of Libby, died Monday, March 18, 2002, in Pasco, Wash.

She was born at Eaton, Colo., on July 20, 1927, to Samuel and Molly Meier. She married Lewis Y. "Blackie" Blackwell on Nov. 5, 1949. He preceded her in death in 1992.

Survivors include a daughter,

two sons, a sister, and five grandchildren.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church with the Rev. Les Nelson officiating. Committal services will follow in the City of Libby Cemetery under the direction of Nelson and Vial Funeral Home.

Cornelia 'Connie' (Loven) Boetcher, 80

Cornelia "Connie" (Loven) Boetcher, 80, died on Thursday, April 4, 2002, at the Lake View Care Center in Bigfork following a short illness.

The only child of Dermont and Ellen Loven, Connie was born on Dec. 12, 1921, and raised in Spruce Pine, N.C.

She graduated from Spruce Pine High School and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Lenoir Rhyne College in 1942. Following graduation, she taught for one year in Spruce Pine before joining the Army Air Corps.

While in the service, she met and married Harry F. Boetcher of Great Falls. The couple lived for five years in Asheville, N.C., before moving to Great Falls, where Harry joined the family business, the Petite Shoppe.

Connie was an active Girl Scouts volunteer, serving as day camp chairman and as a leader, starting with Brownies and taking her girls through Senior Scouting.

At one time, she led three troops in three different age levels, Intermediate, Junior High and Senior. She and her husband were leaders of Great Falls' only Mariner Girl Scouts Troop for seven years.

The Boetchers retired to Swan Lake in 1980. Connie was an avid golfer who prized her membership in Buffalo Hill Golf Club. She enjoyed the Montana outdoors, especially being in and around Swan Lake where she delighted in hosting family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Harry; and grandson, Colin Breckon.

She leaves her daughter, Karen Breckon; and granddaughter, Debby Breckon, both of Seattle; and daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Bill Edgar of Bigfork.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be scheduled later this summer.

The family suggests memorial donations to the Bigfork Quick Response Unit and the Big Sky Girl Scout Council.

Edward E. Bolt, 75

Edward E. Bolt, 75, passed away on Friday, Dec. 27, 2002, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

He was born on Jan. 10, 1927, in Chicago to Peter and Cecelia Bolt.

Edward graduated from high school and enlisted in the United States Navy. He served from 1944-46 and was honorably discharged. After the Navy, he went to work for the IBEW Electrical Union and retired from there after 24 years. He married Fern Grace Paine in Kalispell, and they were married 44 years before her pass-

ing.

Edward enjoyed meeting his old cronies for coffee and chess. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing all over Montana.

Edward was preceded in death by his wife, parents, and two sons.

He is survived by four children, Cheri Scholz, and Ed, David and Scott Bolt, all of the Flathead Valley.

A memorial service will be held in the summer.

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

Florence G. Varholdt Borgen, 87

Florence G. Varholdt Borgen, 87, passed away Jan. 1, 2002, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

She was born Dec. 3, 1914, in Coyote Flats, Alberta, to Eberhard and Helga Isaackson Varholdt; she was one of 11 children. Florence received her education in Ferndale and graduated from Flathead High School in 1932.

One of her first jobs was housekeeping at the Kelly-Evans Estate on Swan Lake. In later years, she worked for the Devenshire Motor Inn, cherry warehouse, pea warehouse, all in Kalispell. In the 1970s, she worked for the Evergreen Elementary School in the lunch program. She was very thrifty, and was able to put money into savings after taking care of her household bills.

Florence married Henry Oscar Borgen in Kalispell, on May 19, 1937. Henry was employed at Broeders Lumber Mill as a lumber grader and built homes on the side. Florence assisted her husband in the building of homes on the East North side of Kalispell, and in Evergreen. Florence and Henry enjoyed many hunting, fishing, hiking, and huckleberry-picking experiences in the South Fork, Swan River, and Thompson River areas. In the 1960s she enjoyed many summer days at their Echo Lake home.

Florence was a perfectionist in all that she did — parenting, sewing, housekeeping, gardening, canning, cooking, and caring for her husband. She endured a variety of hardships but never gave up her strong desire to accomplish all that she could. She had tremendous courage. The flood of 1964 took many of her possessions. After this experience, Florence learned to live with very few worldly possessions,

She purchased very few clothes as she was able to sew anything she needed. In 1972, she cared for her husband during his final stages of cancer.

Because of her three back surgeries, Florence became very knowledgeable about pain and how to control it. In 1995, she suffered a stroke, paralyzing her on her left side. She was determined to return to her home and care for herself after receiving rehabilitation care. Her ability to plan and prepare her meals and care for herself from her wheelchair was amazing.

Two years ago her health failed her to the point that she became bedridden and needed constant care so moved to the Lutheran Home. Florence is a past member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Calvary Lutheran Church.

Florence was preceded in death by her husband, Henry Oscar Borgen; her parents, brothers and sisters; and is survived by one daughter, Sandra F. St. Marie and husband, Alan, of Littleton, Colo.; one son, Robert N. Borgen and wife, Lu Ann, of Kalispell; grandchildren, Robert St. Marie and wife, Kirsi, of Farmington, Utah, Heidi St. Marie and husband, Bryce Lloyd, of Aurora, Colo., Katie Borgen of Seattle, Cody Borgen of Kalispell; great-grandchildren, Honi and Gunnar St. Marie of Aurora; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Florence will be remembered for her thriftiness, courage, and determination. Her home and family were her priorities.

Private graveside services will be held today. There will be no visitation.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Ruby Lillian Borst, 84

Ruby Lillian Borst, 84, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend, "left this world" Friday, Aug. 24, as a result of a car accident in Rugby, N.D.



"She has gone to join our Lord, but she blessed all of us with joyous memories of her endless love and devotion to her family." Ruby, who was friend to many and enemy to none, leaves countless friends.

She was born April 14, 1918, in the Turtle Mountains of North Dakota, to Marie and Peter Danielson.

In 1938, she married Denver Borst in Bottineau, N.D. They moved to Malta, and then on to Cut Bank, where they settled into dairy farming and raised their four children.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her two brothers, Melvin and Johnny; and her sons, Denny L. and William "Bill" Borst.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Denver Borst of Whitefish; her daughters, Judy and husband Larry Jens of Terry, and Jan and husband Andy Blohm of Columbia Falls; and seven grandchildren, Dale and wife Kristie Jens of Germany (children Dalton and Dharbi); Laurie Frohlich of Mandan, N.D. (Carlie and Casey); Brandi and husband Joe Bremner of Cut Bank and Babb (Whitney, Taylor and Brandt); Michelle and husband Scott O'Neil of Havre (Layton), Jerilyn and husband Bill Morris of Laurel (Dereck and Devyn); Rick Borst of Browning; Angela Blohm of Kirkland, Wash.; and Kacey Blohm of Missoula.

Memorial services will be held today at 7 p.m. at Anderson Funeral Home in Rugby, N.D.

A prayer service will be held at Colonial Manor in Whitefish on Friday at 10 a.m.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Lion Hill Baptist Church in Martin City. Interment will follow at 3 p.m. at Crown Hill Cemetery in Cut Bank.

Jon Bos, 61

Jon Bos, 61, passed quietly away at home on Oct. 17, 2002, after a valiant fight with cancer. He was able to say goodbye to many of his friends and provide comfort for their sorrow.



Jon moved to Whitefish in 1975, after many colorful years in Chicago, Aspen, Colo., and Vail, Colo. "A recent visit to Vail for its 40th year celebration was a high point in Jon's last month with us."

Jon burst onto the Whitefish scene with the original Hellroaring Saloon and Montana Noodle Company. The Whitefish Lake Restaurant followed in 1978. At the time of his passing, he was still operating the Hellroaring Saloon on Big Mountain that he relocated in 1983. He had several other successful restaurant ventures along the way.

Jon was an idea man, and many of his ideas are still with us today — The Taste of Whitefish and the tradition of Halloween as we know them today are two examples. Others are the Bash for Cash, the Summer Games and the Ski/Golf Tournament.

He became Whitefish's favorite Santa, arriving for the tree-lighting ceremony at the Whitefish Lake

Restaurant and visiting numerous homes and parties during the season. He left a lasting image in the lives of many children of what Christmas is like in Whitefish.

To those who knew Jon, they will remember his love of hunting with his dogs and his buddies. Cooking, golf, skiing and baseball's spring training all were part of his life. Jon enjoyed a good party better than most. He was a loyal friend to many and endeared himself to young and old as everyone's favorite curmudgeon.

Jon leaves behind his loving wife, Pat LaTourelle; as well as his mother, Marjorie Bos; his brothers, Mike and wife, Karen, of East Jordan, Mich., and Tom and wife, Linda, of West Des Moines, Iowa; his stepbrothers, Glen Kowalski and wife, Eva Nell, of Whitefish, and Mike Kowalski and wife, Elizabeth, of Corpus Christi, Texas; and many nieces and nephews.

True to Jon's approach to life, his passing will be remembered with a celebration of his life at the Whitefish Lake Restaurant at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to local Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever or the Glacier Twins.

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

Frank William Bowdish, 85

Frank William Bowdish, 85, died Dec. 13, 2002, at his home in Pasco, Wash., of heart problems. He was born in Kalispell on June 5, 1917, to Harry and Ellen Corbett Bowdish.



Frank graduated from Whitefish High School in 1935 and from the Montana School of Mines at Butte in 1939. He completed a master's degree in mineral processing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1943 and a doctorate in chemical engineering at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan., in 1956. After earning his degree at MIT, he worked on the Manhattan Project, which was part of building the atomic bomb.

Frank led a long and illustrious life in fields of mining metallurgy and academia. In 1957 and 1958, he worked in Europe for a French research company developing a method to refine low-grade iron ore more economically. Also, he developed a process to remove iron from local Kansas sand in order to make industrial glass cheaper.

One of his early jobs was at the Caterpillar Tractor Factory in Peoria, Ill., where he met Virginia Jones. They were married in Peoria on July 8, 1944. Virginia died of heart problems in September 1996.

Frank and family lived for

many years in Sparks, Nev., where he was a chemical engineering professor at the Mackay School of Mines at the University of Nevada in Reno. He retired from the University of Nevada in 1981 and moved to Pasco, where he worked part time on the Hanford Project, solving problems to recover waste chemicals.

He is survived by his and Virginia's four children, Caroline Bowdish, a retired high school French teacher in Pasco; Harriet Ullman, working at a pharmaceutical/biotech public relations agency in Boston; Dana Bowdish, an engineer for Boeing in Long Beach, Calif.; and Keith, a printer in Spokane.

Besides his immediate family, Frank is survived by his sisters, Ada, of Auburn, Calif., and Louise, of Kalispell; brother, John, in Kalispell; five grandchildren; eight nieces and nephews, and many other friends and relatives.

Cremation has taken place and his ashes will be buried at a later date in the Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell, beside the graves of his mother and father. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Community Unitarian Universalist Church, 619 W. Albany Ave. in Kennewick, Wash.

Donations may be made in Frank's memory to the Frank W. Bowdish Metallurgical Engineering Endowed Scholarship Fund, Montana School of Mines, University of Montana at Butte, Butte, MT 59701.

Willa Ann Bowen, 68

Willa Ann Bowen, 68, of Libby, died Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2002, at St. John Lutheran Hospital.

She had worked as manager of The Tog Shop clothing store in Libby.

She is survived by her husband Gary; her daughter, Martha Burrell; and her son,

Bill Bowen.

Services will be 3 p.m. Friday at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Arnold Steinert officiating. Interment services will follow in the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. today and until noon Friday at the funeral home.

Katherine 'Kaye' N. Bowker, 70

Katherine "Kaye" N. Bowker, 70, died Friday, March 29, 2002, at her home in Libby.

She was born on Oct. 9, 1931, in Milwaukee, Wis., to Paul Charles Adams and Margaret Marsh Adams. She married Melvin D. Bowker on Oct. 4, 1950, at Sandpoint, Idaho.

She was preceded in death by her husband and her son, Dale Bowker.

Local survivors include daughters Merry Thompson

and Judy Hutchison, and sons Michael Bowker and Bryan Bowker, all of Libby.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. today at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Libby Christian Church. Interment will follow at the City of Libby Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the Lincoln County Library of the Libby Christian Church.

Roger N. Boyd, 44

Roger N. Boyd, 44, died on Tuesday, May 15, 2002, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He was born on July 22, 1957, in Boise, Idaho.

At his request, he has been cremated, and no services are being held.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements.

Arnold 'Arnie' Braaten, 74

Arnold "Arnie" Braaten, 74, of Everett, Wash., died Sunday, June 2, 2002, in his home.

He was born Dec. 6, 1927, in Wolf Point.

He married Norma on June 10, 1948, in Kalispell.

Arnie was a salesman for Carolina Shoe Co. in North Carolina, Oliver Hammer Clothing in Sedro Woolley, Wash., and Sam's Western Wear in Everett. He retired in August 2001.

He is survived by his wife, Norma Braaten, of Everett; sons, Gordon Braaten and his wife, Jan, of Everett and Gary Braaten of Missoula; and daughter Helen Braaten of Arlington, Wash.; sisters, Olga

Rhodes of Kalispell, Gladys Baker of Glendive, Helen Bates of Somers, Alice and husband, John Christensen, of Kalispell, and Mary and husband, Joe Schrock, of Seattle; and brothers, Merle "Bud" Braaten of Wolf Point, and Henry and wife, Margaret Braaten, of Kalispell; many nieces and nephews and seven grandchildren.

Viewing will be from 10 a.m. to noon Friday at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. at the Salvation Army Community Center. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Joyce M. Brackel, 59

Joyce M. Brackel, 59, "went home to be with the Lord" on Friday, April 12, 2002, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

She was born Nov. 24, 1942, in Miles City, but lived nearly her entire life in the Flathead Valley.

Joyce was full of love for her family, her daughter, Marty; her son, Raymond and his wife, Stephanie. She had a special love for her granddaughter, Lauren. Joyce cherished her sisters, brothers, nieces and nephews and her many dear friends.

Joyce loved people. She always made it a point to smile wherever she went and brought the best out of those around her.

She enjoyed exercising, dancing, shopping, gardening and spending time with family.



Although Joyce vacationed in the sunshine state of Arizona, she always returned home for garage sale season. She was a great navigator and usually knew a shortcut to every new sale. Joyce was also the best cook in Kalispell and shared many of her recipes. "However, we are all sure she did not give all her secrets away."

"Joyce will be missed by all, we love you, Joyce."

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday at Johnson Mortuary with the Rev. Kenneth Motram officiating. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be at Johnson Mortuary on Monday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the Peterson Elementary School, 1119 Second St. W., Kalispell, MT 59901 in Joyce's name.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Alma L. 'Punky' Branden, 75

Alma L. "Punky" Branden, 75, passed away on Thursday, June 27, 2002, in her Kalispell home, surrounded by loved ones. Alma was born Sept. 16, 1926, in Fort Benton, to Harvey and Dorothy (Heck) Bell. Alma grew up in the Geraldine, Mont., area and moved with her parents to Kalispell in her late teens.

She married Ernest "Bud" Branden in Kalispell on Sept. 18, 1948. They had 54 wonderful years together.

Alma primarily worked as a cook for restaurants and hunting camps. Her passion was for hunting and fishing in the outdoor realm. Inside activities she loved were bead working, crocheting, quilting, knitting, and needlepoint.

An outspoken woman, she did not mince words. You always knew where you stood with her. Alma was involved with the Kalispell Eagles Lodge and considered her family most important to her.

Alma was preceded in death by her parents, and four brothers, Harvey, Huey, Jack, and Howard.

Alma is survived by her husband, Ernest, of Columbia Falls; daughter Linda Iverson and husband, Tom, of Whitefish; son Harvey Branden and wife, Chris, of Kalispell; three sisters, Dorothy Baldwin and Elnora Dye of Kalispell, Nelda Ness of Spokane; one brother, Dick Bell, of Jackson, Wyo.; two sisters-in-law, Virginia Bell of Columbia Falls, and Ines Pierson of Seattle; six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made in Alma's name to WINGS, c/o Radiation Therapy, KRMC, 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901; or to Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop Ste. 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Memorial services will be held on Friday, July 5, 2002, at 1 p.m. at the Columbia Falls Assembly of God Church with Rev. Darrell Newby officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Orville R. Brain, 53

Orville R. Brain, 53, of Trego, died March 20, 2002, at his home in Trego from natural causes. He was born Sept. 3, 1948, in Billings to Ray and Kathryn Podbelski Brain.

He married Andrea Comarato on June 15, 1984.

Local survivors include his wife, Andrea Brain of Trego; sons Orville R. Brain Jr. and Bryan A. Brain, both of Trego;

daughter Trisha L. Brain of Eureka; and five grandchildren, Mark, Ashley, Anthony, Devin and Sarah.

Graveside services will be Friday, March 29, at 1 p.m. at the Fortine Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Eureka. Local arrangements are being handled by Nelson and Vial.

Giles Breaux, 79

Giles Breaux, 79, of Prunedale, Calif., died Sunday morning, April 21, 2002, at the North Valley Hospital in Whitefish, while visiting in Montana.

He is survived by his wife, two sons including Giles D. Breaux of Columbia Falls, one daughter, 12 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and his brothers, sisters, and relatives in Louisiana, where he

was born.

A funeral service will be held Friday at 1 p.m. at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Burial will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls with military graveside honors by the United Veterans of the Flathead. Visitation will be today from 1 to 8 p.m. at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Wilbert George Brester, 64

Wilbert George Brester, 64, of Kalispell, died Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2002, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

He was born on Aug. 29, 1938, in Missoula, to John C. and Emily Brester. He grew up in Laurel, and then served in the U.S. Army.

After his discharge he settled in California where he met and married his wife, Betty, helping her to raise her four children. They moved to Oregon and subsequently to Vancouver, Wash., where he and his wife managed apartment complexes for the Bagley Downs Corporation for many years.

Will moved to the Flathead Valley which he had always loved visiting to be near his brother, Richard, and family after his wife's death in July of 2000. He made his home in Kalispell near his brother and spent many hours puttering and sprucing up that property.

His favorite pastime was fishing and spending time with family and friends on the streams around the Flathead. He also enjoyed the hours spent with his great nieces and nephews, Mackenzie Brester-Knight, Andrew and Nicholas

Brester and Quinn Cheman Brester, all of whom came to know and love their "Uncle Will" over these last two years. He re-entered the Montana Veterans Home last spring when his health began to decline.

Will is preceded in death by his wife, Betty; one stepson; one stepdaughter; four brothers, Alfred, Clarence, John and Bill; one sister in infancy; and his parents.

He is survived by two stepsons, Mike and Dan Treat of Vancouver, Wash.; five step grandchildren; four step great-grandchildren; two brothers, Harold of Laurel, and Richard "Butch" of Kalispell; three sisters, June Peterson of Baldwin Park, Calif., Pearl May of New Washington, Ind., and Elsie Stenger of Laurel; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls, with the Rev. Ken Mottram officiating. Burial will follow at the Montana Veterans Home Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Freeman Wilson Brist, 83

Freeman Wilson Brist, 83, passed away at his Sun City, Ariz., home on Thursday, April 18, 2002.

He was born Dec. 30, 1918, in Ashley Lake to Benjamin and Vada Brist.

From an early age, Freeman loved caring for his father's sheep; that carried over until he had his own. He also enjoyed logging, until 1997, when he moved to Arizona, where he enjoyed the warmer climate and work in his yard. He spent time at the metal shop also.

In September 1939, Freeman accepted Christ into his heart and as much as he loved God's natural creation, he loved the spiritual work of God more in his own life and others' lives. This was Freeman's first love.

Freeman married Blanche Leibrand on June 5, 1941.

Freeman is preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Howard.

He is survived by his wife, Blanche, at their home in Ari-

zona; two sons, Lyle and his wife Mary of Libby, Glen and his wife Tanya at the home ranch at Ashley Lake; three daughters, Joyce Wright and her husband Leonard of Tacoma, Wash., Julia Brist of Guam, and Jeanne Coolahan and her husband Cedric of Broadus; 11 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; 4 brothers, Harold of Trout Creek, Donald of Estacada, Ore., Herb of Missoula, Henry of Ellensburg, Wash.; five sisters, Dorothy Hoversland of Middleton, Md., Lucille Fagler of Denver, Colo., Leona Pipgras of Ellensburg, Wash., Linda Brist of Oregon, Gladys Martin of Western Grove, Ariz.; along with many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 1:30 p.m. at the West-Coast Outlaw Hotel, 1705 U.S. 93 S. in Kalispell. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

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

Bob Brooks, 80

Bob Brooks, 80, passed away Tuesday morning, Sept. 24, 2002, in Columbia Falls.

A memorial service will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in

Columbia Falls. The Rev. Frank Johnson of St. Matthews Episcopal Church will officiate.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is in charge of arrangements.

James William 'Bill' Brooks, 80

James William "Bill" Brooks, 80, of Laguna Hills, Calif., passed away peacefully Friday, Feb. 15, 2002, at his home in the embrace of his family.

Bill was born Sept. 27, 1921, in Chicago, to Judge James W. and Florence (Donnelly) Brooks.

He served with the U.S. Coast Guard in the North Atlantic Theater during World War II and married Betty Gillet in April 1945. Bill and Betty raised their family in Chicago's South Shore area where they were well known and active members of the St. Philip Neri Parish and the former South Shore Country Club. They relocated to Olympia Fields, Ill., in 1970.

Bill was a partner in the T. N. Donnelly Loan and Diamond Co. for 21 years prior to his pursuing a career in real estate sales. He also was a bank representative for the Illinois State Department, then headed by the Honorable Mike J. Howlett. Bill retired due to a debilitating stroke in 1978, and in 1993 Bill and Betty moved to Southern California.

Bill was always known and admired for his enormous charm, good humor and gentlemanly presence. He will be missed by his many friends everywhere, who will recall his entertaining stories and fellowship. He always enjoyed



the company of friends and he knew no strangers. Despite losing his gift of speech 24 years ago, his indomitable personality allowed him to continuously garner new friends. Bill never bowed to the challenges of his disabilities, but rather displayed astonishing courage and determination to confidently live a principled life.

He was preceded in death by Betty, his best friend and loving wife of 55 years; his parents; and his siblings, Thomas, Carroll, Mary, Alice and Florence; his sister-in-law, Dorothy Schneider and brother-in-law, Robert Schneider.

He is survived by his daughter Carol and son-in-law, Joel Brossard, and granddaughter, Kathryn, of Western Springs, Ill.; his son, James William Brooks Jr., daughter-in-law, Cynthia, and grandchildren, Kristin, James William I, and Patrick Brooks of Naperville, Ill.; his son Robert of Overland Park, Kan.; his daughter Helen Brooks of Kalispell and grandchildren, Dorothy and Joseph Drury; devoted nieces Peggy Ann Buchanan of Mountain View, Calif., and Betsy Schneider Karp of Hodgkins, Ill.; and numerous other nieces and nephews.

The family is deeply grateful to Cream Holiday and her daughters, Fatimeh and Sophia of Laguna Hills, for the compassionate care and comfort that they so selflessly provided.

Bill will be forever loved and remembered as a loving husband, great father and loyal friend.

Randall L. Brooks, 52

Randall L. Brooks, 52, passed away at his home in Kalispell on Thursday, June 6, 2002, after a brief battle with cancer.

He was born in Wahpeton, N.D., on March 29, 1950, to Verna V. and Leslie L. Brooks.

He went to grade school and high school in Twin Valley, Minn. He received a bachelor of science in electrical engineering at North Dakota State University and a master's degree in engineering administration at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

He was married to Diane Miciewicz in Kalispell on June 17, 1972.

He worked for the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C. from 1972-79. In 1979, the family moved to the Flathead Valley to raise their children, and Randy became an electronics engineer for the Flathead National Forest. During the summers, Randy was a communication unit leader on a type-one incident-management team in wildland firefighting and other natural disasters.

He was the chairman of the 911 Committee until his illness required him to resign this year.

Randy loved boating, fishing, hunting and relaxing at his Rogers Lake summer home with his friends and family. Randy spent

hours drawing up various house plans and new ideas relating to them. He got great joy in watching his children and nephews and nieces participate in their various activities. He was a much-loved "Papa" and "Uncle Randy."

He was preceded in death by his father, Leslie L. Brooks.

Randy is survived by his wife of 30 years, Diane Brooks, at the family home in Kalispell; daughter, Meredith M. Brooks, and son, Alex A. Brooks, of Kalispell; his mother, Verna V. Brooks, of Grand Forks, N.D.; a sister, Cynthia Lunn and husband Eric, and nieces Leslie and Whitney of Grand Forks; brother-in-law Dave Miciewicz; niece Caroline and nephew Joseph of Kalispell; sister-in-law Debbie Royal and husband Charles and nephew Zachary of Bastrop, Texas; and brother-in-law Dan Miciewicz and wife Tammy and nephews Trever, Clinton and Noah of Kalispell. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, and many dear friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell. Burial of ashes will be at Conrad Cemetery at a future date.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Robert 'Bob' Brooks, 80

Robert "Bob" Brooks, 80, was "welcomed back into the arms of the Creator" on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2002, at his daughter's home in Columbia Falls. His wife of 48 years was by his side.

He was born Lloyd Ernest Brooks in Wibaux, on Aug. 25, 1922. He went by Bob or Robert all his life. His family moved from Wibaux to Ronan when he was young. The third eldest of 10 children, he learned hunting and fishing as skills of necessity that grew into a lifelong passion.

Classified as 4F due to a childhood injury, he was unable to enlist during World War II. Yet wanting to do his part for his country, he traveled to Portland to do welding on Naval vessels. After the war he moved back to Montana where he worked in construction on the Hungry Horse Dam and building the Anaconda Aluminum Plant.

He met Clarice Irene Wonder in Ronan and on Sept. 24, 1924, they were married and moved to the Columbia Falls area, where Bob went to work as an iron worker for the aluminum plant until his retirement in 1984.

After retirement, he spent time fishing with his long-time friend, Hugh McManus, searching out the monster catch. He also turned his

gardening hobby into a full-time pursuit, going back to work growing and planting flowers at Meadow Lake Golf Course and later at the Montana Veterans Home. Well known for his beautiful flowerbeds, he also grew prolific amounts of vegetables at his home and Bud's Garden at the Veterans Home. These he mostly gave away but sold if a person felt the need to pay him.

People who knew him would remember him for his generosity, dedicated hard work, honesty, and impish sense of humor. He was held dear to many hearts and will be greatly missed.

Bob is survived by his wife, Clarice; daughters, Kristi, Gail and Janelle; grandchildren, Shani, Joel, Kalen, Hannah and Tony; brothers, John and Joe Brooks; sisters, Ruth Hawk, Della Bauer, Patricia Krahn and Glen Kelly; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls. The Rev. Frank Johnson of St. Matthews Episcopal Church will officiate. A formal reception will follow the service. An informal gathering after the reception will be at Gail and Kurt's home at 329 Fourth Ave. W.

Alice J. Brown, 81

Alice J. Brown, 81, died Sept. 25, 2002, at her daughter's home in Kalispell.

Alice was born Jan. 5, 1921, in Birmingham, Mich. She married Richard E. Brown in 1942 in Hartford, Conn.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Richard, at Lakeview Care Center in Bigfork; daughters, Robin Beck of Englewood, Fla., Marty Palmiter of Kalispell, and Katy Brown of McFarland, Wis.;

and grandchildren, Erin and Sam Palmiter of Kalispell.

Alice was a loving wife, mother and friend, who will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Faith Free Lutheran Church, 405 Liberty St., in Kalispell.

Memorials are suggested to Home Health/Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Clara L. Brown, 91

Clara L. Brown, 91, passed away at Buffalo Hill Terrace in Kalispell, on Monday, Dec. 9, 2002.

She was born Feb. 22, 1912, in Elverson, Pa., to Charles and Laura (Morris) Lilley.

Clara married Clyde James in 1932, who preceded her in death in 1963.

She was a secretary for Brandywine Mushroom Co. in Pennsylvania for 30 years.

In 1966, Clara remarried Foster L. Brown. They made their home in Lakeside. Foster preceded her in death in 1994.

In 1996, Clara moved to Buffalo Hill Terrace in Kalispell. She had been a past member of the Lakeside Women's Club, the Somers Volunteer Fireman's Auxiliary and the Lakeside Chapel.

She and Foster were active in the Antique Car Club and spent

many vacations attending the annual reunion of Foster's Army unit, the 93rd AntiAircraft Artillery Battalion.

A brother, Robert Lilley, preceded her in death in 1987.

Clara is survived by two sisters, Irene Pierce and husband, Joe, of Bedford, and Jean Conover of Oxford, Pa.; nephews, Robert Lilley and wife, Kris, and James Lilley, all of West Chester, Pa., Charles Jeffery Lilley and wife, Michelle, of Lynchburg, Va., Dick Temple and wife, Nancy, of Glen Mills, Pa.; and niece, Patricia Lilley Miller and husband, Paul, of Coatesville, Pa.

At her request there will be no services in Kalispell. Graveside services will be held in Pennsylvania.

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

Elizabeth 'Betty' Brown, 81

Elizabeth "Betty" Brown, 81, of West Glacier, died Saturday, Sept. 21, 2002, at St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula.

She retired from the Social Security office in Kalispell in

1981. She is survived by her husband, Turner D. Brown, of West Glacier.

She was cremated in Missoula and there will be no services.

Elmav Lenora Brown, 86

Elmav Lenora Brown, 86, a Whitefish resident, died Saturday, Nov. 30, 2002, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish of natural causes.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the C.E.

Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell with the Rev. David V. Kauffman officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish.

Esther Dagny Brown

The family of Esther Dagny Church, 323 Northridge Dr., Kalispell.

Brown would like to invite her friends and family to join them for a memorial service on Friday, July 26, 2002 at 7 p.m., at Northridge Lutheran

Esther was a resident of Kalispell from 1963 to 1972. She died on December 23, 2001, at age 85, in Helena.

Lyle 'Cheyenne' Brown, 58

Lyle "Cheyenne" Brown, 58, of Hot Springs, died Saturday, Oct. 12, 2002, at Clark Fork Valley Hospital in Plains, of natural causes.

A wake will begin on Tuesday afternoon at the Longhouse in St. Ignatius. Rosary will be

recited at 8 p.m. Wednesday. Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Thursday at the St. Ignatius Mission, followed by burial at the Ronan Cemetery.

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

Richard E. Brown Jr., 85

Richard E. Brown Jr., 85, died on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2002, at Lakeview Care Center in Bigfork.

He is survived by his three daughters, Robin Beck of

Englewood, Fla., Marty Palmiter of Kalispell, and Kathy Brown of Madison, Wis.

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

Viola Rosalia Brown, 89

Viola Rosalia Brown, 89, passed away Sunday, April 14, 2002, at the Firesteel Healthcare Center in Woonsocket, S.D.

Viola was born in Woonsocket, S.D., to Henry and Sophia (Sielschott) Linke on May 28, 1912. She attended grade school in rural Woonsocket and graduated from Woonsocket High School in 1930.

After graduation she helped on the family farm. She married Stanley Brown at Woonsocket on Feb. 21, 1936. They farmed in McCook and Sanborn counties together.

They retired from farming in 1969, and continued to live on the farm.

She worked at Firesteel Healthcare Center for several years as a cook and was always aware of the residents' special needs. In 1993, she moved to Meadow Lawn Apartments. Due to ill health, she moved to Firesteel in 1995.

She was a member of the United Methodist Church, Woonsocket;

and the D.A.V. Auxiliary Chapter Seven of Mitchell, S.D., where she held several offices.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Stanley, on May 30, 1990; a sister, Verna Fouberg; a brother, Lloyd Linke; and one niece, Susan.

She is survived by a daughter, Jeannie and husband, Bill Marcure, of Kalispell; two brothers, Raymond Linke and his wife, Oleta, and Harold Linke and his wife, Eileen, both of Woonsocket; one sister, Rose Linke of Mitchell; one brother-in-law, Maynard Fouberg of Huron, S.D.; one sister-in-law, Helen Linke of Woonsocket; and many nieces and nephews.

Services are today at 2 p.m. at United Methodist Church in Woonsocket, with the Rev. Stanton Bockwoldt officiating. Interment will be at Eventide Cemetery at Woonsocket.

Rick Bruns

An award-winning journalist and former reporter for Time magazine, Rick Bruns died suddenly at his home on Wednesday evening, Nov. 13, 2002.



During his eight years at Time, Rick covered national political conventions, medical and health issues, as well as events in print and broadcast media.

Other journalistic endeavors include writing for Forbes magazine, the Chicago Tribune, Ohio Week, Business Tokyo, the Cousteau Society, Mastercard International and the economist Eliot Janeway. In a new pursuit, he was also a teacher at Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills.

Born in Kalispell in 1954, Rick was also a passionate outdoorsman. For three years in a row he bicycled 100 miles to Sandusky, Ohio, to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in "Pedal to the Point." An accomplished mountain climber, runner, skier and one of the devoted leaders of his son's Boy Scout troop, Rick loved the beauty and solitude of the Cuyahoga National Valley. From Europe to Cairo, Egypt, he

traveled widely and dreamed of one day scaling the Matterhorn. Bossanova music and teaching himself to play the flute were his latest loves.

Rick was a graduate of the St. Louis Country Day School, the University of Denver Publishing Institute, and Washington University of St. Louis. He also attended the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Rick Bruns is survived by a long list of admiring and loving friends and relatives. They include his wife, Kim; son, Christopher; parents, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth and Janet Bruns of St. Louis; brother, James; sister-in-law, Karen; nieces, Kristin and Melissa of Chicago; in-laws, William and Elizabeth Fesler, the Joseph Cosettis of Pittsburgh; Douglas Lydon of Chicago; and the entire Boy Scout Troop 69.

"His was a remarkable presence in our lives. He will be greatly missed."

A memorial service was Monday at the Fairlawn-West United Church of Christ in Akron, Ohio.

In lieu of flowers, please make a generous donation to the American Heart Association, 1236 Weathervane Lane, No. 300 C, 44313, or to Boy Scout Troop 69 at 867 Moe Dr. Suite G, Akron, OH 44310.

Charles 'Bud' C. Bruch, 82

Charles "Bud" C. Bruch, 82, passed away on Jan. 21, 2002, at his home in Kalispell.

He was born Oct. 16, 1919, in Opheim, to Joseph and Lizzie (Henry) Bruch. Bud moved to the Flathead Valley at the age of 12 and attended school in Kila.

He married Gail Loveless on Aug. 2, 1941, in Kalispell. He worked for a time in the Flathead Mine before entering the United States Army to serve in World War II. He earned a Purple Heart while serving in Italy at the Po Valley Battle.

After his discharge from the Army, Bud went to work as a logger and butcher and worked for Equity Supply as a grain elevator manager and foreman for 28 years.

He was very active as a councilman, usher and with the Jet Cadets for several years at Central Bible Church in Kalispell. He was also an elder at the Presbyterian church in Kila prior to moving to Kalispell. He enjoyed fishing, camping with his family, and bowling on the Equity team.

He was preceded in death by his wife; parents; four brothers, Kenneth, Gerald, Harold, and Roy; and two sisters, Ethel and Alma.



Bud is survived by two daughters, Yvonne Perry of Missoula, and Janet Elsass and her husband Robert of Kalispell; four grandchildren, Debbie Miller and her husband

Kevin, Cindy Davenport and her husband Craig, and Becky and Joseph Elsass; four great-grandsons, D.J., Jacob, Joshua, and Brantley; one sister, Anna Lincoln of Clarkston, Wash.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday at the Johnson Mortuary Chapel with the Rev. Ron Youde officiating. Burial will follow at C E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery with full military honors by the Flathead Valley Veterans. Visitation will be held from noon to 6 p.m. today at Johnson Mortuary.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the Central Bible Church, 902 First Avenue East, Kalispell, MT 5990.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Helen L. Bryan, 84

Helen L. Bryan, 84, died in Bigfork on Friday, Oct. 11, 2002. She is survived by her three children, Peggy Edgington and Steve Bryan, both of Bigfork, and Kathleen Deasy of

Longhorse, Pa.

Services are pending at this time.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Gertrude R. Bryce, 87

Gertrude A. Bryce, 87, lifelong resident of Plains and Sanders County, passed away on Tuesday Oct. 22, 2002, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula.

Gertrude was born on the Vacura homestead on Camas Prairie on Oct. 18, 1915. In 1918 the family moved to Plains, where her father opened Louie's Garage. This was the beginning of Vacura Motors which operated in the same building that today houses Country Ford. Vacura Motors remained in the family for many years and was the cornerstone of the Vacura family, one of the few Ford dealerships in the USA to remain so long in the control of one family.

On June 17, 1935, she married Harry Smith at Wallace, Idaho. Two sons were born to the couple; Pat, on Nov. 7, 1935 and Mike, on June 19, 1938. She was preceded in death by Harry on August 7, 1954. After the death of her husband Harry, she was involved in the lease and operation of Harwood House, now Quinn's Hot Springs Resort on the Paradise cut-off to St. Regis. A serious health problem ended this venture. She later leased and operated Ted's Sandwich Shop on the Main Street of Plains for several years.

On Oct. 9, 1958, she married T. Millar Bryce at Plains. They enjoyed traveling in their own aircraft. They traveled extensively in the lower 48 states and also to Alaska, Mexico, Canada, the Bahamas and the West Indies. In their later years, Gertrude and Millar enjoyed a trip around the world on commercial airlines. On the trip they visited relatives who were working in England, Italy and Indonesia.

Gertrude had a full and satisfying life. For the last 44 plus years she was married to Millar and was a wonderful wife to him while in business and the later years of retirement. She was a dedicated mother and grandmother to her sons and their children. Gertrude was particularly proud of her family and of her Montana heritage and was a solid citizen of Plains, Montana and the USA.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Louis and Annie; two sisters, Edith Avery and Florence Overcast; five brothers, Clarence, Edward, Wesley, John and Jerry Vacura; and by her first husband, Harry Smith.

She is survived by her husband, T. Millar Bryce of the family home in Plains; two sons and daughters-in-law, H.A.P. (Pat) and Jackie Smith of Lakeside, and M.A.B. (Mike) and Frances Smith of Albuquerque, N.M.; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Kalispell, Reno, Nev., Albuquerque, N.M., and Broken Arrow, Okla.; three sisters, Levina Noll of Fairbanks, Alaska, Ramona Larson and husband Glenn, of Polson, and Roxanne (Roxie) Brothers of Kalispell; three brothers, Bodley Vacura of Missoula, Albert and wife, Helen Vacura of Fairbanks, and Joe and wife Florence Vacura of Kalispell.

A rosary vigil service will be held today at 8 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church in Plains. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Saturday at 10 a.m. at the church with the Rev. Kenneth Fortney as celebrant. Burial will follow at Plains Cemetery.

Coffelt-Bunch Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

Lessie 'Less' Bucchi, 84

Lessie "Less" Bucchi, 84, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 21, 2002, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.



Less was born on Feb. 17, 1918, in Cherokee, W.Va., to Aaron and Lalar Cecil.

In 1954, she and her husband moved to Butte, where they stayed until moving to Phoenix in 1976. They returned to Montana in 1990, where they took up residence in Ferndale.

Less truly enjoyed the annual hummingbirds, caring for her flowers and watching the deer. Her great love of the outdoors found her and her husband, Amando Skeets, at Canyon Ferry Reservoir when time permitted (most weekends), where they enjoyed

camping with their family and friends, spending numerous hours fishing away the day. She also enjoyed passing an occasional day at the creek panning for gold.

She was preceded in death by her parents; beloved husband, Amando Skeets; one grandchild, one great-grandchild; and six brothers.

She is survived by her sons, Kenneth of Bigfork; Dennis and his wife, Arlene, of Butte; a daughter, Roma and her husband, Mike Hall, of Bigfork; five grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and four sisters, Lynn, Lillian, Yvonne and Francis.

Funeral services will be at noon on Monday at the Bigfork Funeral Home, with his nephew, Cecil Bailey, officiating. Interment will follow the services at Lonepine Cemetery in Bigfork.

Bigfork Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Edna Bugg, 83

Edna Bugg, 83, a longtime Whitefish resident, died Tuesday, May 21, 2002, at the Colonial Manor nursing home in Whitefish, of natural causes.

She worked for the railroad as a clerk.

Burial has taken place at the Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell under the direction of the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. No services will be held.

James 'Jim' Floyd Bullock, 35

James "Jim" Floyd Bullock, 35, passed away on Jan. 7, 2002, from fatal injuries in a car wreck in California.

Jim was born in Whitefish, grew up and attended schools in Columbia Falls. He moved to California with his wife in 1999.

Jim was preceded in death by his father John "Joe" in 1993.

He is survived by his wife Gloria of Linden, Calif.; stepsons, Brian of Columbia Falls and Jeff Anderson of Linden, Calif.; moth-

er Ruth Bullock of Columbia Falls; brother John of Coram; sisters, Rita Elgaen of Lakewood, Wash., Jacquie Brunson of Helena, Anne Herzog of Martin City; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins in California, Colorado, Choteau and Great Falls area.

His favorite sports were fishing, snowmobiling, skiing and boating.

A memorial service will be held at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Conbelle 'Connie' March Bundrock, 74

Conbelle "Connie" March Bundrock, 74, of Yuma, Ariz., died Aug. 9, 2002, at Yuma Regional Medical Center.

She is survived by her hus-

band Hasley Bundrock of Yuma, son Brice Bundrock of Kalispell, and daughter Mary D' Johnson of Kalispell.

Dennis Charles Burland, 54

Dennis Charles Burland, 54, passed away Tuesday morning, Oct. 15, 2002, at the family home in Kalispell.



Dennis, the son of Lloyd "Sonny" Burland and Alta (McDonald) Burland, was born in Missoula on Nov. 15, 1947. Dennis grew up in St. Ignatius and Ronan, where he was one of the first students at Kicking Horse Job Corps. While at Kicking Horse, he and his brother started the rodeo program in 1966 and '67 and he received his GED. Following the Job Corps he went to Bismarck, N.D., where he went to the United Tribes Technical Center before joining the Army in 1967.

For the last 18 years, Dennis worked for the Forest Service in Bigfork, retiring in 2001.

He was a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Dennis loved to shoot pool and was on pool teams for the Pablo Bar and the Rainbow Bar in Kalispell. Dennis loved life and people. He was loved for his sense of humor and good nature and will be especially missed by his co-workers, friends and "Bud" friends in Bigfork, Liquid Louie's in Condon, and Rainbow Bar and Nickel Charlie's in Kalispell.

As a young man Dennis married Marsha (White) Bosnick and they started a family. To this union two children were born, Brandy and Chad. However, as with many things in life, not everything works out and they later divorced. On Feb. 13, 2002, Den-

nis remarried to his longtime companion, Donna Hill of Kalispell.

Dennis was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents and his mother, Alta.

He leaves behind his wife, Donna Burland of Kalispell; daughter, Brandy and Steve Murphy of Couer d'Alene, Idaho; son, Chad and Heather Burland of Couer d'Alene; father, Lloyd "Sonny" Burland of Ronan; a sister, Charlotte "Babe" Rose of St. Ignatius; a brother, Gary Burland of St. Ignatius; stepdaughter, Corrina (Hill) Gutknecht of Missoula; four grandchildren, Katelyn of Idaho, and Nichole, Kristina and D.J. of Missoula; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A wake started Wednesday at the Foster and Durgeloh Funeral Home in St. Ignatius and will continue today, moving to the Longhouse at 5 p.m. A rosary will be recited at 8 p.m. today in the Longhouse in St. Ignatius with wake closing starting at 10 a.m. Friday in the Longhouse.

Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday in the St. Ignatius Catholic Mission with Father Andrew Maddock, SJ as celebrant. Pallbearers will be Gary Hill, Don, Lloyd, Rick and Duwayne McSloy, and Chuck Schulz. Honorary bearers are Ted Richardson, Dave Liebhart, Elmer Archambeau and his McDonald and Burland relatives. Interment will follow the Mass in the St. Ignatius Catholic Cemetery where military honors shall be presented.

Memorials may be sent to Donna Burland, 111 S. Cedar, No. 10, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Natosha Rachell Burland, 15, of Polson, died Dec. 6, 2002. "Her short life with us" was taken away in the early morning.

Natosha was born on Sept. 9, 1987. She resided with her mother, Vikii Burland, on the west side of Polson in tribal housing.

Natosha lived with her sister, Aryon, in Spokane for the past two years. She decided to move back to Polson in June 2002 to live with her mother. She was currently attending Two Eagle River School in Pablo.

She is survived by her mother, Victoria Burland, of Polson; two sisters, Jody Stripe and Aryon Birdtail, both of Spokane.

Natosha will be remembered by her best friends, Letitia Kallowat,



Simone Joseph, Charmayne Ellsworth, Jessica Sharky, Jimmiann Linerud and Misty Truitt.

She is also survived by many cousins; her Aunt Norma, Uncle Phillip, and Uncle Steve and his wife Wanda, who all loved her dearly. She was also much loved by her grandmother, Dottie.

She had many other friends and relatives that loved her very much.

Natosha was very active and was always looking to have fun. "It is a tragedy for her to be taken from us at such a young age. She will be missed!"

Wake services will begin at 5:30 p.m. today at the St. Ignatius Longhouse and will continue until Thursday morning.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Grogan Funeral Home in Polson with Pastor Lockley Bremner officiating.

Burial will be at Lakeview Cemetery in Polson.

Nancy Catherine (Phillips Solander) Burney, 83, died Sept. 30, 2002, at 5 p.m. at Alaska Regional Hospital in Anchorage of complications due to a stroke. Previously, she battled cancer three times, plus two strokes and a heart attack, and won.

She was born April 8, 1919, to Mary Elizabeth (Horstman) Phillips and Ray Daniel Phillips in Lafayette, Ind. She must have been a handful as the baby with four siblings: Raymond, Mary Ann, and Gordon.

Very precocious and athletic, she got her life-saving certificate at age 8. They had to skip her in grade school for reading too much or too well. High school was debate team and too many science experiments. Next, she played guard on a semi-pro women's basketball team. Nancy graduated from Purdue University in pre-med, physical therapy, and education in 1940. She was a sister of Alpha Xi Delta Fraternity. While attending Purdue, she was in the first class of women pilots trained to fly cargo planes for the World War II effort and got her diploma from Eleanor Roosevelt, and her wings from Amelia Earhart (both of these women influenced her life in many ways).

She taught chemistry and physical education at a private girls' school in Pennsylvania for two years before returning to the Mayo Clinic as a physical therapist to help fight the polio epidemic. She married her first husband and they had a roller skating rink where they taught roller skate dancing.

The national polio crisis brought her to Montana in 1947, where she was the first physical therapist employed by the Missoula Crippled Children's Association to work her magic on the polio-crippled children of Montana at Community Hospital. No stranger to sports, Nancy tried skiing for the first time with doctors from the hospital, but English-style horseback riding was her first love and in Montana she learned Western-style.

Pilot license in hand, she met another pilot, retired 1st Lt. World War II Army Air Force, Albert Leroy Solander, and they flew the Montana skies together. They married June 6, 1950, in the First Presbyterian Church of which she was a member for all her years in Missoula. They had five children; Mary Ann, Albert Leroy II, Alison Louise, Nels Ray, and Baby.

Along with the energetic, never say quit, loving care she gave to all the patients she treated at Community Hospital Rehabilitation Center, she helped get the newest version of the Community Medical Rehabilitation Center started and running. Nancy retired from the Center in 1976 after 29 years of service to Missoula and surrounding communities of Montana.

She also taught the art of lifting without straining to nurses in Missoula and Polson hospitals and physical therapy students at the University of Montana. She was on Gov. Babcock's Advisory Commission on Mentally and Physically Handicapped Adults and Children (which enabled them to move from state hospitals back to their communities, attend public schools, and work within the community). She supported the Opportunity Workshop (a job training facility) in Missoula. She volunteered her skills and talents to many projects at schools, nursing homes, and community organizations in Missoula. She was a friend to everyone she met and worked with.

After retiring in Missoula, she moved to Valdez, Alaska, to work for Harborview Developmental Center as a physical therapist and the Valdez School District as a special education teacher. At 60, she started playing on a women's softball team. She also got her EMT certificate. In a spare-time job at Valdez Airport, she met Ace "Ace" Frankfort Burney and they married on March 24, 1979. Somehow during this time (maybe after seeing Montana black bears and grizzlies and then Alaskan kodiacs) she became enticed with bears and started collecting them (over 300).

She tried retiring again with Ace and they moved to Anchorage in 1984. They spent happy years together recycling, fishing, and traveling in their motor home to visit friends and family, until his death in 1987. Not one to ever really retire, Nancy went to work for the Little Red School House childcare facility, teaching 2-year-olds and infants. After her first battle with breast cancer, she left Little Red to start her own childcare center which she maintained until her 2-year-olds started public school. Then, as throughout her life, she devoted time to the Red Cross and the Senior Center of Anchorage,

combining work and fun with blood donations, sandwich making, bingo, yahtzee, and dancing. Now, maybe she has finally retired?

She leaves in this world four of her five children and their spouses, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, students, patients, family, and friends from all the places she has lived, worked, and visited.

She was preceded in death by her fifth child, her parents, three husbands, a granddaughter, one sister, two brothers, and other family members.

Witzleben Family Funeral Homes cremated her on Oct. 2, 2002, and she will rest with her granddaughter, Erica, in Alaska.

A party to celebrate her energetic love of life was held at Chugach Manor on Oct. 3, 2002, where her collected bears were given to her friends and to the Anchorage Police Department for ill children.

Memorials may be donated to Community Medical Center Foundation-Rehabilitation Center, 2827 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula MT 59804; 1-406-327-4141.

Kathryn Hall Burns, 87

Kathryn Hall Burns, 87, passed away at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell, on Monday, March 18, 2002.



She was born Nov. 28, 1914, in Malta, to Grace and Fredrick Hall. She attended elementary and high school in Malta and attended the University of Montana where she belonged to the Delta Delta Delta Sorority. She received a degree in nursing and during her professional career, worked at Fort Harrison Veteran's Hospital in Helena, and John Hopkins Hospital in New York.

She was married to Orville Smith from Rudyard. They resided in Helena and Portland. Upon his death in 1944, Kathryn returned to Malta. In 1947, she married Don Burns of Wolf Creek; they made their home in Helena until Don died in 1974.

Kathryn was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Helena, where she served several terms as

president of the Junior Cathedral Guild. She was a member of Eastern Star and enjoyed over 50 years association with P.E.O., a women's philanthropic organization. She will be remembered for her passions for gardening, needlework, gourmet cooking and caring for her family.

She is survived by her daughter, Virginia Burns Sloan and her husband, Jim, of Kalispell; her son, Jim Burns and his wife, Jeanine, of Helena; grandchildren, Nathan Sloan of Missoula, Peter Sloan of Kalispell, Carly Burns of Seattle, and Markus Burns of Spokane; one sister, Margaret Konsberg and her husband, Tek, New York City, N.Y.

A memorial service will be held in June in Helena. The body has been cremated and interment of her ashes will be at Forestvale Cemetery in Helena.

Memorials are suggested to St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 511 N. Park Ave., Helena, MT 59601.

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

William Miles Bushby, 82

William Miles Bushby, 82, died at his Birch Grove home Sunday evening, May 26, 2002, in the presence of his wife, children and grandchildren.

He was born Dec. 31, 1919.

He moved his young family from Iowa to Montana in 1962, settling in the present family home in 1968.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Bushby; the couple's four children and their families: Mae Fulmer of Bainbridge Island, Wash., Helen Bushby of Bigfork, Fred Bushby of Bothell, Wash., and Brenda Carper of Whitefish.

Also surviving are his brother and sister-in-law, Jack and Mildred Bushby of Ireton, Iowa.

A memorials service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday in the Buffalo Hill Funeral Home Chapel. Immediately following the service will be a reception hosted by the Birch Grove Willing Workers at the Birch Grove Community Center. Friends and family are invited.

The family encourages memorials to Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite. 100, Kalispell.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Jay John Butler, 74

Jay John Butler, 74, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2002, in Craig, Colo.

He was born on Oct. 24, 1927, in Lewistown to Jay and Florence (Forester) Butler.

Jay is survived by his mother, Florence Ruff, of Kalispell; two brothers, Gerry Brunett and wife, Ellie, of Kalispell, and Jim Brunett and wife, Marsha, of Bozeman; two sisters, Dolly Moeller of Tucson,

Ariz., and Ila Moore and husband, Glen, of Helena; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery on Saturday at 2 p.m. with Deacon Fred Topp of St. Matthew's Catholic Church officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Charles Donald Byrne Sr., 86

Charles Donald Byrne Sr., 86, died May 1, 2002, at Hallmark Nursing Home in Federal Way, Wash.

He was born Oct. 25, 1915, at Lewistown, to Raymond M. Byrne and Genevieve Byrne. He graduated high school at Lewistown.

He married Jerda Marie Engbretson at Kalispell, on Dec. 10, 1938. He served in the U.S. Army from 1944-45.

Mr. Byrne was a carpenter and shipwright and worked in construction for many years in Montana and Washington, and as a shipwright later for many years in Washington and Alaska. He retired from Duamish Shipyards

as assistant yard superintendent at age 63.

He was Catholic.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jerda; his parents; four brothers; and son James.

He is survived by sons, John M. Byrne and Charles D. Byrne, Jr.; five grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Cremation services were performed by American Memorial Funeral Directors of Renton, Wash., and graveside services will be performed Tuesday at 3 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

M.G. 'Doc' Butters, 88

M.G. "Doc" Butters, 88, of Columbia Falls, passed away Monday, Dec. 23, 2002, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

He was born Nov. 9, 1914, in Mohall, N.D., to James Marnie and Barbara Louise (Bronsak) Butters. He was raised and educated there, attending Mohall High School. He was the outstanding senior athlete and graduated in 1932. He then attended Valley City State in North Dakota, where he played basketball and football.

He received his teaching degree in 1938, followed by a master's degree in the mid-1950s. Doc was inducted into the Valley City Hall of Fame for basketball in 1988.

Doc entered the United States Army in April 1941, serving in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater in 1942. He was wounded Dec. 20, 1942, at Guadalcanal, resulting in his retirement separation due to his disability. He was a decorated officer, receiving two Bronze Stars, a Silver Star and a Purple Heart.

He and Edith Muriel Pulliam were married on Dec. 8, 1944 in Fort Benning, Ga. They had three children. The family moved to Scobey in the fall of 1945, where he coached. He then accepted the position of superintendent of schools in Joplin in 1951, until moving to Columbia Falls for a teaching position in 1955. He taught for one year and became



principal of Columbia Falls Junior High School until his retirement in 1977.

Doc was very committed to education and belonged to the Montana Education Association and National Education Association. He was a Mason and member of the First United Methodist Church.

He enjoyed fishing, bowling, gardening, woodworking and square dancing with Edith. He was an avid sports fan, especially baseball and football. He was a kind and gentle man, loved by many.

Doc is survived by his wife, Edith of Columbia Falls; daughters and sons-in-law Barbara and Harlan Fatzinger of Spokane, Wash., and Lynne and Dennis James of Great Falls; son and daughter-in-law Jim and Mary Butters of Aloha, Ore; grandchildren, Susan Blackwell of Tacoma, Wash., Adam and Tyler Blackwell of Great Falls, Greg Fatzinger, Beth Breckner and husband Chase of Spokane, Jill Schmahl and husband Kyle of Tacoma, and Jeff, Jason and Jennifer Butters, all of Aloha; as well as three great-grandchildren, Collin and Courtney Breckner and Connor Schmahl.

Doc's parents, brother, Harold, and sister, Daphna, preceded him in death.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, at Columbia Falls United Methodist Church, with Rev. David Jones officiating.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is in charge of the arrangements.