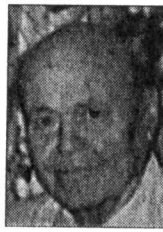


## Gerald 'Jerry' Kenneth Cole, 89

Gerald "Jerry" Kenneth Cole, 89, "went to his final hunting ground" Thursday, March 20, 2003. He passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side.



Jerry was born in Missoula on Dec. 13, 1913. The very next day his mother took him by train to join his dad at their new homestead near Musselshell.

During Jerry's grade school years, the family lived in Musselshell. When his parents divorced, he, with his mom and brothers, moved to Kalispell. Jerry graduated valedictorian of his 1932 class at Flathead County High School. As a sophomore he won first place in the state typing contest held on Bozeman and was awarded a typewriter. He also was in the band, playing the clarinet.

He returned to Lewistown and learned the carpenter trade from his father. There he met and married Helen Constance Little. He worked for Nash Finch wholesale grocers as a bookkeeper in Lewistown, Havre, and Kalispell. During the war he worked in the shipyards in Portland, after which he moved to the Flathead for the "best hunting and fishing anywhere." Here, he resumed his carpentry.

Jerry knew how to really live. He experienced a very full life. All who knew and loved him enjoyed his zest for life and his positive energy. His optimism and cheerful attitude were contagious.

Jerry had so very many interests and passions including hunt-

ing, fishing, archery, reloading, target practice, 40 years of chess and most winters in Reno, Nev., trying to "beat the dealer." He took an eventful month-long safari to Africa in 1962, sharing his movies, trophies, and tales of this trip with friends, family, and the community; being a very giving and friendly soul. The tremendous amount of people who loved him made him a very rich man.

Most amazing, was Jerry's intense desire to fly. He purchased and learned to fly a float plane in his last decade. He left a legacy for all to enjoy, with the many beautiful homes he built throughout the valley.

Jerry leaves behind his wife of 66 years and three children who already miss him greatly. He is survived by Helen C. Cole of Colonial Manor in Whitefish; son, Jim and wife, Brenda, of Kalispell; daughters, Barbara Herget and husband, Amos, of Sandy, Ore., and Kat Marquardt and husband, Ed, of Kalispell; adopted sister, Jeannie Kruger and husband, Jim, of Lakeside; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by both his brothers, one sister, and one adopted brother.

A private graveside service is planned at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Boy Scouts of America, 820 7th Avenue S., Great Falls, MT 59405, or to the Salvation Army, 110 Bountiful Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901, per Jerry's last wishes.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Lila Mae Coler, 78

Lila Mae Coler, 78, passed away Wednesday Oct. 29, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. Lila was born May 5, 1925, in Regent N.D. to Charles and Pauline (Linden) Hockerson. Lila moved to Kalispell at an early age where she attended grade school at Echo lake and three years at Flathead High School.

When World War II started, she left school to work in a restaurant in Seattle. While working, she finished up her education.

Lila was an immaculate housekeeper and loved to do handiwork. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell,

Lila was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Frank D. Coler; two daughters; three brothers, Lloyd, Carl and Cecil Hockerson; sister, Myrtle Luckow; and six

nieces and nephews.

She is survived by her sister, Thelma Schultz of Kalispell; nieces and nephews, Mike Williams of California and Pat of California, Betty Lastufka of Puyallup, Wash., Fredrick Luckow of Bellevue Wash., Gerald Luckow of Sunnyside Ore., Elsie Pool of Colorado Springs, Colo., Carl Luckow of British Columbia, and Merlin "Swede" Luckow of Swan Lake.

Cremation has taken place and interment will be next to Frank at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Fort Rosecrans, Calif.

At Lila's request, memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 400 West California St., Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

## Bertha Margaret Collier, 92

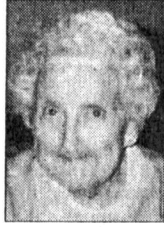
Bertha Margaret Collier, 92, passed away on Tuesday, April 8, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

She was born on Sept. 10, 1910, in Galata, to Ingebert and Sarah (Wollan) Aune.

In her younger years, Bertha worked in restaurants in Galata, Shelby and Kalispell. On Aug. 9, 1933, Bertha married Len W. Collier in Kalispell. She later worked for Collier Electric and Keith Cleaners for many years.

Bertha loved working in her yard, tending to all her beautiful flowers. When not in her yard, she could be found crocheting afghans, baking or canning. Bertha remained very active until her health began to fail. Although she never ventured from her home, she welcomed with a hot cup of tea everyone who came to visit.

Bertha was a religious person who read her Bible every day. It was always close at hand. "We all



will greatly miss her but know she is now at peace and is at a much better place."

Bertha was preceded in death by her husband, Len; one brother, Rudy Aune; sisters, Bessie Kinyon, Marie Aune, Louise Knight, Ragna Drollinger, Inga Berg and Elsie Lee.

She is survived by her son, Gary Collier and wife, Sharon, of Kalispell; one granddaughter, Connie Ronan of Lancaster, Calif.; two grandsons, Donald Collier and Tyler Collier of Kalispell; eight great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law, Lucille Buck of Kalispell, and Bernice Holland of Bremer-ton, Wash.; and several nephews and nieces.

Graveside services for Bertha will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, with Pastor Nathan Bemis officiating. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday at Johnson Mortuary.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Mary-Helen Collier, 47

Mary-Helen Collier died of a natural illness on Thursday, April 24, 2003, in Lewistown. She was 47 years old.

Mary-Helen was born in Kalispell, on May 14, 1955, to Richard "Dick" Collier and Pat Collier. She graduated from Flathead High School in 1973.

She is survived by her father, Dick Collier, of Columbia Falls; brother, Rick Collier of Pittsburg; and brothers, Robb and Randy Collier, of Marion. Mary-Helen also

leaves three loved daughters, Alicia Slawson (formerly Alicia Fredericks), of Las Vegas; and Erin and Ashley Danno of Kalispell. Mary-Helen also leaves three nephews and two nieces.

Mary-Helen was preceded in death by her mother, Pat Collier; and another brother, Ronnie Collier.

The family is planning private services.

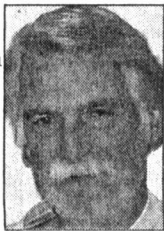
"May God rest her precious soul, Amen."

## Frank Thomas Conklin, 61

Frank Thomas Conklin, 61, passed away at his home in Kalispell on Sunday, June 15, 2003.

He was born on June 10, 1942, in Canton, Ohio, to John F. and Eleanor (Maloney) Conklin.

Frank grew up and received his early education in Canton. He lived there until 1957 when he moved to Garden Grove, Calif. He lived in Orange County until 1996 when he moved to Kalispell.



Frank served in the United States Navy and later became a grocery clerk.

Frank is survived by his wife, Susan Conklin of Marion; daughters, Rebecca Lucas and Alisa Jones of Marion; son, Robert Conklin of Huntington Beach, Calif.; and sister, Dorothy Morse of Kalispell.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, June 20, at Johnson Mortuary. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday at Johnson Mortuary.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Linda M. Conklin, 59

Linda M. Conklin, 59, died on Friday, Feb. 7, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

She is survived by her daughter, Tonya Nelson; son, Vince Conklin; and mother, Florence (Thomas) Termaat,

all of Kalispell.

At her request, cremation will take place and no service will be held.

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

## Cornelia Conn, 94

Cornelia Conn, 94, a longtime Libby resident, died Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2003, in Libby from natural causes.

Survivors include four children, Robert Conn and Sally Ramel, both of Libby, Karen Ludwig of Lewiston, Idaho,

and Carol Marry of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. on Monday at Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby. Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, at Nelson and Vial Funeral Home chapel.

## Marion Cook, 77

Marion Cook, 77, a former resident of the Tobacco Valley, died Monday, April 14, 2003, in Mt. Vernon, Wash. She was born Sept. 21, 1926, in Fort Shaw to Clarence Hoyt and Elsie Beardsley Hoyt. She came to Eureka as a child where she was raised and educated, graduating from Lincoln County High School in Eureka in 1944.

She married Dale E. Cook July 7, 1945, in Cathlamet, Wash.

Marion resided in Eureka for many years where she raised her family and had worked for many years at the Gambles Store in Eureka. She had been a longtime member of the First Baptist Church.

She moved to Bayview, Wash. in the early 1990s where she had since resided.

Her husband preceded her in death in 1986. She was also preceded in death by a sister, Betty Barber; and a brother, Sonny Hoyt.

Survivors include a son, Dan Cook and wife, Donna, of Ana-

cortes, Wash.; a daughter, Crystal Parker of Hayward, Calif.; a sister, Shirley Roberts and husband, Roy, of Eureka; and sister-in-law Mary Ann Hoyt, also of Eureka; half sisters, Marjorie Petruska, Patricia Fletcher, Connie Tompkins and Cilla Carpenter; and a half brother, James Hoyt; grandchildren, Jeff Parker and wife Hollie, and KayCee Cook; and great-granddaughter, Hayley Jean Parker.

Services will be at 1 p.m. on Thursday at the First Baptist Church in Eureka. Interment services will follow at the Tobacco Valley Cemetery under the direction of Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

Memorials may be made to Skagit Gleaners, 1768 Bouslog Road, Burlington, WA 98233; Bayview Civic Association, c/o, Fred Hall, 12777 Josh Wilson Road., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273; or the First Baptist Church, Eureka, MT 59917.

## Rhoda G. Cook, 93

Rhoda G. Cook, 93, long-time Hot Springs resident, passed away on Saturday, July 5, 2003, at the Gardens Nursing Home in Spokane.

She was born on Dec. 26, 1909, in Kalispell, the daughter of Thomas L. and Alberta Morgan Gardner. She was raised in the Flathead Valley and also lived for a short time in Oregon and Washington.

She worked as a bookkeeper in various Kalispell firms including Kalispell Mercantile and together with her husband, Walt Cook, managed dry cleaning businesses in Missoula and Kalispell. She was active in Montana Business and Professional Women.

When her father retired from Spotted Bear Resort, she purchased it and ran it under the name KNL Spotted Bear Resort until her retirement. During that time, she led pack trains into the Bob Marshall Wilderness and was the first woman outfitter in the Montana State Outfitters Associa-

tion where she served as secretary for many years. When Rhoda retired and sold the resort, she resided at Hot Springs except for a few years spent in Colorado Springs, Colo., with her family.

She was an active member of the Hot Springs Presbyterian Church, the Order of the Eastern Star and the Hot Springs Senior Citizens Center. She moved to Spokane in 1998.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Grace L. Owens, and by sisters, Grace Moore, Edith Anderson, Helen Paxon and Pat Culver.

She is survived by one grandson, Steve Owens of Colorado Springs; one granddaughter, Shelle Owens of Palo Alto, Calif.; one nephew, and two nieces.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Monday, July 14, at Plains Cemetery with Rev. James E. Dickinson of Hot Springs Presbyterian Church officiating.

Coffelt-Bunch Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

## George W. Cooper, 69

George W. Cooper, age 69, passed away April 3, 2003, in Houston.

He was born Nov. 6, 1933, in Reed City, Mich., to Ray and Elsie Cooper.

George was raised and educated in Hermansville, Mich.

He worked for the Hanna Mines in Michigan for several years before moving to Kalispell in 1965.

George worked for the Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. for 29 years before he retired.

He was married to Evelyn in 1974. After his retirement, they traveled extensively. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, painting, and

they had just finished building their fifth home in Milam, Texas.

He is preceded in death by his parents, a brother, and a grandson.

George is survived by his wife, Evelyn of Columbia Falls; a son, Steve Cooper; daughters, Denise Cooper and Karen; a son, Rob Herzog; a daughter, Carol Mullen; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 22, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Rev. David Kauffman will officiate. Inurnment with graveside military honors will follow the service.

## Breanna Marie Conrad, infant

Breanna Marie Conrad, infant, died at Kalispell Regional Medical Center on Friday, Aug. 15, 2003.

She is survived by her parents, Todd and Bobbie (VanBemmel) Conrad.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22, at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery with Rev. Darrold Reiner officiating.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Alexander Heath Corder, 19

Alexander Heath Corder, 19, "went home to be with the Lord" on Sunday morning, March 2, 2003. Alex was the beloved son of Max and Debbie Corder and the brother of Rush and Clint. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Alex was born March 25, 1983, in Atlanta, Ga., and received his elementary education there. He gave his life to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at an early age and was baptized at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

He moved with his family to Bigfork on July 4, 1996, and graduated from Bigfork High School in 2001. After attending Flathead Valley Community College, he worked for the past year in Ferndale as a log peeler for Mike Yacos. He looked forward to attending the University of Montana in the fall.

Alex was happiest in the mountains, lakes, fields and streams of the West and hiked solo into the



backcountry in Yellowstone this past fall. He loved hunting, fishing, camping and his work. He was devoted to his family and his friends.

Alex is survived by his parents of Bigfork and his brothers, Rush of Irvine, Calif., and Clint of Atlanta, Ga. He is also survived by his grandmothers, Alma D. Corder of Tupelo, Miss., and Edith P. Heath of Columbus, Ga.

Memorial services will be held at the Bigfork Chapel at 11 a.m. Friday, with burial in the Swan View Memorial Cemetery in Bigfork.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Bernice G. Cordier, 75

Bernice G. Cordier, 75, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2003, at Colonial Manor in Whitefish.

Bernice was born March 16, 1928, in Magrath, Alberta, to Reuben and Constance Deglow. The oldest of three children, she was raised on the family homestead in Del Bonita, Alberta, where she graduated from high school in 1946.

She attended Western Montana College in Dillon, majoring in education. After her freshman year in college, Bernice accepted a teaching position in Ferndale. She continued her education in the summers at Western and, later, at the University of Montana, where she earned her bachelor's degree in 1961.

Bernice continued her teaching career in St. Ignatius, where she met her future husband, Victor. They were married in Butte on Aug. 3, 1950.

In 1955, Bernice, Vic and son Douglas moved to Columbia Falls where she devoted 27 years to the students and families of School District Six, teaching mainly in the junior high.

Bernice was very active and enjoyed many hobbies including gardening, ceramics, camping and especially bowling. She and Vic bowled in many, many leagues and tournaments over the years and developed many wonderful friendships through their association in the sport.

In 1972, Bernice became secretary/treasurer of the Montana State Women's Bowling Association, a



position she held for 18 years. In 1988, Bernice was inducted into the Montana Women's Bowling Hall of Fame.

Later in life, Bernice found particular joy in watching her granddaughter grow and spending happy times with extended family, including numerous trips to the Oregon coast.

Bernice spent her life in service to her students, community and family; the lifelong friendships she developed with her former charges and colleagues, and the endearing respect she earned from all who knew her is a testament to her character and spirit.

Her parents preceded Bernice in death.

She is survived by her husband, Victor, in Columbia Falls; one son, Douglas, and daughter-in-law, Charlene, also of Columbia Falls; her granddaughter, Brice; sister, Margaret and brother-in-law, Archie Johnston, of Kalispell; brother, Bert and sister-in-law, Gloria Deglow, also of Kalispell; and a large extended family of brothers- and sisters-in-law and nieces and nephews.

Remembrance and rosary for Bernice will be held at 7 p.m. today at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated 11:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 8, also at St. Richard's with Rev. Joe Pat Moran officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to the Jim Byrd Memorial Fund, c/o St. Richard's Parish, Box 2073, Columbia Falls, MT 59912, or the Wildcat Athletic Endowment Association, Box 2732, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is in charge of the arrange-

## Rena Ruth Cornell, 90

Rena Ruth Cornell, 90, passed away Saturday, Nov. 29, 2003, at the North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

She was born April 8, 1913, in Havre, to Andrew and Mabel Weidenhammer. Following her father's death in 1923, her mother remarried. Gilbert Speer and Mabel then raised Rena and their siblings.

She later moved to the Flathead Valley where she met and married Robert Cornell in July 1934. He passed away April 19, 1974.

Rena was happiest surrounded by her family. She loved to watch her grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow.



She had a kind spirit, loving heart, and a warm smile. She always had a lap full of grandchildren and a cookie jar full of cookies. She especially enjoyed working in her flower beds, where she had a collection of beautiful flowers. She lived life to the fullest. She will be greatly missed by all those who loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her son, Dell Cornell.

Rena is survived by her daughter, Linda Toren; and two sons, Robert and Jay Cornell, all of the Flathead Valley. She is also survived by numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Pastor Eugene Speer will officiate. Burial will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery.

## Florence E. Quien-Cowan, 81

Florence E. Quien-Cowan, 81, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2003, at the North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

Florence was born Jan. 11, 1922, in Whitefish, to Thomas and Emma Papineau. She was raised and educated in Whitefish. She loved music and was a lead singer in operettas in high school.

Florence married Allen Quien on Sept. 3, 1940, in Whitefish, and they had four children.

Ten years after Allen's death in 1984, she married the love of her life, Wynn Cowan, whom she loved and adored until the day she died. He was her caretaker and mentor for nine years.

Florence is survived by her husband, Wynn, at the family home; three daughters, Sharon DeMotts of Bigfork, Barbara Osborne and her husband, Darrel, of Columbia Falls, and Patricia Tamblin and her husband, Jim, of Bigfork; a son, Pete "Allen" Quien and his wife, Lauren,

of Kalispell. She was blessed with 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; three stepchildren; a sister, Mildred Baker and her husband, Ben, of Libby; a sister-in-law, Mary Ulland and her husband, Chuck, of Vancouver, Wash.; and a brother-in-law, Verl Quien of Moses Lake, Wash.

Florence's whole life was her family. She loved them all very much and they loved and cherished her also. She was a very giving and loving wife, mother, and grandmother who will be greatly missed and forever remembered.

Viewing will be 1 to 5 p.m. today at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. A funeral service will be held 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at the First Baptist Church in Whitefish. Pastor Kent Morrison and Pastor Tom Gopp will officiate. Burial will follow the service at Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

## Richard Brian Cowger, 71

Richard Brian Cowger, 71, died Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2003, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952 to 1972.

No local services are planned at this time.

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

## Alyson Elizabeth 'Aly' Cox, infant

Surrounded by family and love, Alyson Elizabeth "Aly" Cox, 37-days-old, passed away in her mother's arms on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2003.

Alyson was born Sept. 9, 2003, in Denver to Maurissa (Parker) and Phil Cox of Bozeman. Though so perfect and beautiful, Alyson fought a tough battle of congenital diaphragmatic hernia.

Alyson Elizabeth blessed so many lives. She had the strong spirit of a true fighter. A pink plaque that stated "Diva" decorated her isolette and nurses and doctors alike couldn't agree more.

Aly loved her mother's kisses on her forehead and light caresses through her soft hair. Alyson also loved her daddy's voice and would reward him with big smiles that will forever touch his heart. She was not a morning girl but loved keeping her parents by her side at night by keeping her eyes open for hours. She loved a good leg stretch to show off her long legs and wrinkled knees and spread her tiny toes. Alyson had her father's ticklish feet and would let you know by crinkling her eyebrows like her mother's. She blew many beautiful bubbles and loved to tease the nurses by tugging on her ventilator tube. Aly like to snuggle and stare at her favorite toy, a green and yellow fish given to her by her favorite nurse.

Alyson Elizabeth will forever be "the sunshine, moon and stars in her parents' lives."

Her family is forever thankful

to the staff of The Children's Hospital in Denver for their amazing support, love and empathy.

Special staff members to be noted are Dr. J. Kinsella, Dr. J. Barry, C.N.P.D. Rogers, R.N's Lori, Andi, Kara L. and Jeannine of the NICU.

Alyson is survived by her parents, Maurissa and Phil Cox; grandparents, Elizabeth and John Patefield of Kalispell, Robert Parker and Jan Gellein of Whitefish, Star Evans of Spokane; aunts and uncles, Robyn Forsythe and family of Bozeman, Ayisha Montgomery and family of Spokane, Altera Wright and family of Idaho, Adrien and Sarah Thomas and families of Boulder, Jennifer Clough and spouse of Seattle; great-grandparents, Gerri Dye of Billings, Gloria Parker of Dallas, and Wally and Delores Patefield of Great Falls; and many loving great-aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Alyson joins her closest friend, Braeden Holmes (38-days-old) of Wyoming. Our families are forever intertwined and blessed by these special souls who could only visit us for a short while. But God knows, we are so very thankful for the little while.

Memorial services will be held at noon on Saturday, Nov. 1, at Grace Bible Church. Interment will be in Sunset Hills Cemetery.

Donations are greatly appreciated and can be made in Alyson Cox's name to the Ronald McDonald House of Missoula, P.O. Box 1119, Missoula, MT 59806. (406)541-7646.

## Michele Cox, 41

Michele Cox, 41, died on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

Cremation and arrangements are under the care of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

## Jack Ass, aka Bob 'Boz' Craft, 45

Jack Ass, aka Bob "Boz" Craft, 45, "ended his journey" on July 21, 2003, in Hot Springs.

He was born in the Flathead and raised on Craft corner in Columbia Falls until age 11, when the family moved to the ranch at Lone Pine. He graduated from Hot Springs High School.

He became a journeyman electric lineman and worked for Flathead Electric Cooperative, Harp Line, Bonneville Power Administration and other line contractors.

He was a rodeo clown, a master balloon animal maker, had a real estate license, and was a licensed minister of the Universal Life Church.

He was a poet and had a poem for every occasion and always a story to lighten one's load. He was a true jokester and a lover of life.

Jack was a cancer survivor.

He devoted the last six years of his life to raising the awareness of alcoholism. He developed and operated "Hearts Across Ameri-

ca," a program where he would place a red heart at the roadside where a life had been lost, or anywhere someone requested that he place one.

His logo, "Be a smart ass, not a dumb ass," precipitated Bob to change his legal name to Jack Ass, to get everyone's attention for his desire to end alcohol-related tragedies. "Don't be a Jack Ass. Have a sober friend drive" was his motto.

He is survived by his sweetheart, Sharron "Candy" Milat; and stepdad, Al Fisher, both of Hot Springs; ex-wife, Patty Craft and son, Travis, both of Kalispell; brother, Steve Craft of Anika, Alaska; sister, Theresa Andrews of Ravalli; father, Robert Francis Craft of Cut Bank; and many other family members and loved ones.

He was placed into the earth next to his mother, Dorthy Laura Fisher, at a private service on July 23 in Arlee.

## Lilia P. 'Lily' Craig, 63

Lilia P. "Lily" Craig, 63, of Eureka, died Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2003.

She helped establish the Yaak Community Church and was a nurse's aide at Mountain View Manor until the time of her death.

She is survived by her husband, Roger, of Eureka; and children, Charlotte Daniels of Oklahoma, Naomi Parker and

Rebecca Martin, both of Florida.

Services will be 2 p.m. Monday at the First Church of God in Eureka with the Rev. Al Corrigan of the Eureka Foursquare Church officiating; interment services will follow at Tobacco Valley Cemetery. Visitation will be 2 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

## Betty Crandall, 75

Betty Crandall, 75, died Jan. 2, 2004, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, with a vigil to follow at 7 p.m. at John-

son Mortuary chapel. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.



## John Lewis Cravath

John Lewis Cravath passed "from this world" on Sept. 14, 2003, in Phoenix.

John's life began in Pasadena, Calif., on July 11, 1919. He grew up on Alamedas Bay where his father Orla, a shipwright, taught John to sail while still very young. In his father's innovatively designed sailboats, John won Pacific Coast championships in the 15-foot class four years in a row.

John served his country in World War II by piloting 50 missions behind enemy lines in B-17 Flying Fortresses in the European Theater. He once had to ditch his plane in the Aegean Sea after losing three of four engines. Bringing his craft down parallel to the large ocean swells, he successfully landed, and then got his crew out in the 50 seconds the plane remained afloat. For his valor, John received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war, John pursued a degree in education at Oregon State University where he lettered in rowing and met his future wife, Margaret Lee Hardie. They were married in August of 1947, in Billings, and moved to Kalispell, where John sold heavy equipment for his father-in-law.

In 1957, John and Margaret purchased Kamp Karefree, a cabin resort on Whitefish Lake, and moved with their three sons. The boys remain deeply grateful for their parents' decision to choose this beautiful place for their



home. At Kamp Karefree, "Old John" was known for his joviality and good cheer among the guests and won many lifelong friends. His other occupation and passion during his Whitefish years was teaching school. John was prime minister of the Whitefish Winter Carnival in 1968, serving with King Ullr, aka his good friend and the founder of The Big Mountain, Ed Schenck.

John retired from the Kalispell School District in 1983, sold the resort (which became Mountain Harbor) and moved up the lake to the Lacy house on Resthaven Road. He and Margaret spent summers in Whitefish, spring and fall in Arizona, and winters in Mazatlan, Mexico. John, always an avid woodworker, became an excellent kachina carver and produced a fine collection of Hopi dolls.

John and Margaret continued their migratory adventures until her death in 1994. He was also preceded in death by his son Bill, who died earlier this year.

John resided in the Phoenix area until the end of his life and is survived by his sons, Jay and David, who are part-time residents of the valley, their wives, Lynne and Kelley; grandchildren, Chloe and Jeff, Cole and Lee; and a great-granddaughter, Ellie.

A celebration of John's life is scheduled for July 26, 2004, at his house on Whitefish Lake at 2 p.m. All who knew and loved him are invited. Memorials in his name can be in the form of donations to the Whitefish City Library, to purchase a collection of books on sailing.

## William 'Bill' Hardie Cravath, 54

William "Bill" Hardie Cravath, 54, of Missoula, "passed from this earth" on Jan. 8, 2003, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula.



Bill was born in Kalispell on July 4, 1948. He lived in Bozeman until 1957, when his family moved to Whitefish to take ownership of Kamp Karefree, a cabin resort on Whitefish Lake. Helping to run the resort, Bill also proved to be an excellent fisherman and snow skier. Bill attended elementary and secondary school in Whitefish and graduated from Whitefish High School in 1967.

He married Cheri Nicholas and resided in Missoula. Throughout his life, Bill demonstrated a facility for writing and visual art, and

was blessed with a remarkable memory. He was living in Missoula at the time of his death, having developed many friendships.

He is survived by his father, John; wife, Cheri; his two brothers, Jay and David; sisters-in-law, Lynne and Kelly; nephews, Jeff, Cole and Lee; and niece Chloe.

Funeral services will be held on 2 p.m. Saturday at Garden City Funeral Home, followed by interment at the Missoula City Cemetery. Pallbearers will include his brothers, Jay and David, Eric Sells, and Jerry Price. A reception to honor Bill's memory will follow at the Holiday Inn.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be sent in the form of donations to the Missoula Mental Health Center, (406) 543-9700.

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

## Ina Bell (Ryerson) Crawford, 88

Ina Bell (Ryerson) Crawford, 88, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend to many, died Jan. 30, 2003.



She was a resident at Immanuel Lutheran Home. For the last five years she lived in Kalispell, and prior to that was a long time resident of Missoula.

She was born on Nov. 5, 1914, in Orlando, Okla., to Ray Peter and Martha Abigail (Reder) Ryerson. She graduated with honors from Oklahoma A&M College, now Oklahoma State University, in 1935, and was a member of Phi Kappa Phi honorary scholastic society. After college, she used her business training assisting the Civilian Conservation Corps.

She married Paul Lynne Crawford on Sept. 13, 1937, in Oklahoma City. They lived in Oklahoma with their three children until 1956, when her husband, a civil engineer who designed and built oil field equipment for Black, Syvils and Bryson, was transferred to Edmonton, Alberta. After three years in Canada and a brief return to Oklahoma City for one year, they moved to Missoula in 1960, where they purchased and operated for 10 years a business in the retail trade of oil products. Her husband passed away in 1980, and in 1997 she moved to Kalispell to be near one of her sons.

While in Missoula, she was active in the First Presbyterian

Church, did volunteer work at Missoula Community Hospital, and participated in and enjoyed the fellowship of the University of Montana women's golf association. She also loved gardening, sewing, bird watching, traveling, and closely following the activities of her children and grandchildren. She traveled extensively, both with her husband and family, and later with her close friends, visiting much of the U.S. and Canada, as well as Japan, China, New Zealand, Africa, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia and the Caribbean. She was a faithful correspondent with her many cards and letters to friends and family.

She was preceded in death by four sisters, as well as her husband.

Survivors include her three children and their spouses, daughter, Linda and husband, Larry Owen of Phoenix; two sons, Dr. P. Thomas and wife, Karin Crawford of Arcadia, Calif., and William and wife, Sue Crawford of Kalispell; 10 grandchildren in Montana, Oregon, California and Arizona; and six great-grandchildren.

A private memorial service will be held in Kalispell for her family with interment to follow in Missoula.

Memorials may be made to the Immanuel Lutheran Home, Bratsburg Wing, 185 Crestline, Kalispell, MT 59901, phone 406-752-9622; or to the Alzheimer's Association, 919 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1100, Chicago, IL 60611, or by phone at (800) 272-3900. Donations to both are tax deductible.

## Harold C. Crill, Jr., 70

Harold C. Crill Jr., 70, of Libby, died June 17, 2003, at his home in Libby of heart and asbestos-related illnesses.

He was a long-time employee of St. Regis Paper Company and worked as bookkeeper and credit manager at St. Regis Retail.

He is survived by his children, Michael Crill of Libby,

Debbie Carter of Tualatin, Ore., Carol Johnson of Spokane, and Cheryl Chandler, Terry Mahoney and Randy Crill, all of Libby.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 28, at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home Chapel. Interment Services will follow at the City of Libby Cemetery.

## Lillian M. Cripe, 76

Lillian M. Cripe, 76, died Monday, April 28, 2003, at St. John Lutheran Hospital in Libby.

She had been a longtime employee of the U.S. Forest Service in Libby.

Services will be 2 p.m.

Thursday at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home Chapel. Interment services will follow in the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. today and until noon Thursday.

## Dixie Lee Crone, 90

Dixie Lee Crone, 90, longtime Hot Springs resident, passed away on Monday, Feb. 10, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

She was born on Aug. 23, 1912, in Barber, Ark., the daughter of James and Elizabeth Woods. She attended grade school in Washburn, Ark., and high school at Booneville and Greenwood, Ark. In 1931, she moved to Montana with her family.

On Nov. 15, 1933, she married Marland Crone in Polson. The couple made their home in Hot Springs, where Dixie worked for the Sanders County Hospital. She later worked for Dr. Glenn Mathias and Dr. Frank Campbell, both of Hot Springs.

Following her retirement, she kept busy with crocheting, quilting and handwork. Dixie was an active member of the Hot Springs

Senior Citizens.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth and Judy Crone of Kalispell; her daughter and son-in-law, Gail and Clayton White of Hot Springs; nine grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marland Crone, in 1984, and by two brothers, Cecil and Lloyd Woods.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today at the Lonepine Community Hall with Lay Pastor Janet Young officiating. Burial will follow at Murray Memorial Cemetery in Lonepine.

Memorials may be made to the Hot Springs Senior Citizens or to the Lonepine Community Hall.

Coffelt-Bunch Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

## Sid Cross, 80

Sid Cross, 80, passed away on Camas Prairie, Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003, of an apparent heart attack. Sid was born on March 4, 1923, on Camas Prairie to Dick and Marie Cross.

Sid loved Camas Prairie. He farmed the land and raised his family there. He attended grade school in Camas Prairie and graduated from Hot Springs High School in 1941. Except for a short time working in an aircraft factory in California before World War II, Sid lived on Camas Prairie all of his life. Everyone who knew him knew the great respect that he had for his home and his heritage.



Sid married Mary Lou Bras in 1955. Together they had three children, Ben, Carlene and Melanie Cross. They have 12 grandchildren, Janae Cross Cartwright, Jonathan, Michele and Sara Cross, Carise, Micael and Jason Bogar and Erin, Brian, Lucia, Brycen and Karina Ek.

Sid was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, Herb and Gordon Cross.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, at the Lonepine Hall. Lunch will be provided following the service.

Arrangements are under the direction of Coffelt-Bunch Funeral Service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be sent to the Lonepine Hall or the charity of your choice.

## Philip 'Wayne' Crouse, 55

Philip "Wayne" Crouse, 55, passed away March 31, 2003, at his home in Kalispell.

He was born Nov. 18, 1947, in Kalispell, to William and Ruth Crouse. Wayne was raised in Kalispell and received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Montana. Wayne served in the Army during the Vietnam War.

For a short period of time he was involved in the Dinner-Playhouse, where he acted, directed, and produced theaters, and also did some commercials. Wayne was an entrepreneur who had multifaceted talents, from fixing cars to preparing great food. He later drove truck and was a Teamster until finally having to retire. He loved the outdoors, animals, food

preparation, and started the MOPAR club in Kalispell.

Wayne loved life, people, and was a friend to all who knew him.

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

Wayne is survived by his brothers, Fred E. Crouse and William Z. Crouse, and sister, Niki Crouse.

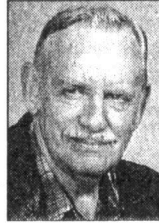
Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Ron Youde of Central Bible Church officiating. Honors will be conducted by the United Veterans of the Flathead Valley.

Memorials are suggested to the VA Volunteer Services, Williams Street, Hwy. 12 West, Fort Harrison, MT 59636.

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

## Lt. Col. Donald Allen Crowe, 81

Lt. Col. Donald Allen Crowe, 81, passed away on Dec. 1, 2003, at his home in Kalispell of a myocardial infarction. He was born on Oct. 25, 1922, in Gilman to Guy B. and Mattie Lou (Robinson) Crowe.



Don received his early education in Augusta, graduating from Augusta High School. While still in school, he worked as a guide for the Neal Brothers, Dan and Bob. He guided around the Sun River area and on many occasions witnessed the high and fast flying jets from the Army-Air-Corps military base (now Malmstrom Air Force Base) some miles away. He had a desire that this would someday be a part of his life.

On Aug. 30, 1943, Don graduated from flight school. He was immediately assigned as a flight instructor, a position he held until after World War II. While in flight school, Don met Patricia Jule Cannon. They were married in Garden City, Kan., on Feb. 21, 1944.

During Don's military career he had the opportunity to fly many different planes; including the PT 19, BT 13, T 6, T 7, T 11, C 45, P 47, UC 78, L 5, C 47, P 51, T 33, F 80, F 51, B 47, B 57, RB57D, U 2, T 39, and A 26. He was able to log over 12,000 hours and earned his wings as a Pilot, Master Navigator, Bombardier, Flight-Engineer, and Radar Operator. He served in the United States, Germany, Morocco, Alaska, England, Saudi Arabia, and Libya. Perhaps his most memorable Air Force experience was flying U-2 reconnaissance missions with Gary Powers out of Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, during the Bay of Pigs crisis against Castro in Cuba. His last duty was as the Plans Officer and Chief, Space Section, Future Systems Branch at the Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Neb., from 1962 until his retirement on June 1, 1966. At this time

he received his last Commendation Medal — a Gold Oak Cluster for outstanding leadership, personal initiative, and professional skill immeasurably assisting the command in influencing the overall Air Force space planning effort.

After Don's retirement the family moved to the Flathead Valley where he began work at the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (Anaconda Aluminum at the time) as an iron worker working for Al Sparr in November 1966. He worked at the aluminum plant for 10 years until the summer of 1976. From the time of his military retirement until the time of his death Don thoroughly enjoyed raising, breeding, breaking and playing with his Registered Quarter Horses.

Don was a Master of the Royal Secret of the 32 Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Right, an AQHA and an NRA Lifetime Member, a devout Republican, and a member of Epworth United Methodist Church.

Don was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Patricia; his parents, Guy and Mattie of Augusta; one brother, Gordon of Detroit; and sister, Beverly Fields of Port Arthur, Texas.

He is survived by his son, Gary and Wende Crowe of Kalispell; daughter, Jerri and Kent Anderson of Stillwater, Minn., one sister, Naida Finkernagel of Cape Coral, Fla.; five grandchildren, Nicole, Andrew, Austin, Briggs and Cici; as well as four great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Don were held on Monday, Dec. 8 at Johnson Mortuary with Pastor Glenn Woodson of Epworth United Methodist Church officiating. Burial followed at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the Flathead Animal Shelter-Humane Society in care of Donald A. Crowe, 225 Cemetery Road, Kalispell, MT 59901

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Sharon V. Cummings, 59

Sharon V. Cummings, 59, died Wednesday, July 16, 2003, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital in Libby from natural causes.

Survivors include her husband, John Cummings of Libby; a son, John Cummings

Jr. of Lolo; and a daughter, Kim Aarstad, of Helena.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 19, at Milnor Lake Cemetery.

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

## John D. Cunningham, 81

John D. Cunningham, 81, died on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2003, at Kalispell Regional

Medical Center.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Alberto Antonio Cruz, 21 months old

Alberto Antonio Cruz, 21 months old, of Missoula, "was called back to heaven" on Monday, Dec. 8, 2003, from the Influenza A virus at his home in Missoula.

Alberto was born to his loving and adoring parents, Carlos Alberto Cruz Hernandez and Carla Cruz in Missoula on March 1, 2002.

Alberto spent his short life brightening the lives of everyone around him with his beautiful smile, shiny eyes, and curly brown hair. "His time here with us taught us how precious every moment is." His laugh warmed the hearts of those who knew him.

He loved music, his little feet would move and his little butt would shimmy to the beat of any type of music. He loved to dance with his favorite toy "friend Dora," he would push the button over and over to play his favorite song, and dance and laugh for hours.

He love to be outdoors, to go "bye-bye," to visit family and friends, and talking on the phone.

Alberto is survived by his parents, Carlos Alberto Cruz Hernan-

dez and Carla Rose Cruz of Missoula; great-grandparents, Maria Hernandez of El Salvador and Olive Richter of Oregon; grandparents, Salvador Cruz Ramirez and Maria Luisa Hernandez of El Salvador, and Elwood and Loretta Mckay of Kalispell; uncles, Jose E. and Jose Gilberto Cruz Hernandez of El Salvador, Victor M., Salvador J., and Luis A. Cruz Hernandez of Texas, and Thomas McKay of Elko, Nev.; aunts, Dinora C. Cruz Hernandez of El Salvador, Sherri M. Carter of Elko, and Bev Hume of Kalispell; and several great-aunts, great-uncles, and cousins throughout the United States and El Salvador.

A fund has been set up for the family at St. Patrick Hospital credit union; contact Nina Karl at (406) 329-5665 for "Baby Cruz."

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. today, in Missoula at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of Sunset Memorial Funeral Home.

## S. Charles Curry, 80

S. Charles Curry, 80, passed away Sunday, April 6, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center with his family at his side.

He was born May 29, 1922, to S. Charles and Rachel Curry in Havre. He grew up and received his education in Havre.

He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and then entered the U.S. Army in 1942, serving in Austria, France, Germany and Ireland with the 92nd Signal Battalion during World War II.

In 1946, he returned home and went to work for the Great Northern Railway, working on the old steam engines as a fireman.

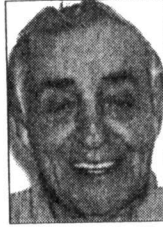
He then went to work for RCA at the radar base in Havre. He was transferred to Cape Canaveral in Florida, working in Mission Control during the early days of the manned space program.

He then went to work for the Department of Defense as a civilian. He was a radar engineer, traveling all the western states and Canada.

In 1967, he and his family settled in Lakeside. He worked at the radar base on top of Blacktail Mountain until his retirement in 1983.

He received many outstanding performance awards for his work with the Air Force and Department of Defense.

He was very active in community services. He was a life member of the Flathead County Sheriff's Posse, serving as major, vice major, and captain. He was also a reserve



officer with the sheriff's department.

He served 25 years as a trustee with the Somers/Lakeside fire department; three terms on the Lakeside school board, serving as chairman; and also on the Flathead Animal Control Board.

He was a charter member of the Lakeside Quick Response Unit, which he volunteered for 20 years, and also served on the Lakeside Community Council.

He held a broker's license in real estate for the past 30 years.

He and his wife, Carol, were very fortunate to spend six weeks in Africa four years ago, visiting three countries with a son and daughter-in-law.

He was very proud of his family and will be greatly missed.

He will be remembered for his quick wit and sense of humor, right up until the end.

He is survived by his wife, Carol, of Lakeside; two sons, Charles P. Curry, of Kalispell, and Scott Curry and his wife, Alyse, of Dillon; a granddaughter, Jessica, of Billings; a sister, Phyllis Vining, of Missoula; a nephew, Dan Curry, of Ozark, Ala.; and a niece, Leslie Haligan, of Missoula.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother, Phil.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lakeside Quick Response Unit, Box 911, Lakeside, MT, 59922, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Services will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 215 Third Avenue East, Kalispell, at 11 a.m. on Monday, April 14.

Private family burial will follow at Riverside Cemetery in Hamilton.

## Graydon Leslie 'Les' Curry, 74

Graydon Leslie "Les" Curry passed away on July 28, 2003, at the age of 74. Les was born in Missoula on July 26, 1929. His parents, Graydon E. Curry and Ethel B. Doney Curry raised Les in the Montana community of Arlee.

Les graduated from Arlee High School and then attended Montana State University in Bozeman on a basketball scholarship where he received both his bachelor's and master's degrees. While attending Montana State, he met his future wife, Ramona B. Nelson, and they married on June 4, 1965, in Bainville.

Les held several teaching, coaching and administrative positions during his four-decade career in high school education. Les' career touched the lives of students and community members in the Montana towns of Manhattan, Fort Benton, Bozeman and Kalispell,

and the California communities of Chico and Davis.

Les is survived by his wife, Ramona, of Yuba City, Calif.; his daughter, LeAnn, and her husband, Robert, of Laguna Niguel, Calif.; his son, Michael, and his wife, Janice, of Gillette, Wyo.; his daughter, Denise, of Aliso Viejo, Calif.; his son, Ryan, and his wife, Kari, of Aliso Viejo; his grandchildren, Graydon, Marissa, Nicholas, Larson and Samuel; and numerous relatives.

Les will be greatly missed by his family, friends, students, players and the many people who were blessed to have been a part of his life.

A private, family graveside service is planned in Davis, Calif., with a public memorial service to be held in Davis at a later date. In lieu of flowers, a donation fund will also be established at a later date.