

## Robert Francis 'Bob' Black

Robert Francis "Bob" Black, 91, a longtime resident of the Flathead Valley, died Feb. 18, 2003, at Brendan House of natural causes.

Bob was born to Sarah (Guerdet) Black and Robert W. Black on Aug. 3, 1911, in Ambrose, N.D. He attended school there and graduated from Ambrose High School in 1930.

Bob later moved with his family to western Montana after serving in the U.S. Coast Guard in World War II. He returned to the Flathead Valley in 1949, and that is where he met and married Maude M. Costello.

He spend his working life in the Kalispell area where he worked on the Hungry Horse Dam and later owned and operated several small businesses.

After Bob retired, one of his favorite pastimes was fishing from his boat with his dog, Puppy, on Flathead Lake. He also enjoyed fishing on the other lakes in the valley and Northwest Montana. His other passion was watching the Atlanta Braves baseball on TV.

In the past few years he especially enjoyed the company of the coffee-drinking and walking group that met every morning at the Kalispell Center Mall.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Maude; brother, Gordon Black; and a foster brother, W.J. Dusterhoff.

Survivors include a sister, Marie Crowder and husband, Bob, of Mesa, Ariz.; special friend and care giver, Linda Pollmann; son, Jim Costello and wife, Kathy, of New Orleans, La.; "adopted daughter," Lois Lauman and husband, Dale, of Lakeside.

He loved his family very much and was especially proud of his granddaughter, Kristen Costello Pim and her husband, Doug, and great-grandson, Logan, of Plano, Texas.

He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews located in Arizona and throughout Montana.

At his request, cremation will take place and there will be a memorial service at 10 a.m. on March 1, at the Johnson Mortuary Funeral Home. Private burial will be in the veterans' section of C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Salvation Army or the charity of your choice.

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

## Ada Louise 'Robbie' Blake, 89

Ada Louise "Robbie" Blake, 89, died on Monday, Dec. 15, 2003, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

She is survived by two sons, Wayne J. Blake of Kalispell,

and Ronald E. Blake of Marion.

Services will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Louise 'Robbie' Blake, 89

Louise "Robbie" Blake, 89, died Monday, Dec. 15, 2003, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

She was born in Lothair, on Sept. 19, 1914, to Edward and Ethel (Wilson) Robison. Robbie attended elementary school in Lothair, graduating from Chester High School in 1932. Edward owned and operated the Robison Cash Store in Lothair, the local mercantile that sold everything from shoestrings to Chevrolets. She received a bachelor of arts degree in nursing from Northern Montana College in 1935.

With the exception of one year in Coalingo, Calif., Robbie spent her nursing career in Kalispell, working for eight years at Sisters of Mercy Hospital (later Kalispell General) and worked 30 years as office nurse and X-ray technician for Dr. M.O. Burns. She retired in April of 1981.

Robbie met and married William Blake on Jan. 5, 1941. Bill was a carpenter, later owning the Service Shoe Shop in Kalispell, until his retirement. He died in 1980.

Robbie and Bill raised two sons, Wayne and Ron. Wayne is self employed and Ron is a retired teacher as is his wife, Lynda. Wayne's wife Carol is senior manager at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish. Robbie has seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She had wonderful memories of an Alaskan cruise she took with her sister-in-law, Alice. Robbie

enjoyed gardening, both flowers and vegetables, and loved watching tennis and basketball. She was a great Lakers fan and loved their old coach, Pat Riley.

Robbie attended the Presbyterian church and was a member of the state nurse's association, District 8. Robbie moved to Immanuel from her own home in 2002.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, W.J. "Bill" Blake in 1980; one grandson, Michael Blake, in 1994; and one sister, Elaine.

She is survived by two sons, Wayne J. Blake and wife, Carol, of Kalispell, and Ron E. Blake and wife, Lynda, of Marion; seven grandchildren, John Blake of Fort Worth, Texas, Warner Blake and wife, Lisa, of Kalispell, Misty Blake of Boise, Idaho, Michelle Sevensind and husband, Jon, of Columbia Falls; Paul Ulberg and wife, Darcy, of Orlando, Fla., Veronica Shepherd and husband, Louie, of Honolulu, Hawaii, and Andy Blake of Kalispell; nine great-grandchildren; two sisters, Nadene Larson of Havre, and Ardyce Swank of Chester; with numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services for Louise Robbie Blake will be in the spring.

The family suggests memorials be given to Flathead Valley Community College foundation for nursing education, P.O. Box 1174, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Harriet Jeane Blake

Harriet Jeane Blake, born Dec. 12, 1930, died Nov. 7, 2003, in Portland.

Services will be held 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14 at Epworth United Methodist Church in Kalispell, with the Rev. Glen Woodson officiating.

She was the eldest child of Frank H. and Olive Berry Trippet, both of whom preceded her in death.

After graduating from Flathead County High School in 1948, she attended the University of Montana, obtaining a teaching certificate and she taught two years in Montana country schools. On July 9, 1952, she married Dr. Larry J. Blake, with whom she had graduated from high school and with whom she had five children.

After marriage and raising a family, she returned to college, obtaining a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Meredith College in 1981 and a certificate in legal assistant from the same school the following year. She lat-



er received postgraduate credits from Southern Oregon State University and the University of Oregon. She then taught pre-school and kindergarten for 10 years.

During her life, H. Jeane Blake had been a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, serving as regent of chapters in Kalispell, Klamath Falls, Ore., and Susanville, Calif.; a member of the American Association of University Women, serving as president in Susanville; a member of United Methodist Women, serving as president and district officer in Susanville; a member of PEO Sorority, serving as president in Susanville; and Daughters of the Nile.

The five children who survived her are Howard, Kathleen, and Larry, of Portland, Richard, of Sammamish, Wash., and Frederick, of Klamath Falls, Ore. She had 14 grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother, Edgar Trippet, of Kalispell; and her sister, Helen, of Missoula.

Her husband, Larry, preceded her in death in June, 2003. "After over 50 years of marriage and a brief separation, Jeane and Larry are now together again."

## Ray John Blankenship, 82

Ray John Blankenship, 82, a longtime resident of Glacier and Flathead counties, died Jan. 10, 2003, at his winter home in Santa Barbara, Calif., of an apparent heart attack.

Cremation has taken place and his ashes will be scattered on a sunny Montana mountain. A memorial celebration of his life will take place in Whitefish at a later date.

Survivors include a daughter, Ellen Weslovski of Jefferson City; sons, Tom Blankenship of Gig Harbor, Wash., and John Blankenship of Berkeley, Calif.; sisters, Dorothy May of Phoenix, and Cora MacDowell of Newport, Ore.; and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Terry; and parents, John Leonard and Marion Blankenship.

Ray was born in Whitefish, on Sept. 9, 1920, to Marion Hardwick and John Leonard Blankenship. He graduated from Whitefish High School and worked his way through Kinman Business College in Spokane, and then on to Marshall College in Huntington, W.Va.

After several years of study at Marshall, he was drawn into the World War II conflict. He went to officer training school in North Carolina and was commissioned as a captain in the U.S. Air Force, serving as a navigator in B-52s in Japan, the Philippines and the Far East.

On leave during the summer of 1945, he married Beverly Getter in Cut Bank. In 1946, he returned to Cut Bank but was soon called back into the Korean War. After the war, he bought the Two Medicine Company, a Glacier County wholesale business, which he built into

a thriving enterprise.

He was an ardent fisherman, hunter, and horseman and was active in the Cut Bank and state saddle clubs. He was also a longtime member of the Masons, the Elks Club and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In the 1960s, change was in the wind, and he moved to Seattle where he worked as a safety engineer for AAA and Kemper Insurance Companies. The insurance work took him to San Francisco where spent six years as a West Coast safety inspector of large operations and a nationwide safety trainer. He enjoyed this work very much, but with his parents' health deteriorating, in 1976, he returned to West Glacier to take over the family business at the Vista Motel. There he also began raising Arabian horses. After his parents passed away, he sold the motel and moved to the Flathead River place (Blankenship's River Cabins) to continue the horse business.

Through all, Ray was very focused on his friends and his family and was very generous of his time to all. His entertaining stories with his phenomenal memory of people and places will be missed by all he touched.

His remains will be scattered on a sunny Montana hill and a celebration of his life will take place at some Whitefish watering hole in late spring, when the snow birds return.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Ray J. Blankenship Memorial Fund for Native American and Western Art at the Montana Historical Society, P.O. Box 201201, Helena, MT 59620-2694.



## Americo James 'Jim' Bloom Jr., 88

Americo James "Jim" Bloom Jr., 88, passed away on Thursday July 24, 2003, at his home in Kalispell, surrounded by his loving family.



Jim was born on Oct. 3, 1914, in Petaluma, Calif. He was a son of pioneer dairy ranchers of the Chileno Valley. He attended Petaluma High School, and was the star guard on the basketball team. His ability for raising and showing livestock won him numerous medals. He studied dairy science at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He graduated with double bachelor of science degrees from Washington State College in 1940 in dairy manufacturing and biochemistry, the field in which he spent his career until retiring to Lakeside in 1981.

He served as captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps as a biochemist during World War II. Jim's career in the dairy business spanned 40 years starting as plant superintendent and production manager with Dairygold Farms in Spokane, where he designed and supervised construction of the Inland Empire's largest and most modern dairy production facility in 1956.

Outside of work he coached Dairygold's basketball and formidable fast pitch softball teams; as well as his sons' grade school basketball and baseball teams for their parish at St. John Vianney Catholic School.

In 1960, he joined the international division of Foremost Dairy whereby he moved the entire family to Yokohama, Japan, where he served as production manager. In 1962, he transferred to Okinawa as general manager for two years, followed by a move to the Island of Guam, M.I. where he was general manager of Foremost and fast foods manager of the franchises of Dairy Queen and A&W Rootbeer for 10 years. He ended his overseas career with assignments in Seoul, Korea, Bangkok, Thailand, Rota, Spain and Papeete, Tahiti. He then retired to "The Lodge" in Lakeside.

Jim was very civic minded and

at many of the international locations, he took on duties including president of Rotary and Chamber of Commerce in Guam.

After spending 20 years overseas, in his retirement, Jim's love of the earth and mother nature drew him into his life and passion of gardening. He spent endless hours cultivating and nurturing his miniature roses and a well-manicured yard for all to enjoy.

Jim's friends and acquaintances will always remember his discernible palate for creating fine ice creams and delectable cheeses; especially his namesake cheese "Jim Cheese" as learned under the tutelage of his Washington State College Professor Golden of "Cougar Gold" fame.

Jim was a devoted husband and father and wonderful Christian gentleman, exemplified daily in all his thoughts, words and deeds.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Americo James Bloom and Vivian M. Filippini Bloom; one sister, Stella Ghilotti; and three brothers, Leo, Emmett and Harold Bloom.

Jim is survived by his wife of 60 years Carolyn R. (Brislawn) Bloom of Kalispell, sons, Gary J. and wife, Diane Bloom, and Michael P. of Spokane, Gregory L. and wife, Karen Bloom, of Bigfork; daughter, Jamie C. and husband, Tom Berns, of Corte Madera, Calif.; three grandchildren, Bob, Deborah and Chase.

Visitation will be from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Mass of Christian burial will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 4, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church with the Rev. Vic Langhans serving as celebrant. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, with the United Veterans of the Flathead Valley doing the military graveside honors. A reception will follow the interment at St. Matthew's Church.

The family request memorials be made to the Botanical Garden Fund, c/o Brookies Cookies, 191 Mill Street, Bigfork, MT 59911 or Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## C. Art Boland, 84

C. Art Boland, 84, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2003, in Lakeland, Fla.

Art was born on March 10, 1918, in Texas. He was raised and educated in Texas.

Art had attended two years of college, then served two years as an equipment specialist with the U.S. Navy. He worked at the naval shipyard in Long Beach, Calif., for 33 years.

Art was very active with the Boy Scouts of America, Parent-Teacher Association and was a longtime member of the Masonic Lodge. He loved doing woodworking.

He was preceded in death by

his parents, and his wife, Frances.

He is survived by his two sons and their wives, Keith and Miriam Boland of Florida, and James and Barbara Boland of Iowa; two brothers, Fred Boland and Con Boland; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with the Rev. John Weaver of Christian Center Assembly of God Church officiating. Masonic Lodge No. 42 will be participating in the services. Burial will be at C.E. Conrad Cemetery.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Anthony 'Gene' Bolduc, 48

Anthony "Gene" Bolduc, 48, passed away on Monday, Dec. 8, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, following injuries sustained in an automobile accident.



He was born Nov. 26, 1955, in Kalispell, to Claire Damos and Marcie Rosetta (Sindt) Bolduc. Gene married Judy Etta Ingwerson on June 16, 1989, in Kalispell, Montana.

Gene was employed at Wal-Mart for the last four years. He was a hard worker, fun loving, mellow and an inspiration to many others and very committed to his family and friends. He enjoyed everything that life threw his way. He was respected by many and loved by all. Children have been a large part of his life.

Gene enjoyed many different hobbies, such as hunting, fishing, sledding, hiking and of course, his grandkids. He was also a member

of both the National Rifle Association and National Fish Association.

He was preceded in death by his father, Claire Damos; brothers, Gordon and Vernon Leroy; father-in-law, Robert; and best friends, Jess and Diane.

He is survived by his wife, Judy Bolduc of Kalispell; seven children; and his mother, Marcie Curto, of Polson; sister, Vickie Goodman, of Polson; and 23 grandchildren.

Services for Anthony "Gene" Bolduc will be held Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 4 p.m. at the Salvation Army Chapel on Bountiful Drive in Kalispell with captains Daniel and Doreen Freeman officiating. Visitation will be held prior to services from noon to 3:30 p.m. at the Salvation Army Chapel.

The family suggests that memorials in behalf of Anthony Gene Bolduc, be sent to the Whitefish Credit Union, 234 East Montana Street, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## John E. Boller, 96

John E. Boller, 96, passed away Dec. 26, 2003, of natural causes at Desert Regional Hospital in Palm Springs, Calif.

John was born May 20, 1907, to Abe A. Boller, who immigrated from Germany via Russia and Eva Schmidt from Germany, and were married in South Dakota. His father Abe changed the family name from Buller to Boller, as another A. Buller was residing nearby. John was born in Bloomsfield, Mont., and married Monica Riedinger there Nov. 9, 1932. They celebrated 68 years of marriage together, before Monica preceded him in death three years ago, in Polson. They have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John and Monica raised wheat in Bloomsfield, and had their first two children Gary and Myrna, before moving to St. Ignatius where the youngest son, Rex, was

born. They ranched in St. Ignatius before retiring and moving to Flathead Lake. They traveled south in the winters with a pickup camper, and eventually settled in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., for their winter home.

John enjoyed ranching and farming and was affectionately referred to as the "irrigator" by Monica, as John was constantly watering and caring for the crops and the land. After retiring John enjoyed fishing and always had an opinion as to why the salmon were no longer in Flathead Lake. One of his greatest thrills was catching a record lake trout, over 43 pounds at the time. John was always ready for a good game of Cribbage as well as political conversations and opinions.

Arrangements for private funeral services are pending with interment to be in St. Ignatius at Pleasant View Cemetery.

## Virginia Lee 'Ginny' Bomkamp, 74

Virginia Lee "Ginny" Bomkamp, 74, of Kalispell "went to be with the Lord" on May 6, 2003. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.



Ginny was born on Jan. 26, 1929, in Falmouth, Mass., to Clifford and Grace Crocker. She graduated from Lawrence High School in 1947 and went on to work for the telephone company and Gulf Oil as a secretary for a number of years.

Ginny married William Van Treese in 1949. Their union produced two daughters, Paula Jayne and Denise. They later divorced and she married Raymond Bomkamp in 1956 and had another daughter, Cindy Lee. During their marriage, they traveled throughout the United States and overseas through the U.S. Air Force. That marriage ended in divorce in 1976.

In 2001, she moved back to Montana to be near her two daughters and grandchildren. She thoroughly

enjoyed her volunteer work with the Flathead Food Bank, senior bowling league and her "Wednesday afternoon social with the girls."

Ginny is survived by her daughters, Paula Jayne Bomkamp of Kalispell, Denise and her husband, Shannon Nalty, of Kalispell, and Cindy Lee Sappington of Salt Lake City; grandsons, Sean, Kevin and Ryan Nalty of Kalispell; brothers, Robert and wife, Charlotte Crocker, of Virginia, and Chip and wife, Magda Crocker, of Massachusetts; sister, Beverly and husband, Edward Dudek, of Michigan; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Her mother, father, two sisters, five brothers and two nephews preceded her in death.

No funeral services will be held at her request. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Because of Ginny's involvement with the Flathead Food Bank, the family suggests memorial contributions be sent to Flathead Food Bank, 105 Sixth Ave. West, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family

## David Burton Bondurant, 35

David Burton Bondurant, 35, died Sunday, Sept. 7, 2003 in Denver. He was born Oct. 6, 1967, in Butte to Kenneth and Barbara (Chappell) Bondurant.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Mark Bondurant and his grandparents, Charles and Cleo Bondurant.

He is survived by his parents, Kenneth and Barbara Bondurant of Denver; one brother, Robert and sister-in-law Penny Bondurant of Denver, and two sisters, Trish Bondurant of Seattle and Cheryl Gomes and niece and

nephew Jessica and Joshua, all of Denver; also his uncle and aunt, Burton and Peggy of Kalispell, and cousins and other relatives of Montana, Washington and Oklahoma.

Funeral services for Bondurant will be held today at 1:30 p.m. at Central Christian Church. Burial will follow at C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be today from 9 a.m. to noon at Johnson Mortuary Chapel. Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary & Crematory.



## Louis F. 'Lou' Borchers Jr., 72

Louis F. "Lou" Borchers Jr., 72, of Polson, passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2003, of an apparent heart attack while in an ambulance enroute to St.



Joseph Hospital in Polson.

He was born Aug. 15, 1931, in Great Falls, the eldest child of Louis F. and Leota Borchers. Lou was educated in Great Falls public schools, graduating from Great Falls High School in 1949. He attended a trade school for one year before entering Montana State University in 1950. He graduated with a baccalaureate in psychology in 1954.

He married Caryl Wicks in Missoula, together they had three children. Lou was commissioned in the United States Army through the Montana State University ROTC program and served as an infantry lieutenant in Germany before returning to civilian life.

Lou married Alice L. Dailey in Great Falls, in 1984. He worked as a real estate agent in Great Falls, operated a family furniture store in that city, along with his brother, Dean, operated a marina and developed family property on Finley Point in a condominium complex. Lou most recently started with his partner Dennis McCrumb, the Flathead Dock and

Pile barge.

Lou was a long-time member of the Polson Elks Lodge No. 1695, and served as exalted ruler. He was widely known in the Flathead as well as other parts of Montana and will be sorely missed by his family and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Jean; his brother, Dean; and a son, Louis R. "Randy" Borchers.

Lou is survived by his wife, Alice, and three children, William "Bill" Borchers and wife, Brenda, of Polson, Brenda Harrell and husband, Jim, of Missoula, and Christine Burke and husband, Christopher, of Colorado Springs, Colo. He is also survived by a stepson, Richard Scherm and wife, Tracie, and a daughter-in-law, Shirley Borchers, both of Polson; grandchildren, Vincent, Elizabeth, Kaydee, Karmen, Keliagh, Stephanie, James, Katharyne and Jacob; and nephews and nieces, Dean, Dan, Don, Doug, Dave Mogstad, Jeff Borchers, Nicole Borchers and Marlies Kern.

A memorial service will be held 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, at the Polson Elks Club. A reception will follow the service at the Elks Club.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that a donations be sent to the charity of donor's choice.

Cremation has taken place and arrangements under the direction of Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory, Polson.

## Edna Margaret Borchert, 92

Edna Margaret Borchert, 92, passed away Friday, Sept. 26, 2003, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

Edna was born Sept. 27, 1910, in North Dakota to Robert and Anna (Anderson) Brown.

Edna is survived by her loving son, Jack Collin, daughter-in-law Janeane, and her grandchildren, Shelley and Jack. She is also sur-

vived by her sister, Pat Paulson, and brother-in-law, Don, and many loving nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Edna left memories of love, fun and great joy in the family. At her request, there will be no services.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## John Richard 'Dick' Borden, 86

If the Good Lord needed a storyteller, Dick Borden filled the bill on Sunday evening, May 4, 2003.



John Richard "Dick" Borden was born Dec. 8, 1916, to James Lucky and Maude Casey Borden in Niarada, and he passed away on May 4, 2003.

He attended Battle Butte School until eighth grade, and then attended St. Ignatius High School. While in St. Ignatius, he lived with his grandmother, "Beel-ma" Mary Gillard McDonald, and Angus McDonald. He didn't graduate, but those who knew dad realized he held a B.S. in storytelling!

In his teens, Rich packed as a sheepherder for Romanian Nick Lasco, who built the largest sheep shed in the Northwest at that time. Rich herded sheep from the Hot Springs and Niarada area clear up into Glacier Park. One fall they got the sheep out of the Many Glacier area just in time, (before snowfall) or "they'd still be there."

On Dec. 24, 1936, Rich married his high school sweetheart, Iris Mary Violette. They moved to the Flathead mine, where he worked as a miner and powder setter, and he told many stories about back-road trips to Kalispell for groceries and fun.

When World War II started, Rich went to Portland and was employed in the shipyards. He returned to the Flathead mine and worked until 1945, when he realized his dream by purchasing 40 acres near Dublin Gulch at D'Aste. He milked cows, and raised cattle and wheat, expanding the ranch to over 200 acres. He and Iris adopted their only son, Richard Durlan Borden, and happily followed him all over the state as he competed in baseball, football and basketball. Rich was always supportive of Rick's activities, and was instrumental in the volunteer renovation of the old Charlo gym in the early '60s.

Throughout the lean years on the ranch, Rich sold minerals all over western Montana, drove cream truck, worked for the Bureau of Reclamation, and drove road grader and truck for Lake County. After Iris died in 1978, he sold the

ranch and moved into Charlo.

Luckily for all of us, he won Betty Knudsen's heart and married her in June 1980. Betty raised her five children on the ranch right next to Rich's. Since Rick and all those Knudsens grew up side by side, it's a miracle to us that now we are all family.

Rich was a natural entertainer. He enjoyed "chordin" on the guitar, piano and harmonica, although he couldn't read music. He played for many dances and country gatherings in the Hot Springs and Niarada areas. He played cards like a shark. He never stopped being interested in the news of the day. He loved to hunt, fish and pick huckleberries. A favorite hobby was prospecting for gold, but there are no vials of dust or nugget to prove what he was really up to!

But Rich's main talent was talking. He was an awesome storyteller, and had an incredible mind for remembering names, dates and details. He may have had help from his diaries, which he kept religiously since 1935. (He burned his earlier diaries when he thought he would be drafted into the Army in WWII.)

Rich was the best grandpa and great-grandpa ever, especially to the best heart medicine he ever had — Crystal and Sami-jo — and he and his stories will be missed every day.

Iris Violette Borden; his parents; his sister, Rita Cochran; and brother, Roy "Tim" Borden, preceded him in death.

His survivors include his wife, Betty, of Charlo; sisters, Amelia and Ralph Gipe of Polson, and Grace Thompson of Moses Lake, Wash.; son, Rick and Mary Borden of Hamilton; stepsons, Rick and Sue Knudsen of Potomac, Dave and Mary Kay Knudsen of Kenai, Alaska, and Jim and Julie Knudsen of Newton, Iowa; stepdaughters, Kathy Knudsen and Tom Deveny of Missoula, and Sheryl Knudsen and Ron Kain of Charlo; 16 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial celebration and potluck will be held at the Charlo Senior Center at 4 p.m. today.

The family suggests memorials to The Leon Clubhouse, c/o Tammy Steindorf, Charlo, MT 59824.



## Denver Martin Borst, 88

Denver Martin Borst, 88, passed away Friday, July 11, 2003, of respiratory failure at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell. He had been a resident of Flathead area nursing homes for the past year and a half.



Denver was born April 22, 1915, in White Earth, N.D., the son of William Graham and Josephine (Fladeland) Borst. He lived in several small towns in the area and received most of his schooling in Bottineau, N.D.

He and Ruby Lillian Danielson were married April 2, 1938, in Bottineau. Shortly after their marriage, they hitchhiked to Malta, where Denver had a job hauling fuel for J.E. Misener. He later worked for H. Earl Clack and was transferred to Cut Bank in 1941. Three years later, they bought a farm near Cut Bank and later purchased another near the Canadian border at Chalk Butte. Denver, being an excellent craftsman, worked several winters as a carpenter with Ehlert Construction, and later as a welder on the missile sites near Great Falls.

In 1974, they sold their farms and retired to their vacation property near Essex, spending some winters in Arizona.

Denver loved auction sales and often bought more than he could use. His retirement years were filled with puttering. In 1998, Den-

ver and Ruby moved to Columbia Falls, to be near their daughter and family, where he lived until he moved into the nursing home. Denver loved being with friends, and enjoyed many a laugh in their company.

Denver was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Ruby in August 2002; two sons, Bill in 1976, and Denny in 1983; and two infant brothers, Johnny and Perry.

Denver is survived by his two daughters, Judy Jens and husband, Larry, of Terry, and Janet Blohm and husband, Andy, of Columbia Falls; eight grandchildren, Michelle O'Neil of Havre, Jerri Lyn Morris of Laurel, Dale Jens of Herschberg, Germany, Laurie Frolich of Mandan, N.D., Rick Borst and Brandy Bremner of Browning, Angela Blohm of Seattle, and Kacey Blohm of Columbia Falls; 10 great-grandchildren, Layton O'Neil, Derrick and Devin Morris, Dalton and Dharbi Jens, Carlie and Casey Frolich, Taylor Whitney and Brant Bremner. Also surviving are two daughters-in-law, Joyce Borst of Havre, and Sheryle Bittner of Browning; two sisters, Myrtle Buckley of Great Falls, and Dorothy Lind of Redding, Calif.

Memorial services for Denver Martin Borst will be held on Monday, July 14, at 1 p.m. at Lion Hill Baptist Church in Martin City with Rev. Pat Pierce officiating. Urn burial will take place Monday, July 14, at 4:30 p.m. at Crown Hill Cemetery in Cut Bank.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Luella Boswell

Luella Boswell of Troy, died Thursday, Jan. 2, 2003, in Auburn, Wash., from natural causes.

Graveside services will be

today at 2 p.m. at the Milnor Lake Cemetery.

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

## Rose J. Bothman, 98

Rose J. Bothman, 98, of Libby, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003, at the Libby Care Center from natural causes.

Survivors include her two sons, Louis Jr. Bothman of Libby, and Henry Bothman of

San Diego.

Services will be held at a later date.

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

## Kathryn 'Kat' Louise Russell Bowling, 46

Kathryn "Kat" Louise Russell Bowling, 46, of Eagle, Idaho, died unexpectedly of a brain hemorrhage on March 1, 2003, at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise.



Kathy was born March 10, 1956, in Atwater, Calif., to Lloyd and Thelma Russell. As a member of a military family, her early education included the usual associated travel. She attended schools in Atwater, Bellevue, Nebraska and Warner Robins, Ga., before graduating from Bigfork High School in Bigfork in 1974, as Salutatorian. She graduated from Carroll College in Helena in 1978 with a degree in nursing.

After her graduation, Kathy joined the United States Air Force. She served for 23 years in the Active and Reserves, retiring in 2002 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. It was while she was stationed in Biloxi, Miss. in 1979 that she met her husband to be, Gary Bowling, who was also in the Air Force. After their marriage on Nov. 25, 1983, they had military assignments in Florida, Hawaii and Utah before moving to Eagle in 2002.

While they lived in Layton, Utah, Gary and Kathy had two sons, Davis and Andrew.

Kathy's Air Force career was

marked by many notable achievements. One highlight was her memorable "swearing into active duty" ceremony conducted by her father, a retired Air Force officer in 1979. Another was when she was selected as the Air Force Air Training Command's Nurse of the Year in 1981.

She is survived by her husband, Gary, and sons, Davis and Andrew who remain in the family home in Eagle. Other survivors include her mother, Thelma Russell of Bigfork; three brothers and their wives, Lloyd Russell and Susie of Stevinson, Calif., and Douglas and Louise Russell, and Bradley and Peggy Russell all of Bigfork; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father, Lloyd G. Russell.

Kathy and her family enjoyed attending the Eagle United Methodist Church in Eagle. They all appreciated the genuine friendliness of the church as new arrivals in the Eagle Community.

Her mother sums it up best for her many friends and family, "She lived a full life ... the length of it was just too short for those of us left behind."

A funeral service was held in Eagle on March 3. A memorial service celebrating Kathy's life will be held in Bigfork and announced at a later date. Arrangements are by Summers Funeral Homes, Ustick Chapel, Meridian.

## June Anne Boynton, 66

June Anne Boynton, 66, died June 17, 2003, at her home near Troy.

Services will be Monday, June 23, at 11 a.m. at the Libby United Methodist Church with

the Rev. Robert Foote officiating.

Interment will follow at Milnor Lake Cemetery under the direction of Nelson & Vial Funeral Home.

## Henry Braaten, 87

Henry Braaten, 87, of Kalispell, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2003, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

Henry was born on Nov. 24, 1915, in Wolf Point, to Markus and Borghild. His interest in farming began at a young age while farming with his father.

Henry served in the United States Army during World War II. He spent a short time in Seattle working in the shipyards, before returning to Wolf Point in 1946 to farm.

In 1947, Henry was united in marriage to Margaret Leibrand. They continued to farm in Wolf Point until they moved to Winnett in 1959. He worked on a ranch until 1963, when they moved to Kalispell where they operated a dairy for six years. They moved back to Winnett and worked on a ranch until Henry retired in 1980.

He spent his retirement years in Kalispell where he enjoyed helping his sons in their various businesses. Henry enjoyed time with his family and traveling while his health permitted.

His 20 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren were very special, and always made him smile.

Henry was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Sylvia Bauer; two brothers, Howard and Arnold; and two sons, Warren and Kenneth.



He is survived by his wife, Margaret, of 56 years; four sons and their families, Edgar and wife, Karen, of Kalispell, Markus and wife, Erin Sawyer, Victoria, Madeline and Garrett, Jason, Duane and wife, Janette, of Kalispell, Hugh and wife, Carmen Trenton, and Kady, Ellen, Logan and Kenny, Dale and wife, Bonnie, of Kalispell, Brenda and Rodney, Keith and wife, Cyndee, of Stanford, Brandon and Becky; one daughter, Elaine and husband, Dan Parsons, of Baraboo, Wis., and family, Danelle, Michael, Angela and Travis; one daughter-in-law, Jeanie and husband, Steve Henderson, of Moscow, Idaho, and family, Tammia and husband, Luke Protsman, Lynn Ann and husband, Wayne Boettcher, Candace and husband, Aaron Stidolph, David, Kristel and Heidi; one brother, Merle "Bud" of Wolf Point; five sisters, Olga Rhoads, Helen Bates, Alice and husband, John Christensen, all of Kalispell, Gladys Baker of Glendive, and Mary and husband, Joe Schrock, of Seattle; two sisters-in-law, Norma of Everett, Wash., and Irene of Kalispell; and many nieces, nephews and special friends.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at the New Expo building at the Flathead County Fairgrounds. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens, with the United Veterans of the Flathead Valley doing military honors.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Olive Pearl Bradford, 88

Olive Pearl Bradford, 88, died on March 3, 2003, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

Memorial services will be held this summer at C.E. Con-

rad Memorial Cemetery.

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

## Sarah Ann Bragunier, 21

Sarah Ann Bragunier, 21, died on Monday, Feb. 3, 2003, in Hungry Horse as a result of a car accident.

She is survived by her mother, Kathy Bragunier and stepfather, Richard Zarate of San

Jose, Calif.; father, Richard Bragunier of Idaho; and daughter, Samantha.

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls.



## Betty Bras, 80

Betty Bras, 80, of Coram, passed away at the North Valley Hospital in Whitefish on Sept. 5, 2003.

She was born in Spokane, to Blanche and Cy Tonner in 1923.

She was married to Richard Bras in Drummond in 1941.

She is survived by two daughters, Jeannie Richard of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, and Glenna Bras of Alaska; three sons, Richard and Cy of Alaska and Mike of Coram; two sisters, Dorothy Fisher of

Coram, and Glenna Schaeffer of Columbia Falls; 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dick; her parents; a sister, Barbara Altig; her daughter, Donna Jenkins, and son-in-law Bob Jenkins.

A memorial is planned for October.

Cremation is under the direction of Austin Funeral Home.

## Erling Lee Bredstrand, 80

Erling Lee Bredstrand, 80, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2003, at his home in Kalispell, surrounded by family.

Erling was born Dec. 4, 1922, the sixth of 10 sons to Norwegian immigrant, Leonard and Martha (Johnson) Bredstrand in Balford, N.D. The family moved frequently in search of work. Erling lived all over the west in his youth.

At the age of 19, Erling joined the Navy serving his term during World War II in the Pacific Theatre as a ship's gunner. He went to work as a ranch hand and did some factory work right after the war.

He met Eileen Hanson on a blind date. They were married in 1955 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. They made their home in the Flathead Valley, where he worked for Anaconda Aluminum from 1955 until he retired in 1980. They had five children, of which two are deceased.

He loved hunting, fishing, camp-

ing, motorcycles, stock cars, wrestling, and children, especially his grandchildren.

Erling was active in the Sons of Norway.

He was preceded in death by his parents; nine brothers; one son, Erling Layne; and a daughter, Nancy "Lee."

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Eileen; daughters, Vickie Brestrand of Kalispell, Diana Bredstrand of Calgary, Canada, and Lori and her husband, Randy Schwegel of Whitefish; grandchildren, Britt and Dana Marble of Kalispell, Chelsi, Whitney, and Bailey Francis of Calgary, Adam, Kyle, and Drew Schwegel of Whitefish.

Cremation has taken place and no services are planned at this time.

The family request memorials be given to Home Options Hospice of Kalispell.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Mary-Ellen (Kauffman) Brenneman, 96

Mary-Ellen (Kauffman) Brenneman, 96, passed away on Jan. 5, 2003, at the Brendan House in Kalispell.

She was born Feb. 9, 1906, in Parnell, Iowa, to Joseph E. and Katie (Yoder) Kauffman.

Mary moved with her family in 1912 to Edmonton, Alberta, where she received her early education. She met and married Daniel David Brenneman on Nov. 10, 1926, in Tofield, Alberta, and to this union four children were born. The family farmed in Tofield until moving to Creston in 1943, where they farmed and Daniel pastored the Mennonite Church until his passing in 1975. Mary remained on the farm until moving into Kalispell in 1986.

Mary enjoyed making things with her hands. She made many quilts, including one for each of her children and grandchildren. She also made hundreds of doilies, giving them to family and friends. Mary enjoyed entertaining, showing hospitality to many people, often having friends in for fellowship and a meal around her dining table. She accepted Christ as her Savior in her youth, continuing faithful to her death. One of her concerns was her family. Mary spent time in prayer daily for each one of her children,

grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her extended church family.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband; one son-in-law, Owen Hochstetler; and three brothers.

She is survived by two daughters, Bertha Hochstetler of Hamilton, and Kathryn and George Lapp of Columbia Falls; two sons, Clifford and Shirley Brenneman of Kalispell, and Delbert and Lola Brenneman of Williston, N.D.; one brother, Joseph W. and Edith Kauffman of Tofield, Alberta; 22 grandchildren, 58 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Mountain View Mennonite Church in Creston with Pastor Hollinger officiating. Burial will be in the Fairview Cemetery prior to the church service. Visitation will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Johnson Mortuary, where the family will be available to greet guests. The family suggests memorial gifts be given in Mary's name to the Gideon Bible Fund, P.O. Box 1305, Kalispell, MT 59903.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Ray Edward Brenner Jr., 62

Ray Edward Brenner Jr., 62, died on Monday, Sept. 29, 2003, at his home in Kalispell.

He was born on March 19, 1941, in Helena, to Ray Edward Sr. and Rosie Mae (Rader) Brenner. Ray received his early education in the Kila area and went on to join the U.S. Army.

He lived in the Flathead Valley most of his life. He enjoyed motorcycles, the outdoors and drawing western scenes.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, and is now survived by his wife, Nora Brenner; one sister, Barbara Willis-Picard and husband, Paul, of Brenda, Ariz.; one niece, Kimberly Tennant and husband, Michael, of Port Orchard, Wash.; one nephew, Ken-

neth Willis and wife, Kristy, of Oceanside, Calif.; one aunt, Pearl Pautz of Great Falls; two uncles, Robert Rader and Harry Rader of Banning, Calif.; four stepchildren, eight stepgrandchildren and five stepgreat-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, at the Fairview Cemetery with Pastor Jim Davey of the Community Alliance Church officiating.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the National Kidney Foundation, 1805 S. Bellaire, Suite 301, Denver, CO 80222; or to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1002, Kalispell, MT 59903.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Ruth Brensdal, 64

Ruth Brensdal, 64, died Friday, April 19, 2003, in Sheridan Memorial Hospital in Plentywood, Mont.

She worked in the banking industry for a time, then farmed with her husband.

Survivors include her hus-

band, Bjarne Brensdal, of Plentywood; and two sons, Bruce of Helena and Gary of Antelope, Mont.

Services are at 10 a.m. Tuesday in St. John's Lutheran Church in Westby, with the Rev. Barbara Westhoff officiating.

## K.M. Bridenstine, 78

K.M. Bridenstine, 78, passed away peacefully on Nov. 25, 2003, at home at Finley Point on Flathead Lake. He was born May 9, 1925, to Dr. I.J. and Ellenore Bridenstine in Iowa City, Iowa.



K.M. is survived by his wife of 52 years, Betty Jo (Staves) Bridenstine; son, Martin E. Bridenstine and his wife, Debi, of Bellingham, Wash.; daughters, Rose E. Bridenstine of Polson, Trudy J. Cady and her husband, Jay, of Edmonds, Wash.; son, I. Jay Bridenstine and his wife, Kris, of Kalispell; beloved granddaughters, Kay Lee Bridenstine of Edmonds, Wash., Desiree and Brianna Cady of Edmonds, and Sara Crabill-Bridenstine; grandsons Tony Crabill-Bridenstine, and Jay Crabill of Kalispell. He is also survived by his twin brother, Keith Bridenstine, of Stockton, Calif.; and a sister, Marajean Hueling, of Columbus, Ohio.

K.M. had a distinguished and colorful legal career, working for the State of Montana Highway Department in Helena, concentrating mainly on the legal aspects

during construction of Interstate 90 across Montana; worked with the Veterans Administration at Fort Harrison, and finally in private practice in Lake County where his main emphasis was as a public defender for Lake County.

K.M. was an outspoken defender of justice with a deep-seated belief in the rights of individual. After his retirement in 1989, he remained at the family home on Finley Point.

K.M. had a passion for jazz and was an accomplished jazz musician, playing the tenor sax and clarinet although there probably was not an instrument he couldn't play. K.M. played for many years with the Don Lawrence Big Band in Kalispell.

"We love you and will miss you terribly, your body may be gone but your spirit lives on in our hearts."

A private memorial is planned for a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the Polson City Library, at P.O. Box 820, Polson, MT 59860, or a charity of your choice.

Arrangements and cremation were under the direction of Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory, Polson.

## Delfred M. Brinkman, 90

Delfred M. Brinkman, 90, died at his Bigfork home on Sept. 17, 2003.

Cremation and arrangements are under the care of Bigfork Funeral Home.



## Leland Roger Brist, 64

Leland Roger Brist, 64, passed away at his Kalispell home on Saturday, June 14, 2003.

Leland was born Feb. 5, 1939, in Kalispell, to Howard and Gladys Brist.

Leland graduated from Whitefish High School and then moved to Havre where he attended college. He was in the Army National Guard for some time. He worked as a salesman and advertising specialist.

He married Mary Gardipee in Box Elder on July 18, 1959.

Leland was the salesman that everyone liked. A wonderful man who loved his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They all were his life. Leland also loved to go to garage sales to find



his treasures and to just enjoy life. Leland was preceded in death by his loving father, Howard Brist in 1980; and grandmother, Amelia in 1990.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Mary of Kalispell; mother, Gladys Brist; children, Roger Brist, Dean Brist and wife, Patty, Tim Brist, Bill Brist and wife, Sara, and Mindy Brist; brother, Ron Brist and wife, Ardis; grandchildren, Casey, Patrick, Chelsea, Cory, Logan, Dillon, Jordan, Nicole, and Julian Brist, Macy Grey-Sager, Ashton Sager; and a great-grandchild, Angel.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today, June 18, at Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Pastor James Huff officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

*This paid obituary is being run again at the request of the family.*

## Richard 'Dick' Bristow, 52

Richard "Dick" Bristow, 52, formerly of Kalispell, died Jan. 5, 2003, in Colorado.

Dick was born June 18, 1950, to Wally and Joan Bristow in Townsend. His



early years were spent in Townsend and Helena. Joan moved Dick and his brother, John, to Kalispell, where he finished grade school and graduated from Flathead High School in 1968.

Dick married Linda Taylor April 8, 1968, and they had their only child, Rick, on July 25.

Dick served in the Army during the Vietnam War. In 1980, Dick moved his family to Medford, Ore., to form a partnership with his brother, John, manufacturing unfinished furniture. They returned to Kalispell in 1983.

Dick worked for Plum Creek until 1986. Through his job at Plum Creek, he developed an interest in computers. He decided to change his profession to become a computer technician. He worked for Val-Com and then for Computer Land until 1994. During his time at Computer Land, he took classes to become certified in more than 11 different computer languages. Due to complications with diabetes, he became unable to perform the job he had come to love so well.

In 1996, he moved to Phoenix

with John and his family. In 2000, Dick moved to Bozeman to live with his son, Rick. This allowed him to get to know his grandsons. Dick was able to receive the quality time with them that he had wanted for so long. During his last year of life, Dick moved to Helena to live with his best friend, Steve Ferrell.

Dick is survived by his son, Rick; daughter-in-law, Vashti; grandsons, Logon Bays, Gabriel Bahr, Taylor Bristow, and Tristen Bristow; brother, John Bristow; sister-in-law, Kayleen; niece, LaRena; nephew, Jay; and great-nephew, Jacob-Alan; ex-wife, Linda Bristow; stepfather, Ed Malicote; stepbrother, Billy Bristow; stepsisters, Judy Fitzpatrick, Shelly Schreiber, and Kim Bristow.

A memorial service to celebrate Dick's life is to be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Eastside Grange, off Montana 35 on Creston Road next to Creston School in Creston. The family is planning to have an open microphone for everyone that would like to share a memory or just get up to speak. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rick and Vashti at (406) 570-8809 before 4 p.m. or (406) 570-8810 after 4 p.m. Their mailing address is 107 McIntosh Court, Apartment E, Bozeman, MT 59715.

Memorials suggested to Hospice-Home Options 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

## John Lars Britton, 84

John Lars Britton, 84, of Ridgecrest, Calif., died on April 29, 2003, in North Bend, Ore., after a long illness.

He was born Oct. 18, 1918, in Phillip, S.D., to George and Helma Britton.

On July 25, 1940, he married Mary Eslick.

In 1955, John received his bachelor's degree from the University of Montana. He was a teacher in Alberton until 1958. He received his master's degree from the University of Montana in 1960. He was the superintendent of schools in Corvallis from 1960 to 1966. He also worked for the Forest Service-Job Corps for 17 years. He retired in 1984, and moved to Ridgecrest, in 1996.

John enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Eslick Britton of Ridgecrest; brother, Michael and his wife, Catherine, of Kalispell; daughters, Maureena Mueller of Ridgecrest, and Marla Britton of Gold Beach, Ore.; grandson, Sean Mueller and wife, Shawntelle; and great-grandchildren, Anthony, Courtney, Jesse, Bailey and Madison of North Bend, Ore.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the American Cancer Society, Coos County Unit, 31 W. Sixth St., Medford, OR 97501.

A memorial service will be held on June 9 at a time and place in Montana to be announced.

## Paul M. 'Mike' Broden, 53

Paul M. "Mike" Broden, 53, died Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2003, at Village Health Center in Missoula.

He is survived by his mother, Elsie Broden, of Libby.

Services will be at 2 p.m. on Monday at Christ Lutheran

Church in Libby. Interment services will follow at the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday and until noon Monday at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

## Kenneth Albert Bronner, 89

Kenneth Albert Bronner, 89, passed away Feb. 4, 2003, at the Immanuel Lutheran home in Kalispell.

He was born Feb. 23, 1913, in Cresco, Iowa, to Albert and Addy (Shures) Bronner.

Ken married Edna White at the Immanuel Lutheran home in September of 1998.

Edna passed away in March of 2001.

Ken is survived by his son,

Craig Bronner and wife, Debbie, of Kalispell; three daughters, Kay Helland of Bode, Iowa, Judy Johnson of Humboldt, Iowa, and Gayleen Dunphy of Livermore, Iowa; and one brother, Robert B. Bronner and wife, Ione, of Lime-springs, Iowa.

Memorial services for Kenneth will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Charles Patrick Brooke, 88

Charles Patrick Brooke, a retired Missoula doctor who delivered more than 3,000 babies and tended to thousands of families in western Montana before his retirement in the 1980s, died of natural causes Tuesday, March 18, 2003, at St. Patrick Hospital. He was 88.



In addition to maintaining a vibrant practice in family medicine, he had 43,000 medical files in his office when he retired in 1984. Dr. Brooke also was a lawyer. "Intellectual curiosity" drew him back to school for a law degree, he once told a reporter. He earned the law degree in 1964 from the University of Montana, started teaching forensic law there in 1970 and retired from that part-time, second career in January 1984, just six months before leaving his medical practice.

He often lectured about medical and legal issues before professional gatherings of doctors and lawyers, but being a doctor was his first love. He practiced in St. Ignatius for eight years before moving his office to Missoula in 1953; being able to serve the people of the Flathead Indian Reservation was one of his life's joys. Some remained patients for years, driving to his Missoula offices at Orange Street and South Fifth Street.

Since retirement, Dr. Brooke and his wife of 60 years, Helen Streeter Brooke, continued to reside in Missoula. He remained interested in medical issues and continued to give of himself even after losing his eyesight.

Dr. Brooke was born in Three Forks on Sept. 8, 1914. He graduated from Butte Central High School and earned his bachelor's degree from Helena's Carroll College, where he was honored with an alumni award in 1952.

He earned his medical degree in 1941 from St. Louis University, which honored him with an Alumni Merit Award in 1977 and was a major in the Army Medical Corps during World War II.

Dr. Brooke was active in many community groups, including the Elks, the Downtown Lions, the Knights of Columbus, the American

Legion, Missoula Community Theater and the Missoula Symphony.

He served as chief of staff at Missoula General Hospital and Missoula's St. Patrick Hospital, and president of the Western Montana Medical Society, the Missoula Chamber of Commerce, the Missoula Roundtable, the Missoula Symphony and St. Patrick Hospital's advisory board.

In retirement, he was a volunteer reader for the Missoula Radio Reading Service, helped raise money for eyesight research, belonged to state and local associations for the blind and after losing his eyesight, became a mentor and cheerleader for others who also were blind or going blind.

He was Western Broadcasting Company's Citizen of the Year in 1969; won awards from the United Givers Fund Award in the 1960s; and helped organize the Missoula Handball Association, the Flathead Sailing Association and the Missoula YMCA.

Dr. Brooke was an early and steadfast pro-life advocate. "The activity which gave me and gives me the most satisfaction was and is my work in writing and speaking for the right-to-life cause and against abortion," he said in 1977.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Streeter Brooke, whom he married in Medford, Ore., on Oct. 16, 1942; four of their six children, Michael Brooke and his wife, Jennifer, of Missoula, Virginia van Kujik Brooke and her husband, Erik, of Galveston, Texas, James Brooke and his wife, Cheryl, of Dickinson, N.D., and Mary Carlsson of Kalispell.

Two sons, Patrick and Terrance Brooke, preceded him in death.

Dr. Brooke was also blessed with nine wonderful grandchildren, Aaron Carlsson and Loretta, Patrick, Theresa, Mary, Matthew, Timothy, Lydia and Jacob Brooke; one great-grandchild, Teale Carlsson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A rosary is at 7 p.m. today at St. Anthony Parish, Tremont and Woodford Streets in Missoula. Funeral Mass is at 10 a.m. Saturday, also at St. Anthony Parish.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to a favorite charity.

Garden City Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



## Clifford A. 'Red' Brown, 84

Clifford A. "Red" Brown, 84, passed away at his home west of Whitefish on Aug. 27, 2003.

He was born to William Brown and Margaret Slemmons Brown on July 13, 1919, in Myrtle, Minn. He spent his childhood years in Dubuque, Iowa. When he was in his early teens he moved with his family to Ekalaka where he attended high school.

In 1935, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service from 1940 until his enlistment in the Army Air Corps in January of 1942. During World War II he served in North Africa and Italy. He was honorably discharged in September of 1945, and returned to Montana to marry his sweetheart, Jeanne Knox, in Kalispell, on Dec. 9 of that year.

Red and Jeanne had two children, a son, Bob, and a daughter, Marian.

Following World War II, Red worked for several years for the Montana Highway Department. In 1952, he began a long career as a heavy equipment salesman. He acquired the family grain and cattle farm in the Bissell community in 1962 and lived there until his

death. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Whitefish.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Jeanne, his son, Bob Brown, daughter-in-law, Sue, and granddaughters, Robin and Kelly, all of Whitefish; his daughter, Marian Cartee, son-in-law, Mike, and grandson, Dale, all of Kalispell.

His parents, and his two brothers, Donald and Lynn, preceded him in death.

Red will be remembered by those who knew him as a self-reliant man with a strong work ethic and a strong commitment to family and friends. He was devoted to his wife, his children and his grandchildren. His network of friends was wide and the love of traveling he developed during his heavy equipment sales days brought him in contact with those friends and relatives regularly until his health failed. His Irish sense of humor and his generosity touched many. He was intensely patriotic and was steadfastly loyal to the Republican Party.

Funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. Kent Morrison at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30, at the First Baptist Church in Whitefish.

Memorials can be made to the Friendship House, 606 Second Ave. W., Kalispell.

## Curtis 'Jack' Brown, 77

Curtis "Jack" Brown, 77, a Whitefish resident of 13 years, died on May 18, 2003, at Colonial Manor in Whitefish, after battling Alzheimer's disease for the last four years.

Brown was born Jan. 21, 1926, in South Bend, Ind., and moved to Tecumseh, Mich., in 1934. He graduated from Tecumseh High School in 1944 and received a degree in education from Michigan State University in 1951. During his years at MSU, Brown was a member of the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

Brown served as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army from 1944 to 1946 and saw action in the South Pacific during World War II, where he earned a Purple Heart during his tenure in Okinawa.

In 1955, Brown founded Dundee Products, a manufacturer of steel tubing in Dundee, Mich. He worked there until 1972, when he and his wife, Barbara, moved to Teton Village, Wyo. The couple moved from Wyoming to White-



fish in 1990.

During his life, Brown enjoyed many hobbies, including wood-working, alpine skiing, fishing, hunting, travel, gardening and spending time with his grandchildren. He was a member of the Holy Nativity-Episcopal Church.

Jack is survived by his wife of 56 years, Barbara Brown, of Whitefish; daughter, Cathy Juno and husband, Rod, of Whitefish; son, Marc Brown and wife, Betsy, of Tecumseh; sister, Sally Whelan, of Tecumseh; and six grandchildren, Holly Nash, Marc Blanden, Amy Brown, Christen Brown, Joanna Brown and Diana Brown.

His brother, William K. Brown preceded him in death.

There will be no visitation or memorial services held.

Memorials are suggested to go to aid Alzheimer's research or to the Holy Nativity-Episcopal Church, 214 E. Second St, Whitefish, MT 59937. For Alzheimer's research, please send memorials to Alzheimer's Research Foundation; Attn: Grants and Contributions; 1236 Ginger Crescent, Virginia Beach, Va. 23456, or by calling 877-427-0220.

## David Henry Brown, 82

David Henry Brown, 82, passed away at his Kalispell home on Monday, March 3, 2003.

David was born Aug. 26, 1920, in Williston, N.D., to Raymond and Effie (Short) Brown. David was raised in the Williston area and attended grade school there. He married Inez Pen-son in Plentywood, in 1941.

David worked as a long haul trucker, working for Miller Freight, Helphrey Motor Freight, and Wallace Colville Freight. He



retired in 1986.

He enjoyed golf, reading, walking, and his pets.

David is survived by his wife, Inez; children, Melodee Scott, Gary David Brown, and Mark Brown; brother, William Brown; grandchildren, David Macaluso, Karen Baker, Dana Meldrum, Jeff Brown, Jason Brown, Rory Brown, Mike Brown, Taira Sandoval; great-grandchildren, Nature and Alaska Baker, Marcelino Sandoval, and Alexia Sandoval.

Memorial services have been held.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary.

## Elaine (McCauley) Brown, 85

Elaine (McCauley) Brown, 85, "our beloved mother, went to be with her maker" on Saturday, July 12, 2003.

She was born on Aug. 12, 1917. Elaine attended school in Whitefish where she was born and raised.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Chellis; and son, Larry Brown.

She is survived by daughters, Patti Mackie and husband,

George, of Spokane, and Geri Crosswhite of Whitefish; sons, Ron Brown and wife, Connie, of Snohomish, Wash., Dick Brown and wife, Betty, of Kansas City, Mo., and John Brown of Parker City, Calif.; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

There will be a memorial service at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 18, at the Whitefish First Presbyterian Church.

## Leona M. Brown, 91

Leona M. Brown, 91, passed away on Monday, Aug. 18, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

Leona was born on July 23, 1912, in Vancouver, British Columbia, to William and Emma Verleux Schultz. She was raised in Minneapolis.

Leona worked for Buttrey's grocery store for a time, before she and husband, Robert, bought Hockersmith's Store in East Glacier in 1947. They sold the store

in 1983.

Leona was preceded in death by her parents; and her husband, Robert; and her son, William.

She is survived by five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; and her daughter-in-law, Eileen Brown.

At her request cremation will take place, and her ashes will be buried at Two Medicine Lake.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Lynn Michele Brown, 37

Lynn Michele Brown, 37, of Redmond, Ore., formerly of Columbia Falls, passed away on April 18, 2003.

She was born on May 13, 1965, in Odessa, Wash., to Vernon and Virginia (Kirkland) Roberts. She grew up in Columbia Falls and graduated from Columbia Falls High School in 1984.

Lynn had lived in Lebanon, Ore., before moving to Redmond three months ago.

She worked at Aspen Ridge Assisted Living home as a certified nurses' assistant. She was always a very caring and compassionate person.

Lynn enjoyed outdoor activities and was very loving toward her friends, her children and her close and extended family.

She was engaged to Brit Wingham and they had planned to marry in 2004.

She was preceded in death by her father, Vernon Roberts; brother, Vernon Roberts Jr.; and her grandparents.

She is survived by her mother, Virginia Roberts; fiancé, Brit Wingham; sons, Kacey Cosman and Jesse Wingham, both of Redmond; daughters, Jenna Cosman and Renee Dill, both of Redmond, and Crystal Wingham of Prineville, Ore.; brothers, Orville Roberts of Bonnie Lake, Wash., and Jerry Roberts of Wasilla, Alaska; sisters, April Roberts of Lebanon, Ore., and Wilma Brown of Lacey, Wash.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Friday at the Gospel Light Baptist Church, 1830 Montana 35 in Kalispell.

Arrangements are under the direction of Redmond Memorial Chapel in Redmond.

## Robert B. Brown, 74

Robert B. Brown, 74, a man centered on God, his family, and his country, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2003, at his home in Kalispell, of natural causes.



He was born Aug. 5, 1929, in Marion, Ind., to H. Kenneth and Delores (Williams) Brown.

After graduating from Marion High School, Bob completed one semester at Purdue University before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He served three years in the Army before entering the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Upon graduation from West Point in 1955, Bob married his sweetheart of four years, Helene Arrotta. Together, for the next 20 years, they were stationed at several Army bases throughout the United States and the world, including the Pentagon. Having served in Korea and in Vietnam, Bob retired as a lieutenant colonel.

He received the Bronze Star medal, Good Conduct medal, Meritorious Service medal and various campaign medals.

After retirement Bob and his family moved to Missoula, to enjoy the beauty of the west. Bob received a teaching certificate and a master's degree from the University of Montana. He was a dedicated educator that served in the positions of teacher, principal, professor, personnel director and superintendent in Missoula, Hardin, Bozeman and Clancy.

Bob and Helene moved to the Many Lakes area of Flathead Valley in 1989.

Bob's interests included skiing, hiking, and football (he was a big Broncos fan). He enjoyed teaching Spanish and meeting with his Wednesday morning men's Bible study group. Bob was a man of integrity and character. He was a devoted servant, faithfully living out his commitment to Jesus Christ and his church family. He loved his wife, daughters and family very much.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, David R. Brown.

He is survived by his wife, Helene; daughters, Kathleen and Don Bischoff and their children, Luke, Joel, Amy, Ellen, and Mary of Helena, and Susan and Bill Salonen and their children, Andrew and Ryan of Great Falls; one brother, James C. Brown of Syracuse, Ind.; brother-in-law, Louis Arrotta of Newburgh, N.Y.; and a step-mother, Allie Brown of Marion, Ind.

Memorial services for Bob will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 8, at the Riverside Vineyard Church, 859 W. Reserve Drive, with Pastor Paul Arends officiating. Burial will take place with full military honors 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003 at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery in Helena.

The family suggest memorial gifts be given to Flathead Pro-Life: P.O. Box 2211, Kalispell, MT 59903.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.



## Benida Brosten, 79

Benida Brosten, 79, passed away Jan. 10, 2003, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

Benida was born March 12, 1923, in Parshall, N.D., to Ole and Mabel (Rodne) Skiftun. Benida came to Montana around 1937 to settle with her family. She was a 1941 graduate of Flathead County High School.

She married Heming Brosten in Ashland, Ore., in 1943, and they moved to Seattle where Benida worked for a short time during the war for Montgomery Ward and J.C. Penney's. They bought their first house in Seattle, and then moved to Kalispell in 1949. In 1952, they moved to Lower Valley and on to Somers in 1970. Ten years there led to a move back to Kalispell and finally in 1994, moved to the Swan Lake.

Benida was devoted to her home and family. Both were her pride and joy in life. She had a flair for decorating, raised beautiful flower gardens, loved the outdoors and was an avid bird watcher. She lived 45 years with multiple sclerosis and was an ever-present inspiration to her family. Even with the disabilities caused by the disease, she always kept a strong faith and learned to live accordingly. She was very active with Eidsvold Lutheran Church in Somers.

Benida was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Opal

Skiftun and Lil Baker; and her husband, Heming Brosten, in 1996

Benida is survived by a son, Terry and wife, Nancy, Brosten, of Kalispell; daughter, Nancy and husband, Bill Lester, of Bigfork; grandchildren, Scott and Stephanie Lester of Issaquah, Wash., Shaunda and Eddie Crutsinger of Bigfork, Michael Lester of Seattle; great-granddaughter, Hannah Crutsinger of Bigfork; brother, Norman and wife, Louise Skiftun, of Bigfork; sisters, Margie and husband, Dorsel McClure, of Kuna, Idaho, Arlene Larson-Kjos of Kalispell, Fern and husband, Bill Hartford, of Honolulu, Hawaii; and 13 nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 2 until 5 p.m. today at Johnson Mortuary. Memorial services will be held at noon Monday at Eidsvold Lutheran Church, with Pastor Wayne Pris officiating. Private graveside services will be at 11 a.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens, prior to the church services.

The family suggests memorials to Bethany Lutheran Church, Stained Glass Window Fund, P.O. Box 398, Bigfork, MT 59911 or to Eidsvold Lutheran Church, 5935 U.S. 93 S., Somers, MT 59932, or to Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Neurita 'Rita' Maya Bruner, 66

Neurita "Rita" Maya Bruner, 66, passed away Nov. 3, 2003, at the Brendan House in Kalispell after a long battle with cancer.

Rita was born on Oct. 11, 1937, in Cut Bank, to Ivan and Hazel Bruner.

Rita had a zest for life. She was never still for long. Even during times when we knew she did not feel well, she still wanted to be on the go. Rita enjoyed her family, friends, the outdoors, going to Glacier National Park, dancing at the Elks, playing bingo and going to Wal-Mart.

Rita loved to go watch her grandson play football and tried to never miss a game.

Rita was a member of the Eagles Lodge,



Rita is survived by her brother, Mervin Bruner, of Whitefish, seven of her eight kids, Kent Moeller of Brazil, Leslie Moeller of Kalispell, Rita Steward of Spokane, Beth Rudzinis of Garfield, Wash., Doug Moeller of San Diego, Dolly Day of Evanston, Wyo., and Jerry McNeese of Clifton, N.J. Rita is also survived by 21 grandkids and four great-grandkids.

She was preceded in death by her son, Frankie McNeese; and her father and mother.

Rita was a beloved mother, grandmother and friend and will be missed by all that loved her dearly.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m., Nov. 11, at Easthaven Baptist Church, 1225 U.S. 93 N. in Kalispell. A graveside service will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens and then a luncheon will be held at the church.

## LeRoy Brush, 63

LeRoy Brush, 63, of Miles City, formerly of Kalispell, passed away at his home in Miles City on June 16, 2003.

LeRoy was born on Aug. 26, 1939, in Miles City, the son of Melvin Clay and Hazel (Woodruff) Brush Sr. He grew up in Miles City, and on Nov. 14, 1959, he married Carol Madler and together they raised four children; Rick, Les, LeRoy Jr., and Kimberly.

In 1961, he began working construction until 1969 when the family moved to Kalispell. He owned and operated LeRoy and Sons Autobody from 1969 until 1990 when he began to sell fruit in Miles City and surrounding areas, including Forsyth, Baker and Lemmon, S.D.

LeRoy was an outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. He looked forward to going to Arizona for the winters with his wife and most of all he loved his family and spending time with them.

LeRoy is survived by his wife of 43 years, Carol Brush of Miles City; his three children, his son, LeRoy Jr. and his wife, Teresa, and their children, Crystal, Justin, and Timothy Brush of Kalispell; his son, Les and his wife, Monica, of Parkersburg, W. Va., and their son, Eric and his wife, CeCe, and their children, Preston, William and Mickey of Parkersburg, and Mandy and her husband, Nathan Casto, and their

daughter, Kaliegh; his daughter, Kimberly and her husband, Don, and their children, Samantha and the twins, Daniel and Danniell Enger of Kalispell; three brothers, Ervin and wife, Gail Brush, of Las Vegas, Melvin "Shorty" and wife, Judy Brush, and Joe and wife, Jane Brush, all of Miles City; two sisters, Louise and husband, John Baugate, of Miles City, and Joan and husband, Dan Myth, of Ellensburg, Wash.; and his sister-in-law, June Brush.

LeRoy was preceded in death by his son, Rick in 1978; his parents, Melvin and Hazel; two sisters, Carol Ann Moode, and Joyce Brackel; and his brother, George Brush.

Visitation will begin on today from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the chapel of Stevenson & Sons Funeral Home in Miles City. Funeral services in Miles City will be at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 20, at the chapel of Stevenson & Sons Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at noon on Monday, June 23, at the Glacier Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

To send condolences or remembrances to the family, please visit [www.stevensonandsons.com](http://www.stevensonandsons.com).

If desired, memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Stevenson & Sons Funeral Home of Miles City has been entrusted with the arrangements.

## Elsie Margaret Bruyer, 81

Elsie Margaret Bruyer, 81, "was welcomed into the Lord's arms" Thursday, Nov. 20, 2003.

Elsie was born Dec. 18, 1921, in Kalispell, to Waltermar and Amelia (Brickel) Rufenach. She lived with her family in the Flathead Valley and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1939.

She married Gregory Bruyer on May 8, 1941, in Kalispell, and they lived in the Pine Grove Community. They farmed that area until moving to Troy, Idaho, in 1946. In 1951, they moved to the Creston area where they farmed until Greg's death in 1979. Elsie then moved to Evergreen, where she lived until her passing.

Elsie was a long-time avid member of Calvary Lutheran Church. She loved to paint pictures of places in the Flathead Valley and enjoyed tending her beautifully-kept yard and flower beds, making scrapbooks from all her travel adventures and photos of her family.

Elsie was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Gregory Bruyer; son, Jerry Bruyer; broth-



er, Richard Rufenach; and a sister Lydia Shaw.

She is survived by her daughter, Patsy Gaschet de l'Isle and her husband, Vaughn, of Kalispell; two brothers, Alfred Rufenach and his wife, Alice, of Kalispell, and Walter Rufenach of Columbia Falls; a sister, Lillian Case, of Weaverville, Calif.; a daughter-in-law, Sharon Bruyer, of Kalispell; there are three grandchildren, JoAnn Reed Strohschein, of Bigfork, Travis Bruyer of Kalispell, and Jonathan Reed and his wife, Linda, of Bozeman; there are two great-grandchildren, Brandi and Levi Strohschein of Bigfork; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Elsie Bruyer will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25, at the Calvary Lutheran Church. The Rev. Kurt Rau will officiate. Burial will follow at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday at Johnson Mortuary.

The family suggests memorials be given to the Calvary Lutheran Church, 2200 Hwy. 2 East, Kalispell, 59901, or the Flathead County Animal Shelter, 225 Cemetery Road, Kalispell, 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Frances Dolores Buchanan, 61

Frances Dolores Buchanan, 61, died Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2003, at her home in Ferndale, with her family at her side after a long, courageous battle with cancer.

She was born July 30, 1942, in Kalispell, to Lonnie and Marie (Ralston) Miller. She attended school in Ferndale and was working at Bigfork Drug when she met and married Fred "Buck" Buchanan in 1961.

They lived in Renton, Wash., for a short time after they were married and then moved back to the Bigfork area.

She worked at Eva Gates Preserves for many years before working at Bigfork schools as a custodian. She was the head of housekeeping at Flathead Lake Lodge until becoming ill with cancer.

Bother her mother and father

preceded her in death.

She is survived by her loving husband, Fred "Buck" Buchanan, of Ferndale; a son, Fred Buchanan, and his wife, Karen, of Kalispell; two brothers, Karl Kitzmiller, of Forks, Wash., and Robert Kitzmiller, and his wife, Carol, of Ferndale; a sister, Ricky, and her husband, Jerry Sass, of Ferndale; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be Monday at 4 p.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens with The Rev. Jim Holman officiating. The family suggests memorials be made to Hospice Home Health Options, 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell.

Arrangements are by Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Alvin Bucher, 94

Alvin Bucher, 94, died March 4, 2003, at Heritage Place.

Surviving are daughters, Eileen Rollins of Columbia Falls, Rita Boss, Ida Von der Heide and Martha Von der Heide; also one son, Lawrence Bucher all of Kalispell.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. on Saturday at St.

Matthew's Catholic Church with Father Vic Langhans officiating. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday at Johnson Mortuary with a Rosary service at 5 p.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.



## Dora Eva (Wider) Buentemeier, 85

Dora Eva (Wider) Buentemeier, 85, passed away on her birthday, March 22, 2003, at the Colonial Manor in Whitefish.

Dora was born in Nortonville,

N.D., on March 22, 1918, to Joseph and Verna Wider. She was the fifth of seven children. Her father was a teamster in the logging industry. The family moved to Wirt, Minn., about the time she started school.

Dora married George Buentemeier Aug. 1, 1934, when she was 16 years old. They bought and farmed a 40-acre farm until 1944, when Mr. Dunham wanted George to move to Columbia Falls to work for him at Plum Creek. George worked for Plum Creek Lumber until his retirement in 1972.

In Minnesota, Dora cooked for logging crews and they started their family. The couple raised two sons, Ronald, who is general manager for F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber in Columbia Falls, and Michael, who is a store director for Fred Meyers in Vancouver, Wash.

While George was working, Dora completed her high school education while her children were in school. Dora was a cook for the school lunch program and from 1970 to 1992 she was a cook at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish. Dora was a very active and outgoing lady, who loved visiting and especially loved little children.

She had many interests, sewing, upholstering, crocheting



and knitting, crafts, doll making, gardening, fishing, playing cards, dancing and listening to fiddlers.

She and George had a place on Ashley Lake and for many years were up there fishing, building and lazing around. The last year she was able to be at the lake was 1999. She also lived at Prestige Living during that year.

She was a founding member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls, where she taught Sunday school, sang in the choir, and fulfilled leadership roles in the women's groups. Dora had volunteered for Meals On Wheels and at the Senior Citizens' Center. In 1970, she was one of the chaperones on the Columbia Falls High School band trip to Germany, where son, Michael, played the sax.

Dora is survived by her son, Ronald and wife, Barbara, of Columbia Falls; son, Michael and wife, Lori, of Vancouver, Wash.; grandson, Chris and granddaughter, Breanne; a sister, Verna Hulbert; and brother, Austin and wife, Betty, of Moses Lake, Wash.; a sister-in-law, Rose Uran of Northome, Minn.; also numerous nieces and nephews; and many friends made over the years.

Visitation will be from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. today at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Services will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls with Pastor Tom Gopp officiating. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell.

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

## Marjorie Genevieve Strodbeck Buls, 89

Marjorie Genevieve Strodbeck Buls, 89, passed away at 6:18 p.m. on Jan. 4, 2003, at the home of her daughter, Jean Payne, in Sumner, Wash.

Marjorie was born in Butte on Jan. 28, 1913, to Edwin and Winifred Hammer. She graduated from high school in Seattle and married Vernon C. Strodbeck. They later divorced.

After a short marriage to Art Buls, she moved to Auburn, Wash. She was employed as an accountant with the local Toyota dealer. Marjorie later retired and moved to El Cajon, Calif. with her two

younger daughters. She lived there until September 2002, when she moved to Sumner, Wash. to live with her daughter, Mrs. John F. Payne.

She is survived by two sons, C. Russell Strodbeck of Aguila, Ariz., and James E. Strodbeck of Essex; and three daughters, Jean L. Payne of Sumner, Wash., Marilyn V. Wehr of El Cajon, Calif., and Virginia C. Blasdel of Columbia Falls; along with 19 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren.

She has been cremated and rests with her deceased granddaughter in Kent, Wash.

## Karen Faye Burcham, 44

Karen Faye Burcham, 44, passed away on Monday, Oct. 13, 2003, at her home in Kalispell.

She was born on Dec. 2, 1958, in Whitefish, to Alfred Peter and Mary Faye (Wyatt) Anderson.

Karen enjoyed just living life; playing cards, dancing, and doing word puzzles.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, and two infant brothers.

She is survived by her husband, Marvin Burcham, of Kalispell; two sisters, Linda Reed and husband, Gary, of Oklahoma,

and Roberta Hopper and husband, Dale, of Kalispell; one brother, Leeroy Anderson, of Somers; and five nephews.

Graveside services will be held at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, at Demersville Cemetery with Pastor Larry Stappler of Bethlehem Lutheran Church officiating. Special Friends Advocacy Group will hold a luncheon for family and friends following the service at 313 Second Ave. W. in Kalispell.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Vernon M. 'Vern' Burgess, 84

Vernon M. "Vern" Burgess, 84, a Whitefish resident, passed away on Monday, March 17, 2003, at North Valley Hospital of natural causes.

Vern was born Oct. 8, 1918, in Alexandria, Minn., the son of Caroline and Jay Russell Burgess. He was raised and educated in Alexandria.

During World War II, he was employed with the Martin Aircraft Co. in Baltimore, Md. He then returned to Minnesota and worked as an electrician for the Municipal Power Company for six years.

On June 5, 1949, he married Eleanor Wibstad in Brandon, Minn. Vern worked construction in various places around the country including Texas, Kentucky and Illinois, and also worked on one of the earlier nuclear power plants in the country.

In 1955, he moved his family to Whitefish from Minnesota and was employed as an electrician at the Anaconda Aluminum plant, retiring from there after 28 years.

He was an avid sports fan and enjoyed watching the area high school and youth sports programs. He believed in keeping himself physically fit and could often be seen riding his bicycle or walking around the Whitefish area.

He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Whitefish Moose Lodge and the Christ Lutheran Church.

Vern was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Eleanor, and daughter, Diane.

He is survived by a son, Jay, of Kalispell; sister, Vi Wicklund and her husband, Lucky, of Lakewood, Colo.; grandsons, Kyle Burgess of Kalispell, and Kory Burgess of Missoula; and various relatives in Minnesota and Colorado.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday at the Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish. Private burial was at the Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell under the direction of the Austin Funeral Home.

## Desireé Shawnte Burghduff, 10

Desireé Shawnte Burghduff, on Jan. 23, 1993, "God delivered an angel" to Darrell and Gennie (Romero) Burghduff. On Aug. 28, 2003, "He called his angel back to be with him."



Desireé will be missed very much by the family and friends she leaves behind so that she may be "in the grace of God." Her parents, Darrell and Gennie Burghduff, will miss her with every passing day. She leaves behind the five best big brothers any special little girl could ever want. They love her the world. Gerald Burghduff of Kalispell; Anthony and Lyle Blackburn of Kalispell; and Bill and James Blackburn of Lewistown.

"God sent Desireé to us so we could give and receive an unconditional love of a thousand lifetimes." She touched everyone she ever met in such a way that it left an impression not to be forgotten. When Desireé smiled and laughed, it was enough to bring the sun out even in the darkest of storms. She was gentle and caring with the soul of an angel. She was the light in her Mama's eyes and her dad was her toy rocker that she loved to cuddle and play with.

Desireé loved to camp and swim with her family. She loved music and to sing, and she loved school. To meet her for the first

time, you would know she was a special and gifted child with lots to share.

Desireé also leaves behind her special aunt and uncle, Laura Staley and Garrett Marx; her grandma, Linda Kirkwood; grandma and grandpa, Polly and Bill Keller, all of Kalispell; grandma and grandpa, Jerry and Sharon Burghduff of Columbia Falls; great-grandma, Cleo Craig of Wyoming; great-grandma, Agnes Burghduff of Marysville, Wash.; uncle and aunt, Duane and Tammy of Columbia Falls; cousins, Casey and Cody; and grandpa John Romero of California. Desireé also leaves behind her very special foster family, Gene and Vicki Petersen and kids, Gabbriella Petersen "who the Lord just recently called to join Him will guide Desireé on wonderful journeys."

Desireé was preceded in death by her very special great-grandpa, "papa" John Craig and her cousin, Johnathon Staley.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Sept. 2, at Easthaven Baptist Church with Pastor Daniel Lambert officiating.

The family suggests memorials be sent to the Desireé Shawnte Burghduff memorial fund at Easthaven Baptist Church, Attn. Pastor Daniel Lambert, 1225 U.S. 93 N. Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Dorothy Rose Burleigh, 98

Dorothy Rose Burleigh, age 98, passed away on Saturday, July 5, 2003, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell. She was born on Oct. 17, 1904, in Hobart, Minn., to Joseph and Katherine (Kaufman) Sadler.

Dorothy graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1926. She became the first public health nurse in Richland County, living in Sidney.

Dorothy married Kerwood Burleigh in 1930 in Sidney. The couple later moved to Glendive.

After the death of Kerwood, in 1944, Dorothy continued her career in nursing. In 1949, she joined the public health department in Bozeman.

In 1952, Dorothy purchased the Martha Hotel in Helena and she became very active in the Altrusa Club there. She retired to Lake Blaine where she built her own home and spent many happy years.

In 1981, Dorothy moved to Kalispell and for the last two years has been a resident at Immanuel Lutheran Home. Dorothy had an avid interest in people and events all of her life. She greatly enjoyed

her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, and eight brothers and sisters.

She is survived by two daughters, Diane and Barry Wood of Kalispell, and Jill Menard of Townsend; grandchildren, Steve Wood, Craig and Karen Wood, and Scott and Susan Wood, all of Cheyenne, Wyo., Brian Wood of Whitefish, Mike and Terri Wood, and Mary and Sean McRae of Kalispell, Larry and Linda Menard of Lincoln, Michele and John Rauser of Toston, Renee and Rick Richter of Joplin, Lisa and Paul Orth and Lee Menard, all of Townsend, and John Menard of Maui, Hawaii. She is also survived by 16 great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, July 10, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church with Father Vic Langhans as celebrant. Urn Burial will follow at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary & Crematory.



## Ragna Christine Burns, 98

Ragna Christine Burns, 98, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2003, at the Heritage Place in Kalispell.

She was born in Erskine, Minn., on Nov. 16, 1904, to Mathis and Cecelia (Bakhe) Noer. Ragna grew up in Hamlet, N.D., and married Dewaine J. Burns on June 8, 1927, in Williston, N.D. They were married for 57 years before his passing in 1984. The couple moved to Kalispell in 1938 and had lived here since.

Ragna was always the "neighborhood mom," often babysitting, and always welcoming anyone who came by. She was a wonderful cook, and loved to bake, especially her cinnamon rolls.

She was a member of the Christian Center Assembly of God, as well as a Sunday school teacher and member of the Women's Missionary Council.

The family extends a special thank you to the nurses and staff



at the Heritage Place for their loving and tender care. It was greatly appreciated.

Ragna was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two sons, Eugene Burns in 1980 and Robert D. Burns in 2002; four brothers; one sister; and two grandchildren.

She is survived by three daughters, Clarice Renecker and husband, Burt, of Shelton, Wash., Donna McDonald and husband, Lloyd, of Missoula, and Carol Franklin and husband, Jerry, of Spokane; two sons, Francis Burns and wife, Dorothy, of Columbia Falls, and Rich Burns of Libby; daughter-in-law, Dixie Burns of Federal Way, Wash.; 27 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren, seven great-great-grandchildren; one brother, Clarence Noer; one sister, Emma Johnson; and a special daughter-in-law, JoAnn.

A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be from noon until 6 p.m. today at Johnson Mortuary.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Robert Edward 'Bob' Burrill, 74

Robert Edward "Bob" Burrill, 74, passed away at his home on Friday, July 18, 2003, in Kalispell. He was born on Nov. 5, 1928, in Brockton, Mass., to Allen W. and Rita Marion (Doyle) Burrill.



Bob had lived and worked in Kalispell since 1976, retiring as division central office superintendent from Northwestern Telephone Systems, Inc. in 1993. Before moving to Kalispell, Bob lived and worked in Utah, Washington and Arizona for the United States government.

Bob leaves behind an everlasting legacy of dignity and selfless caring. "We are all better people for having known him. He gave everyone a great gift and that gift is his spirit."

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Gordon R. Burrill and Warren A. "Rusty" Burrill.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Johnnie Louise, "I will always love you;" his daughter, Lavanda and Alan Elston of Kalispell; a stepson, James and Kaye Nickles of Cabot, Alaska; three daughters from a previous marriage, Sandra and Brent Hoskins of Clinton, Utah, Linda Kincaid of Central Point, Ore., and Donna and Dennis Stadig of Coburg, Ore.; 10 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Bob is also survived by his loving sister, Beverly Melin, and husband John of North Easton, Mass.; and his brother, William R. Burrill of Attleboro, Mass.

A private family memorial service and interment will be at 10 a.m. today, July 22, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery with Deacon Fred Topp officiating. The family would like to express a special thanks to John and Patricia Kelly of Polson for their 50 years of devoted friendship.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary & Crematory.

## Wilma Grace (Spohnhauer) Burton, 94

Wilma Grace (Spohnhauer) Burton, 94, passed away Thursday, Nov. 20, 2003, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.



She was born Oct. 28, 1909, in Independence, Kan., to Ralph and Grace Spohnhauer. In her teenage years, she moved to Whittier, Calif.

She graduated from Whittier High School, worked as a bookkeeper, met and married Dennis G. Burton in 1945 and they raised their sons. They were members of the First Christian Church. After her husband's death in

1975, she moved to Montana to be near her sons and their families. She was loved and will be missed by all who knew her. "Her family knows she is with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

She is survived by two sons, Bill Burton and wife, Debi, of Bigfork; and Don Burton and wife, Vickie, of Kalispell; five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; two nieces, Caren Kastner and Linda Adams, both of Bigfork; and other close family members.

A private family burial will take place at the Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier. Memorial services locally will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Dean Lawrence Byrd, 76

Dean Lawrence Byrd, 76, passed away Oct. 3, 2003, in Kalispell, following a courageous battle with cancer. He was born Sept. 20, 1927, in Kenmare, N.D., to Lawrence and Lydia Bird.



After graduating from Kenmare High School in 1945, Dean joined the U.S. Army, serving in the European Theater. Following his honorable discharge from the Army in 1947, Dean attended Minot State College for a brief time before returning to Kenmare where he worked as a farm laborer and at the Farmers Union Locker Plant as a meat processor.

In 1952, Dean began working as a postal clerk for the U.S. Postal Service, and became a rural letter carrier in March of 1964, retiring in 1989.

Dean was married to Dorothy Askvig in Carpio, N.D., on June 26, 1955. They made their home in Kenmare for the next 35 years.

After his retirement they moved to Columbia Falls in the fall of 1992, where Dean loved working on his yard, golfing early in the morning and enjoyed meeting at the Night Owl with the Coffee Klatch group. He also helped care for the garden and court yard at Immanuel Lutheran Home.

Dean was a former member of Trinity Lutheran Church, rural Kenmare, where he was baptized and confirmed, and Nazareth Lutheran Church, Kenmare; serving on the council at both churches. At the time of his death, Dean was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Columbia Falls.

He was a member of the Veter-

ans of Foreign Wars; and the North Dakota Rural Letter Carriers Association; he was also a former member of the American Legion, Association of Commerce and Lions Club, all of Kenmare. Dean served on the Kenmare Credit Union board and the Kenmare Hospital board. He was a 32-year volunteer EMT for the Kenmare Ambulance Association.

Dean is survived by his wife, Dorothy of Columbia Falls; children, Bruce and his wife Dawn Byrd of Bozeman, Dawn and her husband Arlyn Baumgartner of Columbia Falls, Scott and his wife Lori Byrd of Columbia Falls, and Julie and her husband Dean Rasmussen of Donnybrook, N.D.; grandsons, Dustin and Adam Byrd of Bozeman, Justin, Tanner, Casey and Stephen Baumgartner of Columbia Falls; Bradley Clark of Meeker, Colo., Elliott and Nicholas Rasmussen of Donnybrook; and one great-grandson, Isaac Clark of Meeker; brothers, Dale Byrd of Kenmare; and Don Byrd of Minot, N.D.; sisters, Marcella Nettles of Grass Valley, Calif., and Marlynn Conlin of Thompson Falls; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother Vernon L. "Bud" Byrd.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls, with Pastor Tom Gopp officiating.

At the family's request, in lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Dean's name to the American Cancer Society, or Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Columbia Falls.

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

## Dorothy Florence Byrne, 76

Dorothy Florence Byrne, 76, of Missoula, passed away of chronic lung disease on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2003, at Evergreen Health Care Center.

She was born July 7, 1926, in Butte to Gebhard and Florence (Streb) Fassler of Melrose. She spent her early years on the family ranch on the Big Hole River near Melrose. She attended school in Melrose and later graduated from high school in Dillon.

Dorothy fulfilled a lifelong dream of becoming a nurse by entering St. James Nursing School in Butte and graduating from Carol College in Helena in 1947. She was a member of the Cadet Nursing Program, which existed for a short period after World War II.

She worked at several hospitals in Montana and California. While working as a registered nurse for the Public Health Department in Polson, she accepted an all expense scholarship in Public Health at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and graduated in 1958.

Upon graduation, Dorothy assumed a position with the Public Health Department in Great Falls and later at Kalispell.

In 1961, Dorothy and Bill Byrne of Kalispell were married in Missoula. Together, they farmed at Lake Blaine and moved to Alaska in 1962, where she worked at Providence Hospital in Anchorage.

In 1969, the family, now includ-



ing two sons, returned to Missoula to be closer to grandparents and extended family. The following year, a daughter was born to the family.

Dorothy was a devoted wife and mother. Her life centered around family, friends and church. She was involved in the Altar Society, Habitat for Humanity and prayer groups.

She loved spending time in the outdoors. Her passions included fishing, camping, boating and adventuring.

Her parents preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, William Byrne of Missoula; three children, Ed Byrne and his wife, Susi, of Vicenza, Italy; Charles Byrne and his wife, Alice, of Missoula; and Marianne Schumacher and her husband, Colton, of Bozeman; two grandchildren, Sabine and Jack Donovan Byrne; and two sisters, Mary Hunt of Helena and Helen Coleman of Richland, Wash.

A vigil and rosary service will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Garden City Funeral Home. A Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. A reception will follow at Garden City Funeral Home. Interment will be at New St. Mary's Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials to Partners Hospice, 500 N. Higgins, Suite 201, Missoula, MT 59802 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements are under the care of Garden City Funeral Home and Crematory.