

Philip Carl Clarke, 56

Phil "left this earth to farm where he doesn't need a brace or a cane and is no longer bottled up." Phil passed away April 20, 2006, after a three-and-a-half-year struggle with many health problems. Even after his major stroke in September of 2002 he continued to run his combine and his beloved 8400.



He was born Oct. 14, 1949, in Kalispell. He attended Deer Park School, Flathead High and the University of Montana.

Phil married Kandy Anderson Feb. 27, 1970, and they had three children. Phil and Kandy farmed together as a team for 35 years. Phil was instrumental in starting the Montana Mint Commission with Brian Schweitzer and Bruce Tutvedt.

Phil wanted to be a pilot and aced the written test but was happier sitting in a tractor than being in the air. He was a wealth of information to many farmers. He knew chemicals top to bottom. His fields were the cleanest of any, and he could drive the straightest lines.

The stories he could tell about

hunting, farming or his childhood antics kept everyone in stitches. He was the best storyteller ever. Even though the stroke took away his ability to talk very well, there was never a doubt about what he was feeling or thinking from his expressive face, especially his eyes.

Phil's love for his children and grandchildren was boundless. He was so proud of them — from Cory's accomplishments with his job to Keri's basketball life to Joshua's plant knowledge. He also dearly loved his three little grandsons.

They knew he was special and treated him as their own gift each time they saw him.

Phil will be missed by his wife, Kandy; children, Cory and Brenda, Keri and John, and Joshua; and his grandsons, Cameron, JP and Drew. He will also be missed by his mother, Hazel; sisters, Susan and Mary Ann; brothers, Ernie and Harold; in addition to many other family and friends.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, at Johnson Mortuary. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery on Middle Road.

After interment, a celebration of Phil's life will be held at his home.

James Noel Clayton, 76

James Noel "Jim" Clayton, 76, died April 5, 2006, after a short battle with cancer. He was born Aug. 13, 1929, in Roswell, N.M., to Teen and Clara Clayton. Teen Abner, Dorothy, Elizabeth, Leonard, Harvey and Mary Ann completed their family circle.



In 1950, he won over and married the love of his life, Donna Davis. Jim and Donna has seven children — Bob, Kellie, Jim, Stacey, Leslie, Jerri and Nickie. They, thus far, have added 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren to the family.

Jim loved the outdoors and had a natural ability with horses. They became an integral part of his life. From his youth until days before his death, he broke, rode rodeo, packed and guided, always enjoying his horses. Seeing and being with them always brought a smile to his face and a

spring to his step. Also, a summer never went by without some sort of garden or home projects.

When asked what he was most proud of in his life, Jim responded with two accomplishments. "I am most proud of learning and accepting the truth found in the Bible and my family." Jim had been baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in January 1963. "He spent the rest of his life making a good name with his Creator, Jehovah, and this brought him the utmost happiness."

Included in his love for God was his love for neighbor. Papa Jim, as many knew him, was ever ready to lend a helping hand, offer a sage bit of advice or just put his arm around you and say hello.

Papa Jim is sorely missed by all who loved him, but he leaves us with much to reminisce about, laugh about, and hope for.

The memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1414 Woodland Ave., in Kalispell.

Margaret (Kerr) Leishman Clawson, 103

Margaret (Kerr) Leishman Clawson, 103, of Great Falls, formerly of Charlo, died Dec. 1, 2006, at a Great Falls hospital of natural causes. Survivors include her daughters, LaVae Groesbeck of Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Ranae Rowley of Great Falls; and stepchildren.

Orilla Scott of Shelly, Idaho, George Clawson of Twin Falls, Rone Clawson of Firth, Idaho, Marion Cox of St. George, Utah, and Myrtle Alred of South Jordan, Utah. Services were held Jan. 4 in Roman and Jan. 5 in Wellsville, Utah.

James R. 'Jim' Clegg, 70

James R. "Jim" Clegg, 70, "passed on to the Lord" on May 9, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

He was the oldest of three boys born to Delbert and Alice Clegg of Portland. Jim was born in Medford, Ore., and he fished the ocean in California in his younger days.

He moved to Whitefish in 1972, opened the Snowbird Laundromat and Clegg Insurance Agency, and retired from the U.S. Postal Service as a rural route carrier.

Loving Montana, Jim always said, "We live where people come to vacation; it's the best."

He graduated from Portland State College in Oregon with a Bachelor of Science in history, playing football there as well.

He was a veteran of the Korean War.

Jim loved the outdoors, ocean and fly fishing, hunting and his hunting dog, Hobbes. He loved flowers and gardening and people. He would help anyone when he could.

Jim will be dearly missed.

He is survived locally by his wife, Nancy, of Bigfork. He is also survived by his son, Bob and wife, Laurie, and their son, Alex; son, Jeffrey; daughter, Carrie Achilles; brother, Terry Clegg; and his niece, Alana, and her husband, Ewan Campbell, all from Washington.

He was preceded in death by his brother, David Clegg.

Cremation has taken place. Services will be held at 10 a.m. May 27 at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church in Bigfork with a reception following.

Berma Clemons, 89

Berma Clemons, 89, of Libby died Monday, April 3, 2006, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital from natural causes.

Survivors include a daughter, Petra Williams, of Libby; and two sons, James "Louis"

Clemons of Denver, and John Clemons of Libby.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 8, at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday.

Michael C. Click, 58

Michael C. Click, 58, passed away of natural causes Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2006, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

Michael was a kind man who brought joy into the life of everyone who knew him. He was born in 1947 in Denver.

Whether his view was from the driver's seat of the ambulance he drove as a paramedic with sirens blaring; or over the handlebars of his motorcycle careening through the Colorado Rockies; or through the smoke of the early-morning

campfire as he cooked his famous campsite biscuit breakfast for his family, he was always having fun, always laughing.

He is survived by his daughter, Heidi; his son, "Thumper"; and his former wife, Kit. He will be missed by all who knew him.

"Farewell Dad, go with God. You will always be in our hearts."

No local services are planned. Arrangements are under the direction of the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish.

Lorraine 'Lany' Clothier, 71

Lorraine "Lany" Clothier, 71, passed away peacefully March 10, 2006, after a long and courageous battle with lung cancer. She will be remembered for her caring and giving spirit, a friend to all with a kind word or helping hand.



Lany was born Sept. 16, 1934 in Broadus to Oscar and Emma Caudill, the fourth of seven children. The family moved to Kalispell in 1944. Lany attended elementary school through high school in Kalispell.

She married Robert M. Lewis on March 31, 1952, in Seattle, where they lived before moving to Kalispell and then to Columbia Falls where they made their home and raised their family. Robert "Bob" was employed at the Anaconda Aluminum Co. until he passed away in 1972.

A homemaker, Lany enjoyed spending many hours with her husband and children, Bobbie, Dee Dee and Vickie, fishing and enjoying her flower garden, and she always was on the hunt for antiques. Her husband and family were her first priority. In her later years she started collecting "roosters," acquiring quite a collection — family and friends gave many to her. Her favorite times were spent with her children, their families, and especially the great-grandchildren.

Lany married Neil Clothier, who preceded her in death, and lived in Lakeside until 1989.

Lany is survived by Robert G.

Lewis and wife, Cleve, of Columbia Falls, Diana and husband, Vic Hanson, of Kalispell, and Vickie and husband, Gerald Keller, of Eureka; grandchildren, Christina Lewis, Justin Cork, Rochelle and Bud Hill, Victoria and Dale White; Liberty and Tony Pacella, Lynn and Tia Keller, Kaylee Keller, Molly Miller, Coralan Shields and Cory Shields; great-grandchildren, Alyssa, Garrett, Gage and Rainy White, Kionna, Taylor and Bryce Pacella, Talan Keller and Bridger Miller; and two special nephews, Jordan and Jake Baker; two brothers, Clarence Caudill and Tom and wife, Gloria Caudill, all of Kalispell; and sister, Helen and Jim Lancaster of Spokane; Don Clothier, her special friend and companion in her later years; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father; brother, Norman Caudill; brother, Gerald; sister-in-law, Pat Caudill; sister, Ellen Baker; brother-in-law, Jim Baker; sister-in-law, Lucile Caudill; Robert. M. Lewis, and Neil Clothier.

The family would like to extend a special thank-you to the staff at Kalispell Regional Hospital and the Brendan House for the special care given to Mom in her final days. Their caring and compassion made this difficult time easier for her and all who loved her.

There will be a memorial service at 1 p.m. Friday, March 17, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Chapel, with Pastor John Ulrich officiating. Cremation has taken place.

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

Katharine 'Kathy' Mary Cloud, 78

Katharine "Kathy" Mary Cloud, 78, passed away Jan. 21, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, surrounded by family and friends.



Kathy was born in Los Angeles on May 22, 1927, to William and Margaret Reed Lloyd. The family later moved to Illinois, where she graduated from New Trier Township High School in Winnetka in 1945.

After earning an education degree from the University of Montana in 1949, Kathy moved to Whitefish to begin teaching. It would be her home for the remainder of her life, except for work and a few brief stays in eastern Montana.

Kathy married John Cloud in 1952 and raised three children. She also taught in Whitefish and at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalispell.

Always independent and adventurous, Kathy took up skiing in college. In the days before ski lifts, she would hike into the mountains looking for powdered slopes. She also participated in one of the first women's downhill races at Big Mountain, and enjoyed cross-country skiing and snowshoeing as well.

Beginning in the late 1970s, Kathy spent 11 years teaching in bush Alaska, including nine years in Koyuk. Her enjoyment and enthusiasm for the rural schools might flag towards the end of the long winters, but it bloomed anew during the summers, which she spent back in Whitefish.

After retiring from teaching in Alaska, Kathy taught for a year in Torreón, Mexico. She also con-

tinued her adventures, traveling to Ireland, Iceland and Thailand, where she rode an elephant.

White-water rafting was another passion, and she never forgot the trip she took through the Grand Canyon. One of her last adventures was to go sky diving in Alaska at the age of 75.

More than anything, though, Kathy's legacy is the family and friends she loved so dearly. Their lasting memory will be of how giving and caring she was. Until she got sick herself, Kathy always thought of others first, spending countless hours helping friends and strangers alike.

Kathy was preceded in death by her brother, William Reed Lloyd, and her mother and father, Margaret and William Lloyd.

She is survived by her children, Jim Cloud and wife, Lee, of Anchorage, Alaska; David Cloud and wife, Melissa, of Homer, Alaska; and Joann Cloud of Salt Lake City; her sister, Margaret Spence, and husband, Jim, of Wenatchee, Wash.; granddaughters Jamie and Lacy Cloud; nieces and nephews, and a host of close friends.

A Christian wake service will be held for Kathy at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. Friends who would like to share memories and celebrate her life are welcome to attend.

A memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Whitefish, with lunch afterward. Father Roman will preside.

Donations can be sent to the St. Charles Church youth group or to the Home Health-Home Options Hospice at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Ruth E. (Winchester) Cobler, 64

Ruth E. (Winchester) Cobler, 64, passed away on Monday, Sept. 1, 2006, at her home following a lengthy illness. Ruth was born on April 28, 1942, in The Dalles, Ore., to Edwin and Esther Winchester.



She was preceded in death by her parents, and her sister, Esther.

Ruth is survived by her husband, LeRoy Cobler; three daughters, Lori L. Bartley and her husband Eric, Arleen R. Buffington and husband Tim, and Carolyn M. Moore and husband Lyle; one brother, Otis Winchester, and

his wife Dorothy; grandchildren, Jennifer Rose Horn, Ariel T. Gonder, David L. Cobler, Ruth Anne M. Hanson, Laramie M. Stevens, Patrick W. Stevens, Shaughn Carda, and numerous great-grandchildren.

Ruth was an artist, wife, mother, and grandmother and great-grandmother.

Special thanks to Home Options Hospice and her many friends and family.

Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday Sept. 7, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday Sept. 8, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home caring for the family.

Shyloh Elizabeth Cochran, 25

Shyloh was born Oct. 23, 1980, in Whitefish to Omar Dean Cochran and Karla Cochran McKellar. Shyloh grew up in Whitefish and graduated from Whitefish High School in the Class of '99. She went to college at Flathead Valley Community College and from there to Follys End School of Ministry in London; followed by two years at Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry in Redding, Calif. Shyloh traveled for the Lord to Ireland, Spain and Mexico, along with doing Christian mission work here at home in the United States.



Shyloh is survived by her mother and stepfather, Karla and Joe McKellar, of Whitefish; her brother, Jesse Cochran; sister-

in-law, Kathrine; and nephew, Ashly, all of Portland; "Grandpa Turk" Torkelson of Whitefish; grandmother, Nina "Dudder" Friddle, of Thomasville, Ala.; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who will truly miss her.

Shyloh was preceded in passing by her father, Omar Cochran; grandmother, Lorraine Torkelson; and grandfather, Rev. Omar "Pap" Friddle.

"Shyloh had a life's passion for dance, music and art to which she dedicated to her beloved Lord Jesus." Shyloh "went home to be with Him" April 6, 2006, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Services for Shyloh will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 13, at Christian Life Fellowship in Whitefish, with Pastor Brad Brittsan officiating. Interment will be at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, with a luncheon celebration afterward at Christian Life Fellowship.

Lucy M. Cochrane, 88

Lucy M. Cochrane was born in Detroit, Mich., on Sept. 6, 1917 to Floyd and Flora Fox. Her father moved the family to the Kila area while Lucy was still a young child. Lucy's father was a logger when she attended grade school in Kila, then he farmed at Lone Pine and she attended grade school there. She graduated from Lone Pine High School and completed secretarial school in Great Falls.

She married John C. Cochrane May 22, 1937. As a young couple they moved to Missoula where Johnny worked for Montana Power and Lucy worked as a secretary at QTEE radio and hosted her own radio program. She and friend, Florence Smith, created the Missoula Crippled Children's Auxiliary — raising funds to buy wheelchairs and equipment for crippled children. She knitted for many years and every member of the family and many friends had one of her personalized sweaters.

Lucy loved to hunt, fish and camp with her husband and son, John F. "Jack". She and Johnny traveled to Alaska, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and Hawaii. They square danced and represented Montana in national competition at Steamboat Springs, Colo. They also served in Flat-



head Lakers and were founding members of MOD, (Montanans Opposed to Discrimination). They retired in Big Arm where they loved the lake, moving to Kalispell in 1995.

Lucy had been a resident of Immanuel Lutheran Home since January 2000. Husband, John C., passed away April 4, 2000.

She is survived by her son, Jack, daughter-in-law Alice, grandson, John W., granddaughter, Cathy and husband, Terry Dow, great-grandchildren, Alicia and Alex Dow, twin sisters, Lila Sheldon and Lula King, all of Kalispell. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends will remember Lucy as a strong, determined lady with very high principles. When Lucy made the choice to become a Christian she became a "child of God." Because of that decision, on Aug. 31, 2006, she "graduated from life on earth to her eternal home in Heaven."

At Lucy's request, cremation has taken place. A memorial celebration of Lucy's life is scheduled for 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Nazarene church, 1295 Whitefish Stage in Kalispell.

The family suggests memorials be made instead of flowers. Memorials to Kalispell ALERT, c/o Northwest Health Care Foundation, 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901 or Shriners Hospital for Children, 911 W. Fifth Ave., Spokane, WA 92204-2901, would be appreciated.

Mona Bryan Coffman died Thursday, Oct. 26, 2006, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital in Libby. She was born March 16, 1924, in Watsonville, Calif., to Ellis and Ethel Birdsall Bryan, the youngest of eight children and the only daughter.



Mona Bryan Coffman, 82

She was on the school board, was an important member of the PTA, was a swimming instructor and managed the local Red Cross swim program. She was an active member of the Coulee Dam Community Church and helped remodel the church.

Mona moved to Spokane, where she worked as a steel cutter in a heavy industrial manufacturing plant. She also was a professional cabinet maker and an accomplished stonemason.

On May 1, 1979, Mona and Ben Case were married and lived in Waterville, Wash. Within a few years they moved to Troy, where they attended Holy Trinity Church. Mona served as treasurer and she was a member of the Altar Guild.

Mona and Lester Sherman Coffman were married Feb. 18, 1995, in Troy. For the past 10 years, she was a faithful member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and attended Holy Trinity Church. She was also active in the local library's Literacy Program and took great pleasure in teaching adults to read.

She is survived by her husband, Lester Sherman Coffman; her daughter, Beverly Bryan Wallace; her son Ronald Bryan Borovec and daughter-in-law, Rochelle Anne Goldberg; her son Robert Bryan Borovec and daughter-in-law, Kathryn Marie Callahan.

The dictionary says an obituary is a notice of a person's death or a recording of that person's death. This is an obituary of Mona Bryan Coffman and how she lived her life — a life of kindness toward others, a generosity of spirit, and a natural goodness that every day extended love, compassion and acceptance to everyone and all of God's creatures. She will be greatly missed and often remembered, not just by her family but all who crossed her path.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 109 W. Poplar, Libby, MT 59923.

Memorial donations in Mona's name may be made to St. Luke's.

Helen S. Collins, 97

Helen S. Collins, 97, died Friday, June 23, 2006, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell. She was born June 14, 1909, in Saltese to Herman J. and Sadie Ellen (Shelley) Seidemann.



Helen was the eldest of four children. She attended grade schools in Saltese, Helena and Montague, Calif. She graduated from Intermountain High School in Helena and from Western Montana College in Dillon, where she earned her teaching credentials. Helen also later attended Northern Montana College in Havre and the University of Montana.

While she was in high school, princesses from all Montana counties were chosen to attend a reception in Helena honoring Charles Lindberg after his historic Atlantic crossing. Helen was the princess from Mineral County. Her first train ride was in a coal car during the 1910 forest fire when all women and children were evacuated to Missoula, and the men remained in Saltese to protect their homes.

Helen was married to Harold C. Collins in 1930. Harold's father was one of the five founding directors of the State Bank of Somers. His mother, from Stillwater, Minn., had been the nanny for the John O'Brien family when they came to Somers to start the big saw and tie mill. They had two children, ClaraEllen and Clifford, and lived in Somers on the land that now is occupied by the Mackinaw Grille and the Vista Linda Restaurants.

In 1945, the family lived for one year in Roundup. They moved to Kalispell in 1946 and remained there until the present.

Helen and Harold celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 1980. Harold passed away April 10, 1981.

In addition to teaching school in Somers and Roundup, Helen taught for 26 years at Edgerton School in the East North of Kalispell, retiring in 1972.

Loving to travel, Helen and Harold had wonderful trips including

going to the Mardi Gras in New Orleans and a most memorable six-week trip to Nova Scotia and Key West, Fla., with her sister, Luise, and her husband, Joe Vranish, and Joe's brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Stella Vranish.

For many years she was active in the Kalispell Music Club and at church, where she taught Sunday school and sang in the choir. Helen and Harold were longtime members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

One of Helen's favorite hobbies was quilting. She once won the Northwest Montana Fair's "Best of Show" award for her "Storm at Sea" quilt.

Of special meaning to Helen was that she was a cousin of former Gov. Sam C. Ford, whom she and her family visited on numerous occasions from 1940 to 1948 at the old governor's mansion in Helena.

Helen continued to live in the family home until July 1996, when a broken hip resulted in her move to Buffalo Hill Terrace. In November 2001, at age 92, she moved into Immanuel Lutheran Home, where she resided until her passing.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Harold; her parents; her brother, Hugo; her sister, Luise; and her son-in-law, Jerry Anderson.

She is survived by her daughter, ClaraEllen Anderson, and a son, Cliff Collins, and wife, Lynda, all of Kalispell; three granddaughters, Jeri-Ellen and Sue Ellyn Anderson of Kalispell, and Shelley Collins of Cleveland, Miss.; one brother, Herman J. Seidemann, of Phoenix; and many special nieces and nephews, including Marka Marquessen of Columbia Falls, who frequently visited her.

Memorial services for Helen S. Collins will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, with Pastor Peter Ramseth and Pastor Larry Stappler officiating. Burial will be at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Helen's family.

Sally Cole, 64

Sally Cole passed away at her home Saturday evening, May 20, 2006, surrounded by her family.

She was born Feb. 10, 1942, in Minneapolis. She grew up in Havre, attending St. Jude's and Havre Central High School. She married Thomas Cole in Havre on Jan. 14, 1961, became a homemaker and lived in Havre until April 1962.

She moved to Whitefish and raised her family of four children, moving to Rexford in the spring of 2001.

She was involved in Ladies of the Moose and the St. Charles parish. She also worked at Flathead Valley Community College Bookstore and as a local election official. She enjoyed fishing, camping and spending time with family and friends.

In retirement, Tom and Sally enjoyed their travels to Nevada/



Arizona in the winter and summer fishing trips in Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

She is survived by her husband, Tom; sons, Russ and Mary Cole of Missoula, and Mike and Kristen Cole of Plains; daughters, Becky and Eric Shroyer of Everett, Wash., and Teri and Glenn Davis of Missoula; grandchildren, Tiffany, Sean, Dylan, Kyle, Amanda, Neil, Tanna, Alec, Mya and Kaylee; and sisters, Patti Kaye Nelson of Havre, and Peg Hartman of East Helena.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Russ and Irene Blom.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 25, at St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish, with the Rev. Patrick Patton officiating. Burial will be afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell.

After burial, a luncheon for family and friends will be held at the St. Charles reception hall.

Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish is in charge of the arrangements.

Donald R. Collum, 82

Donald R. Collum, 82, died Sept. 14, 2006, in Libby.

He had been a Libby resident and had worked in facility maintenance services for the federal government prior to his retirement.

Survivors include his son, Joe Collum, of Libby.

Graveside services with military honors will be at 3 p.m. Monday at the city of Libby Cemetery.

Fredricka Elva (Chapman) Combs, 78

Fredricka Elva (Chapman) Combs, 78, passed away Saturday, April 29, 2006, at Heritage Place in Kalispell. She was born Sept. 20, 1927, in Columbia Falls, the daughter of Kyle and Susanna Elva Chapman.



She was the only girl in a family of seven boys. They nicknamed her "Freddie." She attended Deer Park School with her brothers, Buck, Dick, Delbert, Michael, Eddie, Ted and Steve.

Freddie met her husband, Cecil Combs, at the lumber mill he worked at in Hot Springs. They were married Aug. 15, 1944, at Hot Springs. They raised a family of seven children, one boy and six girls. As a family they enjoyed fishing at Kintla Lake in Glacier Park. She also enjoyed fishing, camping, hunting, reading and dancing. She was also a 30-year member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary.

Cecil was a law officer for 42 years. One of their favorite things to do together was driving long distances to go pick up prisoners. Freddie was very involved in her husband's life and enjoyed doing this kind of thing very much.

Her children say their parents always were very devoted to them and put them first in their lives.

They loved their family, friends and the people they worked with. After Cecil died in 1976, Freddie surrounded herself with her children and grandchildren. Her children say, "She deserves a trophy for who she was."

The family would also like to thank Margaret and staff at Heritage Place for their tender care.

Freddie was preceded in death by her parents, Kyle Chapman and Susanna Elva Davis; her husband, Cecil Combs; her brother, Eddie Howell; her son, Douglas Combs; her daughter, Darlene Walter; and grandsons, Doug Walter and Dennis Walter.

She is survived by her five daughters, Sherry Jones of Kalispell, Faye Kerzman of Kalispell, and Carleen Hutchings of (Many Lakes) Kalispell, Cecilia Stap of Marion, and Diane Bowersox of Airway Heights, Wash.; her brother, Buck Chapman, and five stepbrothers, Ted Chapman, Steve Chapman, Richard Howell, Delbert Howell and Michael Howell. She is also survived by 16 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Fredricka Combs will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 4, at the Fairview Chapel on Middle Road. Burial will be after services at Fairview Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the church.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Freddie's family.

Carol (Rohrbach) Contreras, 53, formerly of Columbia Falls, passed away Oct. 25, 2006, at her daughter's home in Tucson, Ariz. Carol was born Aug. 27, 1953, in Fargo, N.D., to Wilbur and Jean Rohrbach. They moved shortly after to Columbia Falls, where Carol graduated from Columbia Falls High School in 1971. Her daughters, Carrie Lewis, and Mistie and Josh Hobbler, and their son, Devyn — the love of Carol's life — survive her. She also is survived by her mother, Jean England, of Columbia Falls; two brothers, Randy Rohr-

bach of Columbia Falls, and Kelly and Suzie Rohrbach, and their two sons, of Kalispell. Also surviving Carol are two uncles, Keith Mitton of Columbia Falls, and Terry Mitton and family of Kalispell; and two aunts, Donna Zable and family of Columbia Falls, and Betty Cook and family of Yakima, Wash. Carol was preceded in death by her father; and her sister, Judy (Rohrbach) Berardi. Graveside services for Carol will be held at 2 p.m. Nov. 10 at Woodlawn Cemetery. The family requests no flowers.

Carol (Rohrbach) Contreras, 53

Dorothy Fay Cook, 63

Dorothy Fay Cook, 63, died Monday, April 3, 2006, at the Lake View Care Center in Bigfork.

She is survived by her mother, Irene Bakken, of Bill-

ings. There are no services scheduled at this time.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family.

Marilyn J. Conat, 61

Marilyn J. Conat, 61, died Wednesday, April 26, 2006, at her home in Columbia Falls.

She is survived by her husband, Richard Conat, of Columbia Falls; and her daughters, Kristen Perman of Maplewood,

N.J., and Leslie Hart of Vancouver, British Columbia.

No formal services are planned at this time.

Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish is in charge of the arrangements.

Winfred F. 'Win' Conway, 91

Winfred F. "Win" Conway, 91, "went home to be with the Lord" on Friday, Dec. 8, 2006 at Brendan House in Kalispell.

He was born in Plainview, Texas, to Fred A. and Clara (May) Conway on Jan. 18, 1915.

Win was a man of solid values. He was loved instantly and deeply by all who crossed his path. His warm smile and quick wit will be fondly remembered, and deeply missed.

Win moved with his family to Arizona, where he received his early education. In the 1930s, he was a farm worker and also made a living playing Donkey Baseball. He married Ruth Evelyn Yount on July 9, 1933, in Florence, Ariz. Win worked with the U.S. Forest Service fighting fires and served in the Arizona National Guard. His career was spent as an operating engineer with the Crystal Ice Company, where he worked for 40 years until retiring in 1980.

In 1983, Win and Ruth moved to Whitefish. During his retirement, Win continued to enjoy camping, woodworking, fishing, gardening and playing games. He and Ruth also enjoyed traveling in their motor home, exploring the country and spending lots of quality time with family and friends.

Win was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, in 1995; his



parents; a brother: Guy Conway; and his sister, Nadene Duffel.

He is survived by a son, Fred Conway, and wife, Anne, of Mesa, Ariz., and their family, which consists of three daughters: Amy Otto and husband, Mark, Kaci McCracken and husband, Steve, and Melissa Ausmus and husband, Charles; a son, Ian Conway; and seven grandchildren, Tyler Otto, Teri Otto, Walker Otto, Patrick Conway, Alex Ausmus, Gage McCracken and Zane McCracken.

Also surviving is his daughter Donna McGough and husband, Sam, of Whitefish, and their family, which consists of daughters: Wendy Guy and husband, Jeff, Stacey Lamoureux and husband, Bill, and Samantha McGough; and grandchildren Cody and Hayley Guy, and Andrea and Hunter Lamoureux.

Other survivors are his daughter Karen Swisher, and husband, Ron, of LaJolla, Calif., and their family, which consists of three daughters: Jennifer Ricketts, Celeste Duffy and Amberly Boyle; a son, Kelly Boyle; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services for Win will be held at 11 a.m. today at Easthaven Baptist Church, with Pastor Daniel Lambert officiating. Visitation will be at the church for one hour before the services. Burial will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Win's family.

Barbara Ann Holmquist Cope, 69

Barbara Ann Holmquist Cope, 69, passed away on Monday, Oct. 30, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell. Barbara was born on July 14, 1937, in Kalispell, to Harold Webster and Anna Mae Crossley Holmquist. She was the youngest of five children.

Barbara loved the Lord and read her Bible faithfully. She loved her family and her beloved kitties. Barbara enjoyed painting pictures, copying



poems and recipes.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and two brothers, Harold Jr., and William "Bill" Holmquist.

She is survived by a son, Kenneth, and his soul mate of Kalispell; five other children, Duane, Judy, Terry, John and Russel; one sister, Mildred Halter; a brother, Ernest Holmquist; and numerous other relatives.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 3, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with the Bishop Don Garner officiating.

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

Barbara Olena Cornelius, 84

Barbara Olena Cornelius, 84, passed away Saturday, June 17, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

She was born June 1, 1922, in Perley, Minn., to Ole and Emma Ilea (Hoff) Loros.

After graduating from high school, she married John Willcut on June 3, 1940. Together they had eight children. They farmed in Minnesota and later moved to western Washington. In 1963, the family moved to Kalispell. They later were divorced.

Barbara married James Cornelius in 1975. They enjoyed camping, fishing, gardening and berry picking together.

Barbara believed in hard work and was never idle. She loved her flowers and canned many items from her vegetable garden. Barbara also loved to knit, crochet and embroider, giving cherished items to family and friends. As for working out of the home, Barbara did manage a restaurant in Minnesota and also worked as a nurse's aide at Kalispell Regional Hospital. She was very determined, had a great sense of humor and was known for her beautiful smile. She loved her fam-

ily very much and will be greatly missed. The family is assured she is home and rejoicing.

Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, James; a son, Roger; son-in-law, Doug Crowell; and a sister, Myrtle Larsen.

She is survived by four daughters, Barbara Crowell, Sharon Burns, Mary Jensen and Sandy Willcut, as well as a stepdaughter, LaRita Cornelius; four sons, James, Mike, Tim and John Willcut, and a stepson, Dennis Cornelius. Barbara enjoyed her 34 grandchildren and 75 great-grandchildren immensely. She also is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services for Barbara will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, June 23, at Faith Alliance Church, 348 Second Ave. W., in Kalispell, with Pastor Jim Davey officiating.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to Home Options/Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Ste. 100, Kalispell, MT 59901; the American Heart Association, 510 First Ave. N., No. 114, Great Falls, MT 59401; or to the charity of the donor's choice.

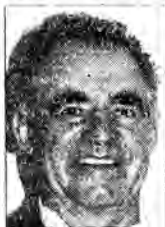
Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Barbara's family.

Lee P. Cowan, 95

Lee P. Cowan, 95, died Thursday, May 18, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. Cremation will take place and his ashes will be buried at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Russell L. Cornish, 78

Russ was born Nov. 9, 1927, in Demaine, Saskatchewan, to Freeman and Mable (Anderson) Cornish.



At the age of 15, when the family moved to British Columbia, Russ fell in love at first sight with the majestic mountains — a love that was to last his whole life.

Upon finishing school at Natal, British Columbia, Russ worked for Crestbrook Forest Industries as a sawyer and later as supervisor until his retirement in December 1988.

Russ married Alice (Dootson) in 1948 and they had four children, Larry, Ron, Randy and Debbie. Alice passed on in 1984, and his marriage to Catherine "Kit" (Anderson) followed in 1986. Upon her death, a third marriage ended in divorce. In 2001, Russ and Magha (Flores) were married in Eureka.

Russ was a member of the K-40 Club of Fernie of the Association of Kinsmen Clubs, and for many years he was an enthusiastic member of square and round dancing both in Canada and the United States.

His sense of beauty and his craftsmanship were demonstrated on the three beautiful homes he built with his own hands in Sparwood, Fernie and Grasmere, British Columbia. And he was an outstanding gardener.

Russ was recognized as a Provincial Heritage supporter.

Russ is survived by his wife, Magha; by three of his children, Ron, Randy, and Debbie and husband, Richard; by his sister, Reta; by the grandchildren, Russell, Alycia, Michelle and Katelyn; and Kit's grandchildren whom he loved as his own, Kayla, Larissa, Jamie and husband, Francisco, and Shawn; and by several cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by wives, Alice and Kit; by son, Larry; by sisters, Jean and husband, Ralph, and Doreen, and by brother, Newman and wife, Marg.

Russ passed on March 26, 2006, at his home in Cranbrook, British Columbia, cared for by his loving wife.

Cremation preceded a private service celebrating his life, attended by relatives and conducted by the pastor of the Lutheran Church of Eureka.

Donations to the SPCA in memory of Russ would be greatly appreciated.

Erma Cox, 86

Erma Cox, 86, died June 16, 2006, at Lake View Care Center in Bigfork. She is survived by her son, Robert Greenlee, of Bigfork. No public services are planned. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Billie C. Crawford, 57

Billie C. Crawford, 57, died at his daughter's home Thursday, Oct. 5, 2006, in Columbia Falls due to terminal cancer, with his family and best friend, Russ Sindt, at his side.



Bill was born Oct. 15, 1948, in Minot, N.D. He grew up on a farm in Garrison, N.D., and attended school in White Shield, N.D.

He entered the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam.

After his discharge from the Army, he was married to Gloria Jean Frey in 1973. In September 1973, they had their firstborn, Billie Jean Crawford. They then moved to the Flathead, and in 1976, they had their second daughter, Donna Crawford.

Billie worked for Plum Creek for 25 years and then went to work for Riverside Windows and Doors.

He was diagnosed with terminal colon cancer and fought it for almost four years.

He enjoyed woodworking at his home on Rogers Road, his family and friends, hunting, fishing, and having a farm. He

enjoyed gardening the most.

Billie is survived by his daughters, Billie Jean "BJ" (Monte) Scott, and Donna (Travis) Berggren; his pride and joy, his grandchildren, Michael Calbick, Shelby Scott, Kristen Scott, Trevor Berggren, and Tyler Berggren; his brother and sisters, Jack Crawford, Joyce Nelson, Joan Slobojan, and Sandra McCoun; and many nieces and nephews.

He rests in peace with his beloved wife, Gloria Crawford; his mom and dad, Gladys and Charles Crawford; two sisters, Janice Claussen and Marilyn Kerzmann; and a brother, Roger Crawford.

He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

A viewing will be held from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2006, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2006, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Burial will be afterward in Woodlawn Cemetery with military graveside honors.

A potluck reception will be held after the graveside committal at 4 p.m. at the Eagles Club in Columbia Falls. Children are welcome to come.

John Matthew 'Matt' Crawford, 86

John Matthew "Matt" Crawford, 86, of Dayton died at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2006, from injuries caused by a fall at his home.

Matt was born Aug. 11, 1919, in Ida Grove, Iowa, to Clyde C. and Nellie Adelia "Dea" (Lundblad) Crawford. Matt graduated from Ida Grove High School in 1937 where he lettered in football and track.

He spent two years studying engineering at Iowa State University in Ames and joined Sigma Chi fraternity before entering flight training school. Serving from 1942 to 1945, he earned the rank of lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Corps, and was copilot of a B-24 Liberator in the 867th Squadron of the 494th Bomb Group (Heavy) in the Pacific Theater, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal.

Matt married Marjorie Coryl McIntyre at her parent's home in Ida Grove on May 4, 1943. Ann Louise was born on her mother's 25th birthday on Aug. 31, 1944. After an honorable discharge from active service, Matt worked with his father at Crawford Elevator. Catharine Coryl "Tappy" was born July 12, 1946.

After his father's death in 1947, Matt continued to run the business. In 1970, he and Marjorie moved to Dayton on the edge of Flathead Lake. Matt liked to call himself a practical engineer. He repaired, refinished and refurbished; a talented handyman, carpenter and inventive builder in wood and stone.

He loved people and was everyone's friend.

After Marjorie died in 1989, Matt traveled thousands of miles by airline and auto to visit family and friends. In 1991, he discovered the computer and started writing about his life experiences growing up in Ida Grove in the 1920s and '30s. From memories of his service in World War II he wrote "Dear Walter, Don't Fly Too High or Too Fast" in 1993. The title came from an excerpt of a letter his pilot Walter Bachman received from his mother.



Walter and Matt had "buzzed" Ida Grove during flight training. Walter located Matt 50 years later, after which Matt began attending reunions of the 494th Bomb Group yearly.

In 1999, Matt and Dolores (Martins) Smith were married at his home in Montana. Matt served two years as president of the 867th squadron of the 494th Bombardment Veterans Group. In October 1999, he joined fellow B-24 pilot, Tom Cartwright, whose plane had crashed near Hiroshima in World War II, on a weeklong mission of peace to Japan. They met with Shigeaki Mori, a historian, and a delegation of peace ambassadors and media at the Peace Memorial Park.

Dolores died in 2002. Matt and Ebony, his companion schnauzer he called his "Navigator," began to travel extensively. He completed many projects to beautify his home and he continued writing. The first edit of his second book, "Why Me and a B24," was completed on the day of his death.

Matt is survived by his daughter, Ann, and husband, Edson Howard, of Geyserville, Calif., and grandson, Michael Howard, of San Francisco; daughter, Tappy, and husband, Larry Hultgren, and granddaughter, Jennifer and husband, Todd Conover, grandson, Jeffrey Hultgren and wife, Cindy; great-grandchildren, Jacob and Derek Conover, and Sydney and Samantha Hultgren, all of Ida Grove, Iowa.

Matt was preceded in death by his parents; an infant brother; his sister, Helen Lorraine (Crawford) Andresen; his wives, Marjorie and Dolores; and great-grandson Andrew Hultgren.

A celebration of Matt's life will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13, at his home in Dayton.

Although Matt loved flowers, we feel he would prefer memorials given to the BCIG Scholarship Fund, c/o Tappy Hultgren, 1118 Valley View Drive, Ida Grove, IA 52445; the Abu-Bekr Shrine Temple Transportation Fund, Box 3347, Sioux City, IA 51102; or the Ida County Historical Society, c/o Conley Wolterman, 501 Zobel Lane, Ida Grove, IA 51445.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Matt's Family.

Robert W. Creek, 71

Robert W. Creek, 71, died Thursday, March 16, 2006, at Brendan House in Kalispell. Memorial services will be

held at a later date.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

David Neil Creighton, 77

David Neil Creighton, 77, of Kalispell, "went peacefully home to be with the Lord" on March 9, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He was born on Aug. 19, 1928, in Janesville, Wis., to Thomas and Anna Creighton. He was raised by his mother and stepfather, Gearson Tousey.

As a young man he bought his own truck and hauled pulp until enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1954. During his service in the military, he was stationed in Austria.

After his honorable discharge he traveled the U.S. until he settled in Montana, where he began working on a survey crew for the U.S. Forest Service. He became district engineer for the Hungry Horse Ranger District, Flathead National Forest. In 1976 he left the Forest Service and started a re-vegetation business, Agro Tech, which continues today as a family business.

On July 27, 1957, he married Ellen Bernice Keich at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

Most importantly, he was a lifelong member of the Lutheran

Church, Missouri Synod.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Ellen; six children and their spouses, Greg and Gloria Klemp, Dave and Neila Elgin, Eric and Ann Creighton, Tim and Theresa Creighton, Francisco and Rachel Saenz, and Paul and April Creighton; 25 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers, Markus and David Tousey, and their wives; and many other relatives.

He will be missed dearly by family and friends.

Viewing will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, at Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. Services will be held at 11 a.m., March 13, at Dave's church, Saint Peter's Lutheran Church, 201 Wisconsin Ave., Whitefish, with Pastor Marty Kaarre officiating. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

"We know that in everything, God works for good with those who love him—who are called according to his purpose." — Romans 8:28

Geri L. Crosswhite, 68

Geri L. Crosswhite, 68, "entered into eternal rest" Saturday, May 27, 2006, at Brendan House in Kalispell after a long, courageous battle with lupus and most recently cancer.

She was born July 19, 1937, in Whitefish to Chellis and Elaine (McCauley) Brown. Geri was the oldest of six children. She graduated from Whitefish High School in 1955.

She was preceded in death by both her parents, and a brother, Larry Brown.

Geri is survived by her three children, Dan Crosswhite and wife, Robin, of Kalispell, Debby St. Onge and husband, Bob, of Swan Lake, and Dave Crosswhite and wife, Jennifer, of Kalispell; one sister, Patti Mackie, and husband, George, of Spokane; three brothers, John Brown of Parker, Ariz., Dick Brown and wife, Betty,

of Liberty, Mo., and Ron Brown and wife, Connie, of Snohomish, Wash.; seven grandchildren, Becky Crosswhite, Amanda Crosswhite, Billy Crosswhite, Jessica Crosswhite, Tristan Crosswhite, Taylor Crosswhite and Veronica St. Onge; a great-grandson, Kyle; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and many friends.

At Geri's request, there will be no memorial service, but a celebration of her life will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, June 2, at the Pin and Cue (her favorite spot) on U.S. 93 in Whitefish.

The family suggests that donations be made to the following Spinal Muscular Atrophy organizations: SMA Support Inc., P.O. Box 6301, Kokomo, IN 46904; or PSMA, P.O. Box 196, Libertyville, IL 60048.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Geri's family.

Myron Calvin Crouch, 81,

Myron Calvin Crouch, 81, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 3, 2006, at his Bigfork home with his daughter, Ginny, and friend, Megan, by his side.



He was born in Saco, to Edna and Calvin Crouch on Sept. 19, 1924, the second of six children. At the age of 10 months, he got polio. He was raised on a ranch north of Saco through the Depression years. The family then moved to town. He attended grade school in Saco, junior high in Hinsdale and graduated in 1942 from Malta High School.

While in high school, Cal applied for and received an opportunity to learn how to repair watches in an apprenticeship program with the local jeweler. He graduated from high school on a Saturday, got on the train (the old Empire Builder) on Sunday and went to work on Monday in Whitefish for Mr. Reed, the same employer he apprenticed with in Malta.

In the interim, he met a blonde Norwegian who he thought was pretty cute. She was a Whitefish girl by the name of Carol Joyce Christensen. Cal dated Carol, but then about a year later he was offered a better job in Bend, Ore., and moved. About a month or two later, Carol followed him to Bend and they married in 1943. They then moved to The Dalles where Cal got a better paying job. Following his father's death, they returned to Malta to open his own shop and help care for his two younger sisters.

In 1947, seeing the potential of Columbia Falls with the Hungry Horse Dam being built, they moved there and opened Crouch Jewelers. Times were tough and he had to work two jobs. Cal told of the early days of his business when he would work the graveyard shift as a bookkeeper and labor foreman for the construction of Hungry Horse Dam, come home, take a sponge bath, don a shirt, tie and sport coat, and open his store for the day. For the first 10 years, their living quarters were in the back of the jewelry store.

Cal and Carol raised five children, Robert, Buzz, Robin, Debbie and Ginny. They were married for 56 years. He loved camping, boating, fishing and swimming with his family.

He was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Cal took pride in the town of Columbia Falls. He was the first president of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of Flathead County, Chamber of Commerce president, and city treasurer. He wrote sports articles for Mel Ruder's Hungry Horse News. He helped organize Progress Days, now called Heritage Days. Cal was a Demolay dad for the Demolay boys, involved with the Shriners, Kiwanis Club, Key Club, Lions Club, Saddle Club, and manager of the boxing club.

Cal told of the times he and Dulane Fulton would drive the sports teams in their private cars to get them to games as there were no buses at that time. He was an announcer at local high school games and rodeos. He was on the city council from April 1975 to June 1980; in his last meeting, he served as mayor for that single meeting. He served on the board of trustees of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Sports were a daily staple for Cal. Ask him a question about a pro basketball or football team and he would give you accurate, up-to-date information. He loved being a part of the football pool with Scarff Auto.

Cal worked at Crouch Jewelers up until June 2005, when his health started to fail. The jewelry store has been in business for 57 years. Arla Wilson joined Cal in 1965 and currently manages the store. The business will continue as Crouch Jewelers.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Weston; sisters, Shirley and Greta; son, Buzz in 1987; and wife, Carol, in 1999.

He is survived by children, Robert Crouch and wife, Jennifer, of Prescott, Ariz., Debbie Hervol and Robin Crouch, both of Columbia Falls, and Ginny and husband, Don Hanson, of Bigfork; 11 grandchildren, Gina Ross of Kenai, Alaska, Jeff Washburn of Columbia Falls, Jennifer Trulson of Bellevue, Wash., Justin Crouch

of Sedro Wooley, Wash., Angel Martin of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, Cameron Hervol of Missoula, Daniel Hervol of Madagascar, Shawna Lankester of Washington, Amiee Gillig and Susan McCaskill of Kalispell, and Cy Hanson of Rifle, Colo.; 15 great-grandchildren, Jeffrey, Mishay, Samantha, Sevren, Kate, Shayla, Krystina, Kytrina, Kimberly, Karrie, Airean, Adrian, Ajay, Paschence, and Thai; and two sisters, Joyce Gilbert of Everett, Wash., and Betty Salois of Cut Bank.

Cal will be remembered by those who knew him as a self-reliant man with a strong work ethic and a strong commitment to family and friends.

He enjoyed the many visits from friends who stopped in over the past nine months at his home on Echo Lake.

He treasured time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He loved teaching them the games of dunk, concentration and cribbage. He lived up to his e-mail address of crib29forgramps by getting a 29 hand this last year. He loved playing cards with them right up to the last week before his death.

A celebration of his life will be held 2 p.m. Sunday, April 2, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls, with Pastor Darold Reiner officiating. Cal loved the Lord and when asked what advice he had for his family and friends, he said "They should live the life of Jesus."

Cal's wish was for memorials to be given to Home Options/Hospice.

Joan F. Croucher, 76

Joan F. Croucher, 76, retired administrator of the Libby Care Center, died Wednesday in Kalispell.

She was born Sept. 6, 1929, at Muncie, Ind., to Benjamin Applegate and Edith Kern Applegate. She came with her family to Libby in 1941 and later graduated from Libby High School in 1946.

That same year, she married Francis "Frank" Croucher.

With a young family in tow, they followed Frank's early career into logging camps and farming where work led them, settling permanently in Lincoln County in 1957. Their home on old Highway 37 between Libby and old Rexford is remembered by many as a favorite stop; Joan was known as a dedicated wife and homemaker who contributed tirelessly to the many aspects of their rural farm home.

They moved to Troy in 1969 and, in 1970, Joan began working outside the home at the newly constructed Libby Care Center as a cook, marking the beginning of a long career with that institution. She later worked in the institution's administrative department, eventually leading to her advancement to chief administrator, a position she served in with pride and diligence until her retirement in 2000.

She had been a longtime member of the Libby Christian Church and Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank, in 2004; a son, Steve Croucher; brothers, Ed and Paul Applegate; and sister, Teola Hazen.

Survivors include her children, Ed Croucher and wife, Chris, and Charlie Croucher and wife, Lois, all of Libby, Bob Croucher and wife, Cheri, and Lana Managhan and husband, Gary, all of Troy, Bret Croucher and wife, Becky, of Libby, and Brenda Croucher of Missoula; sisters and brothers, Mary Johnson of Libby, Joseph Applegate of Albany, Ga., Phyllis Hansberry of Eureka, Duane "Bud" Applegate of Libby, and Linda Arnold of Plains; 22 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at the Libby Christian Church; interment services will be afterward at the city of Libby Cemetery. Friends may call from 1 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Nelson and Vial Funeral Home.

"Mom and Grandma will always remain cherished in our hearts; a woman dedicated to her family, bound with unconditional love who inspired us with her strength and touched us with her faith."

William 'Bill' Crouse, 63

William "Bill" Crouse, 63, passed away Sunday, Oct. 1, 2006, in Polson.

Bill was born April 8, 1943, in Kalispell to William F. and Ruth (Charleton) Crouse.

He attended schools in Kalispell before his parents moved to Michigan. He spent five years there, coming back to graduate from Flathead High School.

Bill worked at the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant in the chemical lab. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was sent to Vietnam, where he was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal. After his honorable dis-

charge, Bill attended Flathead Valley Community College to learn about computers. He loved theater and taught drama at the college. He was a member of the Teamsters union and loved to tinker with electronics.

Bill is survived by his brother, Fred Crouse; a sister, Niki Crouse; and a daughter, Reiko Hodgdon.

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2006, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with military honors provided by the United Veterans of the Flathead.

Buffalo Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Douglas William Crutcher, 76

Douglas William Crutcher, 76, passed away at his residence in Kalispell, on Monday, Sept. 11, 2006.

He was born Jan. 10, 1930, in Helena, to John and Mary (Gothardt) Crutcher.

Doug graduated from Helena High in 1948, then Carroll College in 1956, receiving a degree in business.

He served in the Navy from 1948 to 1952.

Doug married Nancy Chisolm on Aug. 30, 1952, and had three children, Barry, Paula and Lynne.

He worked for AM International in Helena, followed by a career in printing in Great Falls.

Doug was a member of the AD Club in Great Falls and enjoyed working with the CM Russell art auction every year. He owned Northstar Services in Great Falls.

He loved to fly fish and loved his grandchildren mostly. His world lit up with his newest



great-grandchild, Callie.

Douglas was preceded in death by his parents; sister, June; brother, Jack Crutcher; and his beloved grandson, Cal Williams.

He is survived by his sister, Betty Davidson, of Lewistown; son, Barry Crutcher, of Kalispell; daughters, Paula Dreyer and husband, Kevin, of Kalispell, and Lynne Holland and husband, Rick, of Toledo, Ore.; grandchildren, Shawn and husband, Aaron, Casey, Dani, Geoff, Ana, and Marti; and great-grandchildren, Mikhail and Callie.

Memorial services for Douglas will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at Johnson Mortuary chapel, with Pastor Ray Davis officiating. Urn burial will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18, at Forestville Cemetery in Helena, with full military honors by the Montana Honor Guard.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be sent to The United Veterans of the Flathead, 620 8th St. E., Whitefish, MT 59937.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Douglas' family.

Alberta 'Bert' Cuffe, 101

Alberta "Bert" Cuffe, 101, a longtime Whitefish resident, passed away Oct. 8, 2006, at the Colonial Manor Nursing Home in Whitefish, of natural causes. She was born June 6, 1905, the daughter of James and Estella Adams.



She graduated from Flathead High School in 1925 and taught school at Helena Flats. Later that year she married Theodore M. Cuffe and moved to Whitefish. Bert was employed at several businesses, such as Hetrick Grocery, Quick Shoes and Slushers Bakery.

Bert volunteered her time at St. Charles Catholic Church, Whitefish Food Bank, Golden Agers, the Moose Lodge and Royal Neighbors. She loved to

play cards, bingo and bowling. She was always cheerful and quietly supported her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ted; a granddaughter, Margaret; and a great-grandson, Kimberly.

She is survived by a son, James, and his wife Beverly, of Columbia Falls; grandchildren, Patricia Harmon, of Whitefish, Theodore and Jacque Cuffe, of Whitefish, Mitchell and wife Lanett Cuffe, of Columbia Falls; 12 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 16, at the St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish with Rev. Pat Patton as celebrant. Inurnment will follow at the Whitefish Cemetery.

Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish is in charge of arrangements.

Terrence Edward "Terry" Culbertson Sr., 70

Terrence Edward "Terry" Culbertson Sr., 70, of Fortine, died Monday, Sept. 11, 2006, at his home in Fortine following a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born in Fresno, Calif., to James and Ann Culbertson on Dec. 2, 1935, the youngest of seven children. He enlisted in the United States Army following high school, serving two tours of duty in south Korea where he met his wife of 45 years, Ho Soon.

Following his honorable discharge, he served as a fireman and paramedic for the city of Montebello, Calif.; he was instrumental in passing laws and guidelines that require all fire and law enforcement personnel to be certified in basic first aid and CPR and was among the first American Red Cross CPR and First Aid instructors.

Following his retirement from the fire and emergency services, he came to Fortine, first in 1972, later returning to move his entire family to Fortine. He and his siblings started Whispering Pines Development Company and also served with the Montana National Guard, retiring as a SFC (E7) following 28 years of distinguished service. He also had served as a board member of the Trego-Fortine-Stryker Volunteer Fire Department board.

Preceding him were his daughter, Suzie Culbertson; his parents; sisters, Margaret, Millie and June; and brothers, Jim and Robert.

Survivors include his wife, Ho Soon of Fortine; his children, James Culbertson of Lakeside, John Culbertson of Boulder, Wyo., Margie White of Columbia Falls, and Terrence Culbertson Jr. of Fortine; a brother, A.J. "Mick" Culbertson of Beaverton, Ore.; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Graveside services with military honors will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at Fortine Cemetery.

Arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

Vera May Cusick, 94



Vera May Cusick, 94, died Tuesday, April 18, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell. She was born Dec. 25, 1911, in Monarch, the daughter David Greer and Stella May (Fuller) Greer.

She moved to Kalispell at a very young age with her parents and seven brothers and sisters. She attended schools in Kalispell.

She married William F. Cusick on Nov. 30, 1930, in Cut Bank. After World War II, Bill and Vera returned to the Flathead Valley, where they owned and operated a dairy farm until retiring in 1966.

She was a member of Risen Christ Parish and was actively involved in school and church activities. Most recently, her passion was quilting, especially with the Church Quilt Club.

Vera was an excellent cook and

still enjoyed cooking her specialties for her friends and family.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1986, and her four brothers and three sisters.

She is survived by her one son, Dave Cusick, and wife, Carole, and one daughter, Eileen Pierson, and husband, Lloyd, all of Kalispell; six grandchildren, Kristi Cusick, Michelle Parmelee, Dan Cusick, Michael, Loren and Lloyd Pierson, and 10 great-grandchildren, all of Kalispell; five sisters-in-law; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 22, at Risen Christ Church, with committal afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Friday, April 21, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel, and a rosary afterward viewing in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel at 7 p.m.

The family suggests memorials be given to WINGS, P.O. Box 7852, Kalispell, MT 59904.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Vera's family.

Connaught 'Connie' M. Cutler, 78

Connaught "Connie" M. Cutler passed away in the early morning hours of Aug. 21, 2006, at home in Richmond, Calif., of complications from cancer. Her 79th birthday would have been Sept. 15 of this year.

She was the daughter of Erwin and Mary Cutler.

Connie is survived by her brother, Dale Cutler.

Connie graduated from Flat-

head County High School in 1945, and after achieving her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology, communications and public policy from the University of California-Berkeley in 1956, she worked for the Social Security Administration in San Francisco until her retirement in 1986, after 30 years of service.

She'll be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.