

Gertrude Irma Van, 62

Gertrude Irma Van, 62, died Aug. 25, 2002, at Immanuel Lutheran Home.

She was born April 1, 1940, in Kalispell, daughter of George (Teddy) and Ella (Lewis) Van. She was unable to attend public school due to her disability. Her mother and parents of other children with disabilities started a private school for their children. The Opportunity School was started by Kalispell Business and Professional Women's Club through the efforts of the late Margaret Amdahl. She later attended public school and was given a standing ovation when she received her diploma from the eighth grade. Gertrude and her mother moved to Columbia Falls in 1956, and she attended high school for two years.

She was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church, charter member of Columbia Falls Rainbow Assembly No. 66, belonged to Estella Pomeroy Chapter No. 68, later Vista Chapter No. 44, Order of the Eastern Star, Whitefish; Columbia Rebekah Lodge, later Mountain View Rebekah Lodge,

Whitefish.

Gertrude entered Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell, in March, 1981. She was named Resident of the Year, represented members on the Home's Council, worked in the gift shop, played the piano for Bible studies and other occasions. She was sunshine committee member, for both the Methodist Church and Lutheran Home.

She was preceded in death by her parents; an infant sister, Marie; and her great-nephew, Russ Schulte.

Survivors include her brothers and sisters-in-law, Ted and Carolyn Van, John and Florine Van of Kalispell; one sister, Gladys (Van) Shay of Columbia Falls; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be 10 a.m. Wednesday at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell. Inurnment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Arrangements and cremation are under the direction of Columbia Mortuary.

Memorials may be given to the charity of one's choice.

Charles Vandyke, 88

Charles Vandyke, 88, died Wednesday, July 10, 2002.

He was born March 3, 1914, in Cambridge, Mass., the son of Donald J. Vandyke and Estella (Samborn) Vandyke. His father was a general contractor and after he graduated from high school the country was in a depression and Charles decided to work with his father and go to college later.

Each winter the family would go to Florida for the winter. While in Florida, his father built a few houses. Charles saved his wages and decided to build an apartment house as an investment, which he did.

After his father died, he returned to Massachusetts to care for his mother and a younger brother. Being interested in the theater, he joined the South Coast Repertory. He continued his writing and wrote television plays. He appeared in numerous plays for

the South Coast Repertory Theater. He also appeared on Cape Cod in summer theater.

He worked in the Navy yard in South Boston and enlisted in the Air Force. He went overseas and served in the Air Force for four years, receiving a Bronze Star for a sortie in relieving a shortage of gasoline for General Patton.

His life took him to California where, under the GI Bill of Rights, he went to college.

When he was in California, later in life he was active in the Laguna Leisure World Playhouse, appearing in "Little Foxes," a Lillian Hellman play. He worked 15 years as a professional salesman for Sears Roebuck.

He is survived by his wife, Marguerite May Vandyke.

Arrangements are under the direction of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Boyd C. Van Horn, 82

Boyd C. Van Horn, 82, died Saturday, July 27, 2002, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the

Tobacco Valley Cemetery in Eureka, with the Rev. Jerry May officiating.

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

Gertrude I. Van, 62

Gertrude I. Van, 62, died Sunday, Aug. 25, 2002, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

She is survived by her brothers, Ted and John Van of Kalispell; and a sister, Gladys Shay, of Columbia Falls. A memorial service will be held

Wednesday, at 10 a.m. at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell. Inurnment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

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

Arthur E. 'Cub' VanHorn, 70

Arthur E. "Cub" VanHorn, 70, a lifetime resident of the Tobacco Valley, died, Thursday, Nov. 7, 2002, at Mountain View Manor in Eureka.

He was born in Eureka, on Dec. 12, 1931, to Forrest Earl VanHorn and Jessie Wunderlich VanHorn and was raised in the Tobacco Valley.

He had been a longtime employee of the United States Forest Service in the Eureka area, working as a woodworker and had

remained in Eureka following his retirement.

Survivors include his wife Leneta, residing at Mountain View Manor in Eureka; a sister-in-law, Dorothy VanHorn of Goldendale, Wash.; and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Tobacco Valley Cemetery with the Rev. Carl Pershall officiating.

Arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

John Richard VanSantford, 43

John Richard VanSantford, 43, of Kalispell, died at his home on Sunday, Oct. 27, 2002, from a heart attack.

He was born March 24, 1959, in San Bernardino, Calif., the son of John Blick and Jean VanSantford. He moved to Kalispell in 1976.

John joined the Army and was stationed in Germany and served in Kuwait in the DMZ in the Gulf War.

He worked at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, the Immanuel Lutheran Home, and was also employed at Brendan House as a certified nurse's assistant at the time of his death.

John taught English in the high schools in the Czech Republic and Kiev, Ukraine, for two years.

He married Yulia Alexandrovna in Russia. They had made their

home in Kalispell for the past year.

John was preceded in death by his grandparents, Homer and Lavonne VanSantford.

His is survived by his wife, Yulia; mother, Jean Holman of Phoenix; father, John Blick VanSantford of Alaska; two stepbrothers in Washington; and three stepsisters in California. Kalispell survivors are his stepfather, Roger Nottingham; stepbrother, William Worrell and wife, Jolynne, and Nichole; uncle, John Sturzen and wife, Darlene, and David and Tom; and grandparents, Art and Della Sturzen.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Johnson Mortuary and Crematory with the Rev. Dave Pestel officiating. Viewing will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday at Johnson Mortuary.

Mary Irene Crawford Vassar, 88

Mary Irene Crawford Vassar, 88, passed away July 16, 2002, at her home in Kalispell, surrounded by loving family and friends.



Mary was born Feb. 21, 1914, in Crandon, Wis.

She married Norman Vassar in Wisconsin, and they then moved to Bigfork in 1951.

Mary was a very beloved mother and grandmother, and a revered elder of the Forest County Potowatomi tribe of Wisconsin.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Norman, in 1967, brothers and a sister.

Mary is survived by her only son, Everett Warren Vassar of

Kalispell; grandson Cole Anthony Vassar; granddaughter Kaidyn Deandra Vassar; nieces and nephews, Doug and Lori of Wausau, Wis., Jeff and Mary Beth of Waukesha, Wis., Gary and Dena of Milwaukee, and Rhonda and Marten of Lawrence, Kan.; and numerous great-nieces, nephews and caring friends.

"A heartfelt thank you to Marlys Hoeldt and Dennis Hebert, for their kind and loving care."

Visitation for Mary will be held at Johnson Mortuary today from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Graveside services will be held on Saturday at 2 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery with Jim Crawford officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Christopher Micheal James Veach, 5 months

Christopher Micheal James Veach, 5-month-old infant, was born in Clark Fork Valley Hospital on Feb. 17, 2002, and passed away on July 19, 2002, at Community Medical Center due to complications from RSV.

"Christopher was with us as long as he was because of the grace of God and the wonderful staff at both Clark Fork Valley Hospital and Community Medical Center."

He leaves behind his mother, Michelle; father, Steve; sister, Kaitlyn; grandpa, Jimmy; grandma, Debby; uncle, James; aunts, Ronnie and Carrie; great-grandmas and great-grandpas, Veach, Schober and Kelley; and great-great-grandmothers, Gonzales and Kelley. He also leaves behind oodles of great aunts, great uncles, cousins and family friends who

loved him dearly.

Although his life was short, he touched the hearts of many people in his family, his community and at the hospital. Many will always remember him. He will always have a special place in the hearts of many, especially his family. Through all his life if he learned anything it was to learn to love, because he loved everyone who loved him. And he will be greatly missed.

Contributions can be made in Christopher's name to Ronald McDonald House of Missoula, P.O. Box 1119, Missoula, MT 59806.

Graveside services were held July 24 at Whitepine Cemetery with Rev. Bob Crowder officiating.

Arrangements are under the Coffelt-Bunch Funeral Service.

Julie I. Vernon, 80

Julie I. Vernon, 80, passed away Monday, July 1, 2002, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.



Julie was born July 4, 1921, in Joplin, Mont., to Dave and Anna (Bengston) Holmquist.

Julie's father farmed on the Stillwater River, in the area where the Village Greens Golf Course now sits. She was raised with two sisters, Fran and Helen. Julie lived most of her life in California and Montana, and worked for many years at Montgomery Ward, selling children's clothing.

Julie married Joseph Vernon on Dec. 27, 1976, in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. Joseph preceded her in death in 1998.

Julie traveled to visit friends and family in California and Wisconsin. She loved to embroider and was a long-time member of the Kalispell Christian Center, Assembly of God Church.

Julie is preceded in death by her parents, Dave and Anna Holmquist; three brothers, Ted, Walt, and Joseph Holmquist; two sisters, Esther Torgerson and Eleanor Vernon.

She is survived by three sisters, Fran Bekkedahl of Kalispell, Helen

Griep and husband, Fritz, of Kalispell; Alice Briner and husband, Bill, of Santa Barbara, Calif.; two brothers, Robert Holmquist of Spokane, Paul Holmquist and wife, Ruth, of Kalispell; and many nieces nephews and other relatives.

Visitation will be held today, July 3, 2002, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary. Funeral services will be held on Friday, July 5, 2002, at 1 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Rev. John Weaver officiating. Burial will follow at Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary.

Melvin O. Vestre, 83

Melvin O. Vestre, 83, of Kalispell, "joined his heavenly father" Sept. 11, 2002.

He was born Feb. 11, 1919; in Bone Trail, N.D., to Olie and Ingborg Vestre. At the age of 2 years, his family moved to the Flathead Valley, where he spent his childhood.

At the age of 21, he joined the service and was later honorably discharged. He married Emma Benson on Aug. 22, 1941. After the service, they moved to Vancouver, Wash., where he spent four years as a welder in the Albino Ship Yard.

He then returned to the Flathead Valley, where he and Emma farmed in the Creston area. He also worked in artificial insemination with cattle for All West Breeders for 25 years. Retiring at the age of 62, they continued to live in the Lake Blaine area.

Mel's home was always open to all and he was the first to offer a helping hand. He spent his life doing what he loved, farming the land and tending to his cattle. His favorite pastime was to hunt and

fish with his family. He was loved by all and will be greatly missed.

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

He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Emma Vestre; son, Rod Vestre and Debby Hide-man of Kalispell; daughter, Jackie Stevens and husband, Doug, of Whitefish; daughter, Melanie Stone and husband, Spike; two brothers, Ernie Vestre of Kent, Wash., and Olie Vestre of Great Falls; grandchildren, Valerie Pandina, Rachele Rogers, Kimberly Hockaday, Hugh Hockaday II, David Vestre, and Chandra Schreckengust, all of Kalispell; great-grandchildren, Cody, Sydney, Austin and Bradley; and numerous close nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at Gospel Light Baptist Church.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

James Alexander Vipond, 52

James Alexander Vipond, 52, died Thursday, July 11, 2002, at Brendan House in Kalispell. No services are scheduled at this time. Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Ruby Lelia VanAlstine, 88

Ruby Lelia VanAlstine, 88, passed away on May 28, 2002, at the Plattsmouth Manor in Plattsmouth, Neb.

She was born on Feb. 21, 1914, outside of Langdon, N.D., to Hezekiah and Helena (Fast) Holderman. As a child, she moved with her parents to Wolf Point, where she began her schooling. The family later moved to Havre, where Ruby, along with her brother Harvey, graduated from Havre High School together.

Ruby married William VanAlstine on July 8, 1934. In 1943, they moved to Kalispell. Ruby kept very busy with family, yard work, baking and canning. She was always a helping hand to friends and neighbors. She was excellent in sewing for all of the family; some of the things sewn were clothes, quilts, and pot holders.

One of her favorites was baking and decorating cakes for any occasion, for any reason to share. Another one of her pastimes while living in Kalispell, was to visit the sick and elderly and to take food to neighbors in need. She enjoyed teaching her grandchildren how to embroider and sing favorite hymns at the kitchen table. Ruby really enjoyed poems. One of her sayings was, "Keep busy while waiting." Also "Mom" was usually ready when she heard, "Lets go" from dad.

She had a deep love for the Lord. One of favorite verses was First Thessalonians 4:13-18. Some of her favorite hymns were, "Lily of The Valley," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "Safe In the Arms

of Jesus," "Standing on the Promises," and many, many more. She loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In December of 1986, Ruby moved to Bonners Ferry, Idaho. After a few years she moved back to Kalispell and lived with her daughter, when she had Alzheimer's disease. In 1994, she moved to Omaha, Neb., to live with her son. She later moved to the Plattsmouth Manor Nursing home in Plattsmouth.

Ruby was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her brother, Harvey Holderman; and her daughter, Jean Heindel.

She is survived by her son, Larry VanAlstine and wife, Jan, of Chillicothe, Mo.; six grandchildren, Gary Heindel and wife, Sharon, of Plattsmouth, Wanda Dyer and husband, Mark, Kelly Wright and husband, Lonnie, all of Kalispell, Teresa McMahan and husband, Brian, of Fairbanks, Alaska, Barbara Vasquez of Anaheim, Calif., and Larry VanAlstine Jr. of Billings; 14 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Pastor Jeryl Hollinger officiating. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held on Monday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Alice V. Voermans, 91

Alice V. Voermans, 91, a long-time Whitefish resident, passed away Friday morning, May 10, 2002, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell, of natural causes.

Alice was born June 10, 1910, in Kalispell, the daughter of William and Florence Lanegan. The family lived in various spots including Elmo, Ore., before returning to the Flathead Valley. Alice left school to care for her younger brothers and sisters when her mother died.

She met and married Jake B. Voermans on April 3, 1935. She and Jake owned and operated the Meadow Brook Dairy. They also raised Hereford cattle and improved the breed. They took great delight in traveling. Jake passed away in 1995, after 60 years of marriage.

Alice was an accomplished seamstress and enjoyed gardening and her beautiful roses. She was a longtime member of the Cowbelles and active in the Altar Society at St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish.

She was preceded by her hus-

band, Jake; her parents; seven brothers, Ralph, Henry, George, Albert, James, Harry and Isaac; and sisters, Clara Caton and Ellen Mellem.

She is survived by a sister, Dorothy Cox, in Kalispell; nieces and nephews, Shirley Parker, Ellie Naumann, Sandra Lanegan, Mike Lanegan, Deborah Averalt, Joe Voermans, Jacob Braig, Robert Braig, Marlene Becker, Margaret Voermans and Bill Voermans; and many great-nieces and nephews.

A Christian wake service will be at 7 p.m. Monday at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. A Mass of the Christian burial will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Charles Catholic Church with the Rev. Charles Roman, celebrant. Burial will follow at the Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests that memorials be made to the Bratsberg Wing at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Kyle Volkens, 19

Kyle Volkens, 19, of Libby, died Thursday evening, March 28, 2002, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center as the result of injuries in a vehicle accident near Libby Wednesday morning.

He was born in Libby on Nov. 20, 1982, to Andy and Colleen Volkens.

He is survived locally by his parents at the family home in Libby; two brothers, Chad Volkens and his wife Ilene of Kalispell; Kory Volkens of Libby; his grandfather Frank Finkbiner of Libby; and

numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

A Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated Tuesday at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church with the Rev. Ray Hanigan as celebrant. Interment services will follow at the City of Libby Cemetery.

Visitation will begin Monday at 10 a.m. at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home with a parish vigil and rosary service following at 7 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the American Legion Baseball Program in Kyle's memory.