

Esther Jane Robbe, 81

Esther Jane Robbe, 81, a longtime Troy resident, died at her home at Savage Lake, on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2003.

She had worked at C & H Meat Market, Adkins Store and Rosauers in Libby.

Survivors include her hus-

band, Warren Robbe, of Troy; and children, Elsie DeMars of Bigfork, Pat McLeod of Houston and Larry James of Spain.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, at the Kootenai Senior Citizens Center.

Barbara Newman Roberts, 75

Barbara Newman Roberts, 75, passed away Thursday, Sept. 18, 2003, at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

She was born Aug. 25, 1928, in Salt Lake City, to Harry and Margaret (Draper) Walker. Barbara was raised in Salt Lake City and was a high school graduate of St. Mary's of the Wasatch. She then attended the University of Utah and received her Bachelor of Arts degree. She was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Barbara was united in marriage to Kent Newman on June 18, 1949, in Salt Lake City, and Kent's work took them to Medford Lakes, N.J., where they lived for six years. In 1954, the Newman's moved to the Flathead Valley and made their home in Columbia Falls. From 1976 until 1983, they enjoyed their cabin at Lake McDonald in Glacier Park. Mr. Newman preceded Barbara in death on August 12, 1987.

In October of 1989, Barbara was married to William "Bill" Roberts in Columbia Falls. They traveled during the winter months together to Arizona. Mr. Roberts preceded her in death on Sept. 6, 1992.

Barbara enjoyed playing bridge, camping, traveling, jazz music and watching her children and grandchildren's schooling and sporting events.

She was a member of the P.E.O., the Jazz Society, St. Richard's Guild and was a loving wife and mother. Barbara never had a bad word for anybody.

She was preceded in death by



her parents; husbands; and her brother, Harry, Jr.

Survivors include her children, Leslie Windauer and her husband, Bernie, of Kalispell, Roger Newman, and his wife, Peggy, of Columbia Falls, Sharon Bengtson, and her husband, Tom, of West Glacier, Chris Newman and his wife, Sue, of Spokane, and Carrie Aageson, and her husband, Mark, of Havre; there are five stepchildren, Susan Roberts, of Seattle, Bill Roberts and his wife, Bobbi, and Mary Dann and her husband, Paul, all of Richland, Wash., Julie McEnroe, and her husband Jay, of Kent, Wash., and Kelly Wiebel, and her husband Pat, of Seattle; there are 10 grandchildren, Erin, Dan, Heidi, Jennifer, Jed, Jake, Chelsea, Scott, Gunnar, and Ivar; eight stepgrandchildren, Brian, Geoff, Clair, Greg, Anne, Emily, Christopher and Joshua; and a sister, Carolee Shanley Meyers, of San Mateo, Calif.

A funeral mass will be celebrated 12:10 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, at St. Matthew Catholic Church. Co-celebrating will be the Rev. Vic Langhans and the Rev. Stan Malnar and Deacon Robert Pearce. Burial will follow at St. Richard's Catholic Cemetery, Columbia Falls.

Visitation will be Monday, Sept. 22, at Johnson Mortuary chapel from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. A song of farewell gathering will be today at Johnson Mortuary chapel at 7 p.m.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the Alert Foundation, 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT, 59901, or the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1002, Kalispell, MT, 59903.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Ruth Margaret Roberts

Ruth Margaret Roberts, 83, passed away Dec. 6, 2003, in Dallas. She was born Ruth Margaret Campbell on Sept. 29, 1920, in Indianapolis, the youngest of five.



Ruth's oldest sister and future brother-in-law would bundle her up and take her for rides in the rumble seat of their car when they were courting. She was only six years older than her oldest niece, and had a very special relationship with all her 16 nieces and nephews and their families as they got older. Family meant everything to Ruth; all she ever wanted was to be a wife and mother.

Ruth graduated from high school in Indianapolis and attended Smith College. During World War II, she joined the Women's Army Corps, and worked a secretarial job here in the states. She met Bill Roberts in 1951 on a train from Chicago to Indianapolis and they were married two years later. In 1957, they moved to Southern California with their two small children, beginning a new adventure in their lives.

Bill's job as an insurance auditor kept him on the road quite a bit but the family was frequently able to go along and did a lot of traveling together. Bill always seemed to have a sense of wanderlust and moved the family around California and Arizona. Ruth, as the devoted wife, followed him wherever his latest whim would take them.

Ruth loved swimming, baseball and family picnics. She was

always a good sport and was game for anything. She loved to dance and would roll up the rugs on Saturday nights to dance to Lawrence Welk and big band music. She had a great sense of humor and wouldn't hesitate to poke fun even at herself.

In 1993, Bill and Ruth moved to Dallas to be closer to their son and his family which included their only grandchild, Chelsea Renee. Ruth made many trips to Montana to visit her daughter and husband in Kalispell. She loved the Big Sky Country and had many adventures in Glacier Park, Flathead Lake and surrounding areas, including snowmobiling at 76 years old.

When she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Bill became her sole caretaker and they spent their days reliving their life together and listening to Guy Lombardo music. They were married 49 years before he died unexpectedly in 2002.

Ruth is survived by her daughter, Susan Jane and husband, Raymond Phillips, of Kalispell; son, John William and wife, Teresa Roberts, and granddaughter, Chelsea Renee Roberts, all of Garland, Texas; and many nieces and nephews, all very special in their own way.

A memorial service was held Dec. 16 in Sachse, Texas.

"Our Mother was so very patient and giving and she had such a gentle and kind spirit We miss her smile and the way she'd dance whenever she heard a tune she liked; and the way she always told us not to worry, that everything would work out, when we were troubled. We know Mother and Daddy are together again."

Peggy Jean Robins, 73

Peggy Jean Robins, 73, of Shelby, passed away Thursday, Sept. 4, 2003, due to natural causes at her daughter's home in Shelby.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, at the Whitted Funeral Chapel with burial to follow in the Mountain View Cemetery. Visitation is set for Monday, Sept. 8, from 1-9 p.m.

The family suggests memorials be given to the American Heart Association or to the Special Olympics.

Whitted Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Peggy was born in Eva, Ala., on Feb. 7, 1930, to William and Mamie (Stansell) Childers and was one of the family's seven children. They lived on the family farm until the death of her father. Her mother then remarried Robert Lemley. They moved to Wenatchee, Wash., where Peggy met and married Sewell Robins on Jan. 10, 1953.

In 1984, Peggy went to work for Dick Irvin, Inc., in Shelby as a bookkeeper while she and her husband managed the Williamson Park area, retiring in 1994. She then worked the night audit at the Comfort Inn



until 1998 when Sewell became ill and died in September of that year.

Peggy suffered with heart disease most of her later years and, after the death of Sewell, she suffered a stroke that left her unable to live alone. Peggy divided her time living with her two sons and her daughter.

Peggy enjoyed life, loved her God, and she loved her children and grandchildren very much. She was raised in the Baptist Church but became a member of the Church of Christ in 1953. Peggy loved to read (especially her Bible), cross-stitch and knit. She especially enjoyed her granddaughter, Bethany, these last few months when they would play Yahtzee and cards, watch movies or just laugh and talk together.

Survivors include her daughter, Sara, and husband, Mike Shepard, of Shelby; her sons, Dave Robins and Jim and wife, Joyce Robins, all of Washington; as well as her sister, Mell Williams of Tennessee; and brother, Monroe Childers of Alabama. Peggy also is survived by daughter-in-law Melodee Robins of Helena; and her five grandchildren, Krystal Robins of California, Jesse Robins of Spokane, Chris Shepard of Missoula, Rachel Shepard of Oak Harbor, Wash., and Bethany Shepard of Shelby.

Her parents, husband, and four brothers precede her in death.

Nita Zurnwalt Robbin, 91

In a peaceful departure from her long life, well-lived, Nita Zumwalt Robbin, 91, passed away at her Creston residence on June 24, 2003.

Nita was born May 23, 1912, to Minnie Estella St. John and James Luther Zumwalt in Chadwick, Mo. After a tragic fall and lengthy hospitalization, her father passed away when she was 17 months old. At the age of six in 1918, she and her mother traveled by rail from Union Station in Kansas City to Somers terminal, and friends in waiting at the Great Northern train-to-steamboat pier.

Minnie Zumwalt subsequently renewed her teaching certificate at Southwest Missouri Teachers College in Springfield and returned to Flathead Valley, where she and William Reimer united in marriage.

Upon graduation from the one-room Cayuse Prairie school, Nita attended Flathead County High School, boarding in town at times and braving poor roads and inclement weather on others, traveling by Model T with stepbrother William Reimer Jr., for whom she had great confidence as a driver and life-long admiration as a person. During high school she worked downtown in the afternoons, first as a bookkeeper at the Chevrolet dealership, and later at the Flathead Commercial, which in time became Buttrey's Department Store. Nita was an honor student, graduating in 1930. She continued her education at the University of Montana and held membership in Delta Gamma sorority.

On a chance visit to Robbin Brothers Clothing store on Main Street, she met Walter Robbin, whom she married in 1934, and with whom she raised a daughter and son. In 1939, while maintaining a cherry orchard near Yellow Bay, they purchased the Horn and Smith store in Bigfork and renamed it Robbin General Store. They soon purchased land at Holt and Creston where they ranched, pioneering the local breeding of Arabian horses and registered Hereford cattle.

A descendent of Andrew Zumwalt who came to Philadelphia aboard the ship, Virtuous Grace in 1737, Nita experienced an early fascination with her family heritage. This life-long interest culminated in a recently published 453-page documentation of

Zumwalt genealogy favored by libraries and scholars. As a member of the Crawford Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society, the accuracy of her research was respected by her colleagues and garnered the friendship of such relatives as Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt and editor Kenneth Zumwalt of the "Stars and Stripes."

Nita admired the rodeo skill of cousin Oral Zumwalt, who wrestled steers in record time before the Queen, and as she put it, "could step onto a horse as if to mount air."

She took great pride in her family's service to the nation, from the beginning of the American Revolution and settlement of the West, until the present. At one time she was a member of both the Daughters of the American Revolution and Colonial Dames, and a charter member of the Flathead Historical Society. With her passing her children have surrendered not only a mother, but their living encyclopedia. "And every animal great or small mourns with them, bearing witness to an absent friend."

Nita was preceded in death by her parents; husband Walter; half-sister, Gladys Zumwalt Smith of Springfield, Mo.; stepfather, William Reimer; stepbrothers, William and Ben Reimer; and step-sister, Alice Logan.

She is survived by daughter, Alexandra Robbin of Minneapolis; son, Rand and wife Linda of Creston; granddaughter, Marca Gibson and husband David of Helena; granddaughter, Tia Robbin and husband Daniel Wilson of Kalispell; great-grandsons, Gage and Holt Gibson; great-granddaughter, Liv Robbin Wilson; special stepcousin, Luella Reimer Smith of Homer, Alaska; and a number of nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly, including Kay Reimer Pope, Leona Logan Constenius and Irene Reimer Gentry, all providers of comfort during the past months.

In accordance with Nita's wish, no public service is planned. Rather, she preferred that her family gather privately, not to reflect upon their sorrow, or dreams unrealized and treasures denied, but upon comforts previously granted, moments commonly shared, and the majesty of Creation.

Elsie A. Stafford 'Annie Robinson,' 72

Elsie A. Stafford "Annie Robinson," 72, died Monday, Nov. 17, 2003, at Brendan House.

Memorial services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Gerald D. 'Jerry' Robinson, 74

Gerald D. "Jerry" Robinson, age 74, died on June 10, 2003, of cancer at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

At his request, no services are planned. Cremation and a private family gathering will take place.

Preceding him in death were his father and mother, Lawrence and Ada Robinson; brother, Eugene; and stepchildren, Donald Fox and Anna Bessette.

Survivors include his wife, Lorraine Robinson of Columbia Falls; sister, Joan and husband,

John Jones of Waupaca, Wis.; stepsons, Richard Little of Oklahoma City, Okla.; Monte and Dianah Fox of Priest River, Idaho; stepdaughters, Gail and her husband, Ernest Burlison of Glendive, Cynthia and her husband, Colby Smith of Kalispell, and Margaret and her husband, Ronald Campbell of Columbia Falls; daughter-in-law, Dina Fox of Kalispell; 24 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Lila Robinson, 85

Lila Robinson, 85, passed away on Monday, July 7, 2003, at the Lake View Care Center in Bigfork following a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

She was born July 8, 1917, in Barboursville, Ky., to Pete and Martha (Taylor) Baker. Lila received her education at Knox Central High School in Barboursville.

She married George Kerr in 1946 and he passed away of cancer in 1951. Lila moved to Bigfork in 1951 and married Donald "Bud" Robinson on Sept. 16, 1953.

Lila was an active member of the Bigfork Rebekah Lodge for 30 years.

Lila was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Pete and Ed Baker; and one sister, Freda Osborn.

She is survived by her husband, Bud; six sisters, Hazel Jones of Denton, Texas, Lelia Stephens of Bigfork, Reva

Edwards of Avon Park, Fla., Betty Mendro of Las Vegas, Kate McKinney of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Sue Parker of Yucca Valley, Calif.; and her niece, Donna Lawson of Bigfork, along with other nieces and nephews. Lila will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Funeral services for Lila will be at 10 a.m. Friday, July 11, at the Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Pastor Ron Pierce officiating. Burial will follow at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, July 10, at the Johnson Mortuary Chapel.

Memorials may be made to the Bigfork QRU, 810 Grand Ave., Bigfork, MT 59911; or the American Parkinson's Disease Association, c/o University of Washington, P.O. 356456, Seattle, WA, 98195.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Richard C. 'Dick' Robinson, 80

Richard C. "Dick" Robinson, 80, of Helena "went to be with his Lord and Savior" on April 26, 2003, after a long battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his loving family who helped him through his journey.



Dick was born on Oct. 24, 1922, to Irene and Arthur Robinson on the family farm in the Helena valley. The youngest of five brothers and one sister, he learned to hunt and fish outside his back door, which became a lifelong ambition.

After graduation from high school during World War II he joined the Army Air Corp and became an aircraft electrician for the 505th Fighter Squadron. He spent over 20 months in England repairing fighter aircraft as they returned from their missions in Europe. He witnessed the D-Day invasion of France and was honorably discharged as a sergeant on Oct. 24, 1945.

Upon return to Montana, Dick was introduced to the love of his life, Dorothy Ann Pieper, and they were soon married on Feb. 2, 1946. They just recently celebrated 57 years together.

After his return from the service he pursued a career in aviation and moved the family to Spokane and went to work for the Boeing Company. The love for Montana was too great and he returned to Helena. He went to work for the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier and retired with

over 30 years of service. "When dad retired, his goal was to be retired for as long as he had worked and this past summer he reached that goal."

His greatest times were spent working in his garden or fly-fishing for trout. He was a master at catching the most fish. He loved to hunt and spend time with family at his cabin near Lincoln. The camp fires and hunting stories were his most precious times. He was the fatherly figure for so many — he will be truly missed.

After retirement, he took up the sport of golf which he loved dearly. All the wonderful people he met and golfed with were always in his heart. He was so proud when he could win a few skins. He was a lifelong bowler, and for the past 25 years bowled on the City Classic league at Capital City Bowl.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, of Helena; sons, Doug and wife, Jeannie, of Billings, Ron and wife, Carole, of Salt Lake City, and Kent and wife, Rosie, of Helena; daughter, Karen and husband, John Kropp, of Columbia Falls; and his grandchildren, Jason, Brandie, Casey, Alisa, Linsey, Brian, Jeremy, Kevin, and Ryan.

A viewing will be today from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hagler Anderson Funeral home. Services will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday and interment will be at the Veterans Cemetery at Fort Harrison. A celebration of life will follow immediately after graveside services at the Fort Harrison Service Club.

Memorials are suggested to the Veterans Cemetery at Fort Harrison.

Erma Mary Rocksund, 77

Erma Mary Rocksund, 77, died on April 30, 2003.

She is survived by her five children, Erik Rocksund, Jillene Sigler and Carrie Stringer, all of Columbia Falls, Chris Rupp of Auburn, Wash., and Nor-

man Rocksund of Orcas Island, Wash.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at Austin Funeral Home, 6200 U.S. 93 S., Whitefish, with a reception to follow.

Anna Louise Roedel, 84

Anna Louise Roedel, 84, a long time resident of Kalispell, died Monday, Aug. 18, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell, where she had lived for the past five years.



She was born Nov. 19, 1918, at Fort Benton, to Russell and Fredrica (Jacobi) Case.

On Nov. 19, 1935, her 17th birthday, she married Bernhard "Ben" Johannes Roedel of Raynesford. Anna lived in many Montana towns before settling in Kalispell in the mid '60s. Anna was an active member at Trinity Lutheran Church until her convalescence in Brendan House in 1997.

Anna was preceded in death by her husband; her parents, three brothers, James, Robert and John

Case; two sisters, Ruth LaPier and Laura McClaren; and a granddaughter, Cheryl Berger.

She is survived by two sons, Donald William Roedel of Belgrade, and Theodore Francis Roedel of Squaw Lake, Minn.; one daughter, Donna Darlene Berger of Pasco, Wash.; two brothers, Warren Case of Kalispell and Joseph Case of Canada; two sisters, Doris Riege and Nina Brown, both of Canada; 11 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Anna Louise Roedel will be held 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 22, at Trinity Lutheran Church with Pastor Darold Reiner officiating. Visitation will be at Johnson Mortuary Chapel from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 21. Burial will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Angela Guzman-Rogers, 25

Angela Guzman-Rogers, 25, died as a result of an automobile accident on Monday, Oct. 13, 2003, in Kalispell.

She was born on June 8, 1978, in Ridgecrest, Calif., to Kenny and Connie Guzman. Angela graduated from Lazer School in Kalispell.

She married Christian Rogers on June 5, 1993, here in Kalispell. Angela loved to laugh, snow board, and listen to a variety of music and dancing. She was a bright and fun-loving person as well as a whirlwind of joyful personality. Angela was one to liven up any occasion she attended. She enjoyed motherhood to her three beautiful children.

Angela is survived by her husband, Christian Rogers; two sons,



Dyan and Dillan Rogers; one daughter, Daysha Rogers; her father, Kenny Guzman and her mother, Connie Guzman; one brother, Kenny Guzman; one sister, Niki Hammond and her husband, Billy; and a special nephew and niece, Jack and Kimberly Hammond, all of Kalispell. She is also survived by many aunts and uncles and countless friends of whom she dearly loved and whom she loved her back.

Memorial services for Angela Guzman-Rogers will be held 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17, at the Glacier Mountain Fellowship, 4043 U.S. 93 South, Kalispell, with Pastor Noe Gomez officiating.

The family suggests that memorials be made for the Guzman-Rogers Children Memorial Fund, Three Rivers Bank of Montana, P.O. Box 7250, Kalispell, MT 59904-0250.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Esther Elizabeth Rogers, 86

Esther Elizabeth Rogers, 86, beloved wife and mother, passed away on March 18, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

Esther was born Nov. 19, 1916, on a homestead in Devon, Mont., to James and Margaret Clark. They lived in several places in Montana and Wyoming before moving to the Mission Valley.

Esther and Orville Rogers were married April 7, 1937, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalispell. They moved to Charlo and ran a dairy farm for 30 years. They raised five sons and a daughter. Later, they moved to Swan Lake and, with three of their sons, operated Rogers' Guest Ranch. In 1979 they retired to Kalispell.



Esther's faith was very important in her life. She was also a talented painter and enthusiastic gardener. She was active in many church and community groups.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Frances; and her daughter, Kathy.

Esther is survived by her husband of 65 years, Orville of Kalispell; her five sons, Ken of Bigfork, Tom and Bob of Kalispell, Dan of Woodinville, Wash., and Joe of Alta Loma, Calif.; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 3 to 7 p.m. today at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with a vigil service to follow at 7 p.m. Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalispell with burial to follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Hector Earl 'Peck' Rodgers, 80

Hector Earl "Peck" Rodgers passed away Saturday, July 12, 2003, at his home in Columbus. He was born on Aug. 26, 1922, in Seattle, the son of Maggie Abel and Charles J. Rodgers.



He attended grade school and high school in Billings and attended the University of Montana-Missoula before World War II. He graduated from Montana State College of Bozeman in 1950 with a degree in animal science.

He served four years in the Army Air Corps, two of those years in the Southwest Pacific. During his service career he received the Presidential Unit Citation with four oak leaf clusters, his silver wings, Philippine Defense Ribbon, Southwest Pacific Ribbon with four battle stars and Purple Heart.

After graduation from college he worked for the United States Department of Agriculture for five years. He spent the balance of his working years with the Yellowstone Bank of Columbus, retiring in 1983 as senior vice president. For many years he owned the 7/7 Ranch Co., located in the Bull Mountains north of Pompey's Pillar. The ranch was sold in 1992.

Peck married Violet Pfaff in 1943. She preceded him in death on July 30, 1988. He was also preceded in death by his parents, and three sisters.

He helped organize Little Guy football in Columbus and coached for 10 years. He announced local football games for over 30 years and served as secretary for the Stillwater County Republican Central Committee for several years. He was instrumental in getting a private nursing home in Columbus. He served as chairman of the Montana Bankers Association Agricultural Credit Conference in 1967 and 1968.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing golf and working in his garden.

He is survived by four daughters, Lynn and husband Larry Redfield of Kalispell, Pam and husband Rick Hulbert of Helena, Pat and husband Bob Castleberry of Laurel, and Cindy and husband Grant Larsen of Forsyth. He is also survived by three grandchildren, Stewart and wife Shannon Redfield, Stacey Castleberry and Rodger Hulbert; and two sisters, Roberta Reichenberg and Polly Kirkness, both of Billings.

Graveside services with military honors will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Mountainview Cemetery in Columbus. Smith Funeral Chapel-Columbus is in charge of arrangements. There will be no visitation.

Ruth Pearl Cook Rogge, 69

Ruth Pearl Cook Rogge, 69, died Thursday, Oct. 2, 2003, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital in Libby from natural causes.

Survivors include her husband, Cecil H. Rogge of Troy; sons, Roger E. Sagen of Medical Lake, Wash., Rodney D. Sagen of Anchorage, Alaska, and Gary A.

Sagen of Anaconda; and daughters, Carolyn Smith and Clissie Rogers, both of Troy.

Services will be at 1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Kootenai Senior Citizens Center.

Arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

Elsie E. (Altenburg) Rohrer, 72

Elsie E. (Altenburg) Rohrer of Puyallup, Wash., passed away at home on Tuesday evening Aug. 5, 2003, after extended illnesses.

Elsie was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church Tacoma, Wash. Elsie was an active member in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League for many years, was active in many church activities and conducted a weekly home Bible Study for 19 years. She was primarily a dedicated homemaker, however, before retiring she worked in the retail trade.

She was born in Kalispell on Nov. 15, 1930, a daughter of the late



Fred and Anna (Ottmers) Altenburg. Both parents, a brother, Arthur; and one grandchild preceded her in death.

Surviving are her husband, Ray, to whom she was married for 52 years; children, Kenneth Rohrer of Vancouver, Wash., Dann Rohrer of Libby, Janice Mauk of Puyallup, Wash., and foster daughter, Darlene Haslage of Kalispell; 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Interment will be at Woodbine Cemetery following a 1:30 p.m. service at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 4519 112th Street East Tacoma, Wash.

Memorial donations may be made to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Tacoma, Trinity Lutheran in Kalispell, or to the National Kidney Foundation.

Donald L. Romo, 52

Donald L. Romo, 52, of Lewistown, died Sunday evening April 13, 2003, at his home of cancer. He was born Dec. 20, 1950, to Mildred and Francis Romo in Wallace, Idaho. The family moved to Lewistown in 1955, where he attended school. Upon graduating from Fergus High School in 1969, Don attended the University of Montana, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in accounting in 1973.

Don began his career as a certified public accountant in Kalispell and returned to Lewistown in 1976. He was recently self-employed at Romo and Simonfy, formerly Berres and Romo. He was well-known for his strong work ethic, attention to detail, and commitment to providing sound financial advice.

Don was dedicated to ensuring quality health care for the community. He was a founding member of the Central Montana Foundation. He recently served as the Central Montana Foundation board financial advisor and was a member of the Medical Center Foundation

advisory board. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, the American Institute of CPAs, the Montana Association of CPA Firms, Rotary Club, Eagles Lodge and the American Legion Club.

He is survived by one sister, Linda Andrews, and her husband, Wayne of Lewistown; one brother, Kenneth, and his wife, Marie of Townsend; nephew Shane Romo and his wife, Teresa, of Townsend; nieces Shauna Rademaker and husband Dave of Billings, Tina Cox and her husband Christopher of Forest Grove, Brenda Andrews of Billings, and Jodi Hanson and husband Nels of Fort Knox, Ky.; great-nieces and nephew Mariah, Caleb and Shanrea; and a special friend, Candy Turner.

He was preceded in death by his father in 1997 and his mother in 2002.

Friends may make memorials to the Central Montana Foundation, the United Methodist Church or the charity of their choice, and they may be left at the Cloyd Funeral Home in Lewistown.

Marie E. Roose, 81

Marie E. Roose, 81, of Eureka, died Thursday, April 17, 2003, at Mountain View Manor in Eureka.

She worked as a custodian at Lincoln County High School before her retirement.

Survivors include two daughters, Carol Fuller and Bonita

Foster, and sons, Roy Roose and Bill Roose, all of Eureka.

Services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday at the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Carl Pershall officiating.

Arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

Betty Clare Rose, 82

Betty Clare Rose, 82, passed away on Saturday, May 3, 2003, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

She was born in Kalispell on Oct. 2, 1920, to

Oscar and Bernice (Brown) Peterson. As a child, Betty grew up in Pleasant Valley, moving to Kalispell and then to Charlo, where the family farmed and ranched.

After moving back to Kalispell, Betty met and married Bob Rose on Oct. 17, 1942. The couple settled down in Kalispell, where Betty enjoyed raising her four children and watching birds. She was a member of the National Audubon Society. She was a talented artist and leaves wonderful memories of her paintings that her children and grandchildren now enjoy in their homes.

After Bob retired from Bitney's Furniture, they moved to their daughter's farm in the Fair-Mont-Egan area. A sweet gentle soul, who found great pleasure in her family, Betty enjoyed life and all of God's creatures. While living in the Fair-Mont-Egan area she was



active in the homemakers club and Bible study.

After Bob died in 1987, Betty enjoyed traveling and bird watching with her friends, Vi Moller and Jean Robocker. Betty was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church, where she taught Sunday School and served as a deacon.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Bob Rose, and her four brothers, Rod, Don, Woody, and John Edwin Peterson.

She is survived by two daughters, Terry Siderius and husband, Tom, and Valerie Sollars and husband, Jack; two sons, Alan Reynolds and wife, Linda, and Bob Rose and wife, Clare, all of Kalispell; 13 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. She was also expecting another great-grandchild in the near future.

The family wishes to extend their thanks to the staff of the Bratsburg Wing at Immanuel Lutheran for their loving care over the past seven years.

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. on Friday at First Presbyterian Church.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Frances A. 'Rosie' Rosenquist, 93

Frances A. "Rosie" Rosenquist, 93, a longtime Libby resident and businesswoman, died Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2003, at St. John Lutheran Hospital.

She is survived by three sons, John Rosenquist and Don Rosenquist, both of Libby,

and Eugene Rosenquist of Kasilof, Alaska.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 3, at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow in the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Robert 'R.J.' Rosini, 61

Robert 'R.J.' Rosini, 61, formerly of Kalispell, died on Feb. 1, 2003, in Vancouver, Wash., due to complications from diabetes. He was living in Bozeman at the time.

He is survived by a daughter, Dominique Harmon, and a

son, James Rosini, both of Colorado.

Services will be on Friday at the Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Denver. A memorial run will be on May 24, starting at the Lawshe family ranch, northwest of Kalispell.

Donna Louise Williams-Ross, 44

Donna Louise Williams-Ross, 44, died at her Kalispell residence on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2003.

Services are pending at this time. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Marria Stephanie Seys Ross

Marria Stephanie Seys Ross "was gathered up in the arms of her Lord and Savior" on April 17, 2003, in Missoula.

She was born Oct. 18, 1953, in Great Falls, to Stephen Clement and Emily Farmer Seys. She lived her entire life in Montana. Marria graduated from Flathead High School in 1971 and went on to attend Whitworth College and graduated from Dordt College in 1975.

On July 12, 1973, she married her high school sweetheart, Bob Ross, in Kalispell. To this union were born four children, Paul, AnneMare, Matthew and Ian. She lived her entire life in Kalispell, until two years ago when she went to live at Hillside Manor in Missoula.

She was a devoted wife and mother, a delightful hostess and

beautiful Christian lady. She was a member of Faith Covenant Church. She loved children and worked with MOMS for a number of years, also at the Pregnancy Support Center and attended a number of Bible studies, including Bible Study Fellowship.

She is survived by Bob of Austin, Texas; sons, Paul and wife, Amy, of Sioux Center, Iowa, Matthew of Hanford, Calif., and Ian of Kalispell; a daughter, AnneMare Poynter and husband, Sean, of Hanford; two sisters, Becky Krause and Cindy Renoir of Butte; her mother-in-law, Mom Ross of Kalispell; and a number of other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her father-in-law, Dad Ross.

A celebration of her life will be held this summer.

Edna Margaret Rothert, 92

Edna Margaret Rothert, 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.

Dennis Wayne Roubinek, 62

Dennis Wayne Roubinek, 62, passed away on Sunday, March 9, 2003, at his home in Whitefish.

Dennis was born on Jan. 26, 1941, in Pine City, Minn., to George and Elsie Hawkins Roubinek. He moved to California when he was 8 years old, where he attended school, graduating from Mission Valley High School. Dennis attended San Diego State University.

Dennis worked for several years as a real estate appraiser. He had served for several years in the Army Reserves.

He married Shari Green on Dec. 31, 1992, in Kalispell.

He loved hunting, fishing and camping.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Shari, of Whitefish; three children, Eric Roubinek with the Marine Corps in Kuwait, Eileen Rodriguez of Orlando, Fla., and Edward Roubinek of Boston; four siblings, Bill Roubinek, Sharon McHenry and Sandra Sue Davis, all of San Diego, Calif., and Craig Roubinek of Riverside, Calif.; three granddaughters and one grandson.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Buffalo Hill Funeral Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, send memorials to the American Cancer Society.

Florence Roush, 84

Florence Roush, 84, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2003, at the Brendan House in Kalispell. She was born Aug. 20, 1919, in Kalispell to Alex and Josephine (Stark) Johnson.



She was a lifelong resident of Kalispell, receiving her early education here and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1939. Her father worked in the timber industry.

She married Mike Churmage in October of 1940. He passed away and she married Gordon Roush in May of 1965.

She had a career in banking, working for Conrad National Bank. She was a Girl Scout leader for seven years, and also a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church; the Veterans of Foreign Wars Women's group, the March of Dimes and the Girl Scouts of America.

She was preceded in death by her parents; both husbands; and two sisters; Esther Johnson and Alice Godfrey.

She is now survived by a daughter, Michele Digiambattista and husband, David, of San Diego; one son, Michael Churmage, and wife Valorie of Kalispell; five grandchildren, Allison Needham, John Needham and wife, Sara, all of San Diego, and Shaleigh, Sharey

and Stasha Churmage of Kalispell; two great-granddaughters, Katie and Nichole Needham; and brother-in-law, Horace Godfrey of Mesa, Ariz.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday Nov. 28, at Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Pastor Larry Stapler of Bethlehem Lutheran Church officiating. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday morning from 8 a.m. to time of service.

The family suggests memorials be given to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 603 S. Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary & Crematory.

Frances 'Babe' Rowe, 90

Frances "Babe" Rowe, 90, passed away on Saturday, March 29, 2003, at the Heritage Place in Kalispell. She was born July 22, 1912, in Girard, to John Conrad and Frances Lampe Daniels.

Babe grew up in the Girard community and attended school through the eighth grade. She married Lyle Rowe on March 18, 1933. They remained married for 69 years until his death in January 2002. The couple moved to the Flathead Valley and Kalispell in 1946, where Babe was employed by Jordan Cafe for several years. She loved flowers and working in her garden. She also enjoyed having

her grandchildren around.

Babe was preceded in death by her husband, parents, three sisters, two brothers and one grandson.

She is survived by two sons, Jay Rowe of Columbia Falls, and John Rowe of Kalispell; one daughter, Marge Spilis and husband Chuck of Crystal Lake; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

A private family service is planned for a later date.

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

Viona Evelyn 'Vi' Rowe, 85

Viona Evelyn "Vi" Rowe, 85, died Wednesday, March 12, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

Funeral services will be

held at 2 p.m. on Monday at the Johnson Mortuary Chapel. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Dorothy 'Dottie' Joyce Rowles, 74

Dorothy "Dottie" Joyce Rowles, 74, "slipped away" on Oct. 15, 2003, surrounded by her family.

She was born Jan. 24, 1929 in Radersburg, and was one of seven children born to George and Jennie Ethel (Bottler) Hough. As a child, she attended a two-room schoolhouse in Radersburg and later attended school in the Townsend school district.

As a young woman working at the Mint Cafe in Townsend, she met her husband-to-be, Harold Blair Rowles. Dottie and Harold were married in Townsend, on Aug. 1, 1948, where they lived until shortly after the birth of their first daughter, Sheri. They then moved to Harold's hometown of Livingston, where Carla, Kathy and Laurie were born.

Harold worked at the Trail Rite Inn, which he eventually owned. He preceded Dorothy in death on Nov. 11, 1969, leaving her with the joy and work of raising the four girls on her own. The love Dottie and Harold shared gave her strength in the busy years to follow.

Dorothy began her working career at Big Bob's Restaurant and later worked at Martin's Cafe, where she developed many friendships that brought her happiness through the years. In the early 1990s, Dottie retired and moved to Whitefish, where she became an avid supporter at her grandchildren's sporting events.

Dottie was an accomplished



seamstress, spending many nights sewing those special dresses for the girls. She was an excellent cook and found pleasure in providing a safe and comfortable home for her family.

Dottie enjoyed her independence and was an avid "do-it-yourselfer." She did everything from fixing a leaky faucet to sewing a prom dress. She could comfort a baby's colic or carry a trunk up a flight of stairs. Dorothy set an example for her daughters of strength, tenderness and courage.

She found her greatest happiness caring for her family and gave of herself unselfishly to those she loved. Her absence will be felt in their lives, but they will honor her memory through the care and comfort they give each other.

She is survived by her daughters and their husbands, Sheri and Mitch Williams of Spokane, Kathy and Mike Phillips of Bozeman, Carla and Steve Bruce of Whitefish, Laurie Rowles of Livingston; sister, Faye Raymond of Missoula; grandchildren, Michael Williams, Christopher Williams, Jamie Bruce, Andrew Bruce, Jessy Rowles; and great-grandchildren, Trenton Williams, Alexis Williams, Drew Williams, and Meadow Williams.

Cremation has taken place in Kalispell and memorial services will be held at the new Livingston Christian Center, West Park Street in Livingston, 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hope Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Florence M. Ruff, 95

Florence M. Ruff, 95, passed away on Jan. 4, 2003, at the Brendan House in Kalispell.

As was her wish, she passed away peacefully, with her children and family at her side. She was born March 31, 1907, in Kendall, Mont., to Lester D. and Daisey B. (Hoover) Forester.

Florence received her early education in Kendall and Lewistown, where her father and mother operated a boarding house and barber-shop for the miners of the Kendall Gold Mines. Florence was the third child born in a family of 10.

Florence married Jay Butler in Lewistown on March 16, 1927, where they farmed and ranched until moving to Kalispell in 1935. Jay passed away on Feb. 22, 1939. Florence then married Camille "Kitty" Brunett in Kalispell on July 3, 1940; where they lived until his death in 1965. Florence then married Walter Ruff of Somers on July 14, 1972, where they farmed until his death on Aug. 6, 1998. She then moved into Kalispell, where she lived until her death.

Florence was always so proud of her wonderful flower and vegetable gardens. When anyone visited the farm, they knew they were going to get fresh produce and flowers to take home. She was a member of the Eagles' Ladies Auxiliary. Friday and Saturday nights would find her and her favorite dance partner, Walter, out on the dance floor until the wee hours.

Holiday and weekend visits to Florence's home would mean wonderful home-cooked meals and apple pies that melted in your mouth. "We all will remember and treasure the handmade Christmas bells and snowflakes that adorned our packages under the Christmas tree."

Florence was truly a survivor of life's many problems. Her always-

positive approach to all situations provided her answers. However, above all, she was a mother. Her strong inner strength was enforced by her everlasting love and unselfish devotion to her family. This love is now forever embedded in each member of the family.

"May God bless this gracious lady — our mother."

Florence was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Jay John Butler; seven brothers; and two sisters.

She is survived by two daughters, Delores Moeller of Tucson, Ariz., and Ila and Glen Moore of Helena; two sons, Gerry and Ellie Brunett of Kalispell, and Jim and Marsha Brunett of Bozeman; 14 grandchildren, Doug Moeller of Missoula, Deanna Pressey of Tucson, Rod Moore of Portland, Rick Moore of Twin Falls, Idaho, Kathy Smith and Kris Schmitz of Helena, Lauri Lugo and Chris Brunett of Bentonville, Ark., Ginger Brunett of Kalispell, Terry Paras, Maria Brunett and Cindy Griffin of Oxnard, Calif., Vicky Orozco of Port Hueneme, Calif., and Jim Brunett of Camarillo, Calif.; 38 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Johnson Mortuary with Pastor Paul Arends of the Riverside Vineyard Church officiating. Burial will follow at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today at Johnson Mortuary. The family suggests memorial gifts be given to Home Options/Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Ste. 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Terrie Ellen (Lillevig) Rundle, 48

Terrie Ellen (Lillevig) Rundle, 48, of Bigfork, died April 14, 2003, at home, of ovarian cancer.

She was born Feb. 5, 1955, in Detroit, and grew up in Cincinnati. At the time of her graduation from high school she entered the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, with her primary instrument being the organ, with piano as secondary.

After her first year at the Conservatory she decided to take a hiatus from music study and to travel around the country (by herself) for two years. After this she returned to Ohio where she finished up with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from the University of Miami.

For a time after graduation from college she taught at private schools in Ohio. She was then recruited by a friend to come out to San Francisco and to work as a secretary for an up-and-coming retail computer company called Businessland (the pay was much better). Within a short period of time Terrie was promoted to the position of senior accounts manager for a store in Seattle.

Dale was working as a registered nurse at the University of Washington Medical Center at this time. Dale and Terrie, both avid folk and contra dancers, soon met at a dance at the Mountaineers Hall in Seattle. During a round dance, where everyone changes partners after every 32 measures, each man and woman makes a half turn to begin dancing with their new partner. This is how Terrie met Dale; just a half turn is what started the whole thing!

Terrie and Dale courted for 16 months and then were married on July 16, 1988. Terrie and Dale went to Glacier National Park for their honeymoon, traveling through Bigfork on the way and even spending one night there at the O'Duchain Country Inn. They then made their home in Seattle where all of their children were born. Abby was born on Dec. 4, 1989, Josie was born Aug. 5, 1993, and Avery was born Dec. 28, 1995.

In 1999, the wanderlust got a hold of Terrie again and the family was fortunate enough to be able to move to Bigfork. Dale took a job with the Blackfeet Service Unit of the Indian Health Service while Terrie began teaching part-time for the Bigfork schools as soon as her youngest child, Avery, entered kindergarten.



Terrie continued as an elementary and music school teacher for Bigfork schools. Though Terrie's time in the community and at the school has been short, her impact has been substantial. While here, she raised the money herself to purchase the instruments necessary to create a Creative Drumming Program. The public performances for her choirs were highly regarded and showed the flair, compassion, and commitment that Terrie was known for. It was these qualities which so endeared her to the community.

To her many students she was known affectionately as Mrs. "T". She often amused her students coming to class in various characters, such as Charlie Chaplin, Pierre, the famous film director from "Beegfork," and even once she appeared hilariously as Mr. "T" complete with Mohawk and bulging biceps.

Terrie loved life, she loved her children, she loved her husband, and she loved the children and adults of this community. Her life was much too short. Terrie was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in November 2002. The cancer quickly consumed her body but will never extinguish the bright light of her spirit. "Someday we will be together again, but until then we will love you, remember you, and we miss you with great sorrow."

Survivors include Dale E. Rundle, husband; Abigail Rundle, daughter; Josephine Rundle, daughter; and Avery Rundle, son, all of Bigfork. Also surviving are Dr. Joel Lillevig, brother, of Paducah, Ky.; Beth Lewis, sister, of Jacksonville, Fla.; James Lillevig, father, and Mary Ann Lillevig, mother, of Lexington, Ky.

A celebration service will be held at The Bigfork Playhouse, 526 Electric Avenue, in Bigfork. The service will be non-traditional and a non-somber occasion, as Terrie wanted. The time of the service will be at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6 (immediately after school so that her students may easily attend.) Anyone and everyone are invited to come.

Donations to benefit Terrie's children can be made to the Terrie Rundle Fund at the Bigfork branch of Flathead Bank, 800 Grand Avenue, Bigfork, MT 59911 or by calling (406) 837-4600.

Cleveland J. 'Cleve' Runyan, 82

Cleveland J. "Cleve" Runyan, 82, passed away Sunday, Jan. 26, 2003, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

His survivors include Doris Runyan of Kalispell, Jerry Runyan of Elk Mountain, Wyo., Barbara Runyan of Olympia, Wash., and

Charles Runyan of Libby; as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

It was Cleve's request that there be no funeral service.

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

Jerry Wayne Russell, 71

Jerry Wayne Russell, 71, of Great Falls, died of heart failure on June 8, 2003, in Great Falls.

He was born Aug. 18, 1931, in Altus, Okla. He was also raised in Altus. Jerry received a bachelor's degree in business from the College of Great Falls.

In 1958, he married Alice J. Collins in Langley, Va. She passed away in 1991.

Jerry had a distinguished career in the U.S. Army and Air Force. He joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard in 1948. He was later activated with the 45th Infantry Division and spent one year in combat during the Korean War. After he was discharged, he joined the Air Force and became a pilot. He served honorably for over 26 years, including several combat tours in Vietnam. He retired as an Air Force colonel in 1980. He was a member of Dadaelians.

In 1997, he married Dorothy Madigan in Laughlin, Nev.

Jerry was preceded in death by

his first wife, Alice J. Russell.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy J. Russell of Great Falls; daughter Susan L. McDonald and husband Bill of Salt Lake City; sons Brooks Russell of Salt Lake City, Joseph W. Russell and wife Renee of Kalispell, and Jeffrey W. Russell and wife Debbie of Austin, Texas; sisters Betty Box of Vernon, Texas, and Kay Talbot of Sacramento, Calif.; brothers John P. Russell of Escondido, Calif., Carl Russell of Brownsville, Texas, and Jim Russell of Yuma, Colo.; grandsons Jason, Tyler, Connor, Brandon and Austin Russell and Nathan McDonald; and granddaughter Kayla Russell.

Visitation will be from 9-11 a.m. today at Croxford & Sons Funeral Home in Great Falls. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. at Croxford's Rose Room. Burial will follow at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

A reception will follow burial at the Russell home at 1101 Adobe Drive in Great Falls.

Nina Alberta Hays Russell, 91

Nina Alberta Hays Russell, 91, died Sept. 6, 2003, hours away from celebrating her 92nd birthday.

She was born to Elizabeth Firse Hays and Angus Landers Hays on Sept. 7, 1911, in Greensboro, N.C. Her brother, Angus L. Hays Jr., and parents preceded her in death.

She was baptized at an early age in the Episcopalian Church in Washington, D.C. Her family moved to Chicago, where she attended the African Methodist Episcopal Church with her parents and accepted Christ as her savior. She always found a niche in a church wherever she resided, using her God-gifted talent in music.

Nina attended the public schools of Chicago, where she graduated from Hyde Park High School on the south side of Chicago. She was gifted in music, as were her mother and her grandmother, Nina. They made it possible for her to pursue music studies after high school, making music her life's vocation.

She played piano and organ from the east to the west and from the north to the south and outside the borders of the United States in supper clubs. Nina's career allowed her to perform with and for some of the greatest stars, such as Duke Ellington, Lena Horne, Glenn Miller, Nat King Cole, Cab Calloway, and many others.

Her father was a member of the U.S. Army 25th Infantry, often called the Buffalo Soldiers. She was extremely proud of this fact. For a short time, he was stationed at Fort Missoula and traveled to Lake McDonald and also to West Yellowstone. He often told Nina of the beautiful state of Montana. Because of his stories, Nina was curious and anxious to journey to Montana for herself. She and her husband, Bill Russell, a master sergeant in the U.S. Air Force whom she married in 1942, traveled to the Hungry Horse area to enjoy the fishing and beautiful scenery of Montana.

Following Bill's death in Los Angeles in 1971, she moved permanently to Hungry Horse. She treasured living in this area and was active in the community. Nina was the organist at the Coram Church for many years. She also entertained at many nightclubs throughout the valley and maintained a widespread following.

Nina moved to Philadelphia for a brief time and was lured back to the Flathead by a fellow musician and friend, Chuck Lee. She returned in 1991. Once again, she continued to work in local nightclubs and businesses, entertaining with her unique musical talents. Nina had a knack for rewording songs such as



"I'm a tired old bag" to the melody of "It's a Grand Ol' Flag." This always brought a smile to the audience. Nina continued to work as a musician until last fall. Her musical abilities were incredible — she played by memory until the end.

In March 2000, the Montana Arts Council honored Nina as a "Montana Living Legend." She truly was "Montana's Queen of Jazz."

She was a member of the Flathead Jazz Society, Musician Union Local 47 A.F. of M., and the Orange County Musicians' Association.

She leaves memories to her nephews; Leonard A. Hays (Vivian), Kenneth M. Hays (Jacqueline), and Christopher J. Hays (Cindy); niece-in-law, Beverly Hays-Hunt; grandnieces and grandnephews; cousin, Ruthetta Burch; sister-in-law, Mildred B. Hays; special friends, Bill, Teri, Angie, Lissy and Kristen Palmer, Bob and Sharon Betts, and Jim and Carolyn Mitchell; and all of her musician friends and fans.

In honor of Nina, memorial donations may be made to Camp Heebie Jeebies — a traditional jazz camp for young people that is produced by a non-profit corporation — 1705 East Second Street, Whitefish.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday at Johnson Mortuary and Crematory at 11 a.m., with the Rev. Dr. David Kauffman officiating. A reception will follow at Tiebucker's in Somers. Cremation has taken place.