

Mildred 'Millie' B. Packard, 86

Mildred "Millie" B. Packard, born April 24, 1923 to John and Olga Sunde at Readlyn, Saskatchewan, passed away on Aug. 26, 2006, in St. Peter's Hospital at Helena, surrounded by her children.



The second youngest of eight children, Millie graduated from Flathead County High School at Kalispell, in 1941, and was wed to John Basil Burns of Alexander, N.D., in October of that year. During the Second World War they resided at Kalispell, Prineville, Ore., and Helena. After the war John and Millie moved to Sidney, where they raised their four children, Linda Rae, Tana Jean, Bonnie Lee and Randy Scott. John passed away May 9, 1971.

In April 1973, Millie was wed to Russell E. Packard of Sidney, where they resided until 1979 when they moved to Helena. Millie and Rusty enjoyed attending local church activities, traveling (with frequent stops for pie) and dining with their many friends and family. Rusty passed away on May 26, 2006.

Family gatherings, where Millie shared many memories and stories that always included a Norwegian flavor and much humor, were extremely important to her. Millie was very proud of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her passion for her family took her to many weddings, births, confirmations, sporting events, school functions and graduations as far away as West Berlin, Germany. Millie was a loving mother, wife and homemaker, who took these responsibilities very seriously. This was evident to all who visited her home and had the privilege of sleeping on ironed sheets, and dining on home-cooked meals. Her heart and home were always open to her family and friends whose

company she thoroughly enjoyed (and did we mention her favorite color was blue).

When not busy with household chores, Millie enjoyed playing cards. She started enlisting future card players among her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren at very young ages.

Millie was an active member in the Methodist church, helping with harvest dinners, fair booths and Valentine banquets, providing countless chocolate sheet cakes, pies and gallons of gravy.

Millie was preceded in death by her parents; four bothers; three sisters; and husbands, John B. Burns and Russell E. Packard.

She is survived by daughters, Linda and Pete Carson of Bigfork, Tana Streeter of Republic, Wash., and Bonnie and Tom Campbell of Walla Walla, Wash.; son Randy and Robin Burns of Bigfork; and stepson, Randy Packard of Billings; eight grandchildren, and nine great-grand children; several nieces and nephews; and many special friends.

Memorial services are scheduled for 1 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 31, at the Covenant United Methodist Church, 2330 Broadway, Helena.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Covenant United Methodist Church Building Fund.

Retz Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Jeffrey C. Padgett, 50

Jeffrey C. Padgett, 50, died Wednesday, June 14, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Survivors include his wife, Cathy Padgett, of Hungry Horse; his parents, Perry and Faireland Padgett; and

his children, Betty Jane Maggard and Timothy Padgett.

No services are planned at this time.

Arrangements are with Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Bernice L. 'Bea' Paine, 78

Bernice L. "Bea" Paine, 78, passed away Friday, Nov. 17, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

She was born July 19, 1928, to Ida and Gus Souza.

Bea met Bill Paine and fell madly in love. They were married shortly after in Mexico in 1953. The couple was blessed with three wonderful children, Marcy, Bill and Debbie; and also five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The couple lived in Bigfork. Bea loved to shop and play the nickel poker machines. She always went to the Bigfork bowling alley to watch Bill bowl and



visit with her friends. But most of all she really enjoyed playing Tick with the girls on Tuesdays. Every December, she would have Bill drive her through Bigfork, just to see all the Christmas lights.

Bea truly cared about everyone she met and made everyone feel so welcome in her home. Her smile and laughter lit up the room when with her family and friends.

Memorial services for Bernice will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2006, at the Little Brown Church in Bigfork, with Pastor Ron Pierce officiating. The family suggests that any memorial contributions be sent to the American Heart Association: 510 First Ave. N. No. 114, Great Falls, MT 59401.

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

Franklin John Palicz, 81

Franklin John Palicz, 81, passed away at his home in Kalispell, on Aug. 15, 2006.

He was born Nov. 22, 1924, in Omaha, to Andrew and Margaret (Marten) Palicz. When

he was about 3 years old his father died and his family moved to Davy, Neb., to live with his Uncle John and Aunt Mary. When Franklin was in high school the family moved to Osceola, Iowa, to a farm.

He married Gloria Walker in Aug. 1949. They farmed in Clarke County until 1953. Franklin and Gloria and three of their children moved to California. There he started his construction business which continued until 2004. It was construction work that brought them to Fortine, in 1968, where he built roads and subdivisions for homes all throughout Northwest Montana.

Music was one of his loves, along with all the tractor work in construction. When work slowed down, he joined the Rocky Moun-



tain Rollers, Good Sam chapter, serving as president for two years. He volunteered with the RSVP Sunshine chorus of Flathead Valley to sing at the nursing homes. Franklin volunteered as a trustee with Somers Volunteer Fire Department for many years.

He was a member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, and a member of the Gideon's International.

He was preceded in death by his son, Jerry J., and his granddaughter, April Louise.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Gloria Palicz, of Kalispell; two daughters; Jeanette Fincher and Joy Parker, both of Kalispell; one son, Jim Palicz of Tulsa, Okla.; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Franklin John Palicz will be held 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel with burial to follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to services on Monday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary.

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

Margaret Anita Parker, 73

Margaret Anita Parker, 73, formerly of Lane Deer, died Thursday, Nov. 2, 2006, at her home in Polson from

natural causes.

Grogan Funeral Home will announce arrangements at a later date.

Richard 'Dick' Parkinson, 70

Dick Parkinson of Libby died Friday morning at St. John's Hospital after a long and brave battle with lung cancer. Dick was a longtime member of the community and a member of the David Thompson Search and Rescue.

He was the loving husband of Mitzi Parkinson. Dick was born Jan. 14, 1936, in Columbia Falls to Robert and Alma (Runsvold) Parkinson. He moved with his family to Libby in 1944, where he graduated as part of the class of 1955 after joining the service.

He served our country in the United States Air Force (1953-1965), and the Army National Guard (1975-1979). He completed basic training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, and was subsequently stationed in Sculthorpe, Norfolk, England, and later Lincoln, Neb.

After his honorable discharge from the Air Force, he moved in 1965 to Auburn, Wash., where he worked for the General Services Administration until he returned to Montana in 1971.

In 1973 he met the love of his life, Mavis "Mitzi" Rose Corneliuson. They were married Jan. 18, 1974, in Libby. They lived in Kalispell where he worked with his uncle, Don Runsvold, at Don's Rental until 1975, when they moved to Trego for a year and then returned home to Libby in 1976. He worked as the greenskeeper for Cabinet View Country Club, and maintenance at Libby Care Center, W.R. Grace, and Lincoln, Central, and Asa Wood schools until retiring in 1986.

Dick enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, playing cribbage and helping his family, friends and neighbors. He was a caring father, grandfather and a doting husband.

He was a member of the Libby Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his eldest daughter, JoAnn Parkinson, and his sister Donna Madison.

He is survived by his wife, Mitzi; son, Robert Parkinson, of Kent, Wash.; two daughters, Sherry and husband, Kimball Taylor, of Edgewood, Wash., and Paula and husband, Julius Hubeck, of Covington, Wash., two stepdaughters, Jami and husband, Bob Lippencott, of North Plainfield, N.J., and DeAnna Corneliuson and husband, Tom Sapp, of Kalispell; sister, Dolores Young of Seattle; six grandchildren, Danielle Strasbaugh, Elizabeth Strasbaugh and fiance Jeremy Flowers, and Joshua Strasbaugh, all of Puyallup, Wash., BreeAnn and Ross Lippencott of North Plainfield, and Ethan Sapp of Kalispell. He also leaves behind his loving and faithful dog, Kassi.

He is also survived by three aunts, Evelyn Runsvold Sullivan of Kalispell, Fern Parkinson Bates of Sicamous, British Columbia, and Ollie Parkinson Peirens of Lethbridge, Alberta; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and an abundance of friends.

Memorials may be made to David Thompson Search and Rescue, 512 California Ave., Libby, MT; or Kootenai Pets for Life, 452 Yaak Ave., Troy, MT; or a charity of the donor's choice.

A service and celebration of his life will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 4, at St. John's Hospital Convention Center (the former Christian Church), East Third St., in Libby, with Pastor Terry Crooks of the Church of Christ officiating.

Arrangements are by Nelson and Vial Funeral Home.

James Weston 'Wes' Parker, 88

James Weston "Wes" Parker, 88, of Pahrump, Nev., a retired hotel, restaurant and tavern owner who previously had lived in Whitefish, Cut Bank, Shelby and Malta, died of natural causes Feb. 18, 2006, at Nathan Adelson Hospice of Las Vegas. A memorial service was held Feb. 22 at the Salvation Army Manor in Pahrump.

Survivors include his wife, Elaine, of Pahrump; a daughter, Sandy Rowe, of Beatty, Nev.; sons, Jim and Ariel Parker of Whitefish, and Ralph and Kathy Parker of The Colony, Texas; grandchildren Jainye and Jay Thompson, Lauren Parker, Ashley and Jeremy Stern, and John and Carrie Parker; and great-grandchildren, Sylvia Stern and Jason Thompson.

Wes was born Sept. 30, 1917, in Missoula to George and Susie Parker. He attended school in Missoula and Whitefish.

He enlisted in the United States Merchant Marines. Later in his career, as a union iron worker, he helped build the Hungry Horse Dam, working as a hook tender and cable splicer. He also worked as a general foreman in constructing the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant.

Wes spent several years in Whitefish, where he married Isabel Rathjen Parker, the mother of his children, Jim and Sandy. This marriage ended, and he moved to Cut Bank and married Rose Talbot Parker, the mother of his son, Ralph. Wes and Rose owned and operated the Winner's Circle, a lounge and steakhouse renowned throughout Montana. This marriage also ended.

Wes later owned and operated the GN Motor Hotel in Malta.

On May 12, 1972, Wes married Elaine Knight Parker, with whom he shared 33 wonderful years of marriage. The couple owned and operated the Exchange Club and later the Burro Inn, both in Beatty, Nev. After selling the Burro Inn, they enjoyed many happy years of retirement together, including summers spent at their second home on Flathead Lake near Elmo. Wes and Elaine truly cherished and appreciated each other, and loved the chance to entertain friends and family.

During his time spent in the Merchant Marines, Wes developed a love of astronomy that carried with him throughout the rest of his life. He easily could identify a great number of constellations. He also loved knowledge for its own sake, and often led family members in light-hearted research projects to learn more about Einstein's theory of relativity, the Parsi people of India, Saturn's moon of Titan, painter Paul Gauguin, and many other subjects. He also enjoyed fly-fishing at Upper Whitefish Lake and bird-watching.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his sister, Jeannette Parker, of Kalispell.

Wes Parker had a hearty laugh, a deep love of hospitality, and a rare gift for sharing colorful poems and anecdotes. He brought much humor and joy to all his friends and family, and he will be greatly missed.

The family suggests memorials to the Nathan Adelson Hospice, 4141 Swenson St., Las Vegas, NV 89119.

Wanda Louella Parks, 98

Wanda Louella Parks, 98, passed away Saturday, April 8, 2006, at the North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

She is survived by her three daughters, Helen Gummer and husband, Tom, of Spokane, Washington; Mable Koestler and husband, Marlin, of Whitefish; and Rae Howard and hus-

band Eldon of Whitefish.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 13, 2006, at C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, with Jeff Teeples of Christ Lutheran Church of Whitefish officiating.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for her family.

John Graham Pate, 61

John Graham Pate, 61, a Whitefish resident, died of natural causes Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006, at the North Valley Hospital.

He had been self employed with his own electronics company until ill health forced

his retirement.

He is survived locally by his wife, Helga, and two children, Nicholas and Stephanie.

Memorial service will be held at a later date in California.

Maxine Pearl (Rawlins) Patek, 92

Maxine Pearl (Rawlins) Patek, formerly of Billings, died of natural causes at Kalispell Regional Medical Center on Oct. 3, 2006. Born in Fromberg on Jan. 3, 1914, to Art and Leone (Brown) Rawlins, Maxine graduated from Laurel High School in 1932 and from Eastern Montana College with a teaching degree in elementary education.

She taught at Tucker and Peterson country schools, each for one year, six years in Bridger and 17 years in Billings at the Burlington Avenue and Meadowlark schools before her retirement in 1976.

On April 30, 1940, Maxine Rawlins married George W. Patek at Billings First Methodist Church and moved to Bremerton, Wash., where her husband worked as a civilian on the USS Missouri during World War II. After the war, they returned to Bridger to raise their family.

Maxine enjoyed playing bridge, reading, and completing the Gazette crossword puzzles.

She was a past member of the Toastmistress Club, past president of Delta Kappa Gamma, and a member of Grace United Methodist Church and of the Yellowstone Valley Retired Teachers Association.

Survivors include three daughters: Sharon and Will Loveall of Columbia Falls, Georgia Swanson of Denver, and Vicki and Phil Christman of Great Falls; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; sisters, Doris Helzer of Billings, and Faye McDuffie and Berta Gemmill, both of Deer Park, Wash.; and brother, Bob Rawlins, of Loon Lake, Wash.

Preceding her in death were her husband, George, in 1952; her son, Bill, in 2003; and brothers, Don, Ray and Lynn Rawlins.

A private burial at the Bridger cemetery is planned for a later date.

Memorials may be sent to the Grace United Methodist Church College Scholarship Fund, 1935 Ave. B, Billings, MT 59102; or to the charity of one's choice.

Robert C. 'Red' Patrick, 86

Robert C. "Red" Patrick, 86, of Eureka, died Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006, at his home in Eureka from natural causes.

He worked at the Eureka Post Office for 37 years, from 1949 to retirement in 1986.

Survivors include two sons, Gale Patrick of Kalispell, and Wayne Patrick of Irvine, Calif.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the Church of God in Eureka. Services will be afterward at 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Church of God in Eureka.

Arrangements are by the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

Zerita Angell Pauli, 84

Zerita Angell Pauli passed peacefully away at her home in Evergreen on Saturday, April 1, 2006, ending her struggle with cancer. Known affectionately by her friends and family as "Zee," she will be sorely missed by all whose lives she touched in her 84 years.



Zee was born Feb. 8, 1922, to her parents, Omar and Gladys Angell Pitner, just over the mountains in Valier. Her family's homestead on Birch Creek located between Valier and Browning, offered her a unique opportunity to witness not only the rural pioneer lives of immigrants, but also some of the tribal aspects of the Blackfeet Indians. She fondly remembered the natives coming to share water from their creek.

After a brief time in McMinville, Ore., Zee returned to Valier, where she graduated high school. She always placed an extremely high value on education, especially mathematics. It was paramount to a cardinal sin to be seen doing addition or subtraction with the aid of fingers. She remained quick-witted, intelligent and able to dish out consternation in her own bitter-sweet

fashion until the day she died.

Immediately after graduation, Zerita married the love of her life, Lyle W. Pauli, also of Valier. On June 29, 1940, with Lyle dressed in a dark suit and Zee a dress skirt, the two consecrated a relationship that would span 66 years. During this time, Lyle ran his own automotive shop while Zee played the part of the consummate American housewife, raising children, cooking, cleaning, putting on Band-Aids, taking care of pets, and offering support to the husband she so loved and was devoted to.

In 1955, the two packed up all of their worldly possessions, including their four children, Roger, Jerry, Jim and Anita, and relocated to the Flathead Valley. Despite her upbringing on the rough and windy plains of the West, Zee grew to love the trees, mountains, and lakes found on this side of the mountains. They moved into a house in east Evergreen, where she developed many strong friendships and continued to raise her children into bright and considerate adults.

Around 1972, the couple moved to a house nestled against the Stillwater River in Evergreen. It was this location that would become the epicenter for her vibrant and prized family and social life. Their backyard and deck has been the scene of

countless parties and family gatherings in the past 34 years. However, even the most mundane visit by one of her children or grandchildren, during a weeknight or otherwise, was equally important. Family was utmost in her life, and she never grew tired of visits.

Zerita worked as a secretary at the Evergreen Elementary School for several years. Later, she was employed by the Flathead County Justice Court, where she served as acting justice of the peace under Mary Ridel. In 1982 she ran for public office as justice of the peace, but was narrowly defeated.

Zee was a member of Kalispell Soroptomist and the Lower Valley Garden Club. She was also a devout member of the Risen Christ Parish.

Her happiest moments were spent with family and friends in all of the areas campgrounds. She and Lyle were avid RV-ers and always owned a handsome camper trailer or motor home. These camper trailers always carried the loving, family-oriented atmosphere that was found in their home wherever they went, and eventually began to denote eras in family history: "Let's see, that was back when we still had the Prowler."

She also had an undying love for playing cards. She continued

to meet with her bridge club up until the week before she passed away. It was at these weekly meetings that she was able to enjoy the company of some of her closest friends. Playing cards at home also provided her with hours of entertainment.

Zerita is survived by her husband, Lyle W. Pauli, of Evergreen, and her children, Roger and Marcia Pauli, Jerry and Colleen Pauli, Jim and Bunny Pauli, and Anita and Larry Newlin. Her grandchildren include Tony Pauli, Teresa and Jeff Hanley, Michael Pauli, Kacie Pauli, Jamie and Tom Lyman, Alex and Jamie Shanks, Marcey and Rich McAtee, Mandy, Matthew, Cassie and Aaron Allmaras; as well as her great-grandchildren, Dylan and Ethan Hanley, Zerita Angell McAtee, and Collin Lyman.

Rosary services will be held at 7 p.m. Friday at Johnson's Mortuary, and Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 8, at Risen Christ Catholic Church in Evergreen.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite No. 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

Anne Henning Paulus, 92

Anne Henning Paulus, 92, died at home July 22, 2006, in Orange, Calif.

Anne leaves behind her dear friend of many years, Sharon Meyers, and many other Montana friends.

She and Ervin lived on the east lakeshore of Flathead Lake for over 20 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ervin; and brother, Dick Henning; and other siblings, Walter, Otto, Henry, Martha and Arthur.

Surviving family in Montana are her three nieces, Gay Cochrane, Susan Mangels and

June Jorgenson, all of Polson; also her sister-in-law, Mabel Henning, of Kalispell.

Services were held July 27 at Fairhaven Memorial Park in Santa Ana, Calif.

Her nieces fondly remember Anne typing Sunday school lessons for children who were blind on a Braille typewriter for many years.

Memorials may be made in Anne's name to the Montana Talking Book Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620-1800 the Intermountain Children's Home in Helena; or a children's charity of the donor's choice.

Laverne Albert 'Skip' Paxton, 37,

Laverne Albert "Skip" Paxton, 37, passed away Tuesday, March 14, 2006, as the result of an automobile accident just south of Lakeside.

Skip was born May 8, 1968, in Auburn, Wash., to Laverne C. and Mary Jean Walters Paxton. He moved with his family to Seeley Lake, where he attended schools and graduated from Seeley Lake High School.

He married Sherry Miller in 1990 in Yakima, Wash.

Skip had worked for many years as an iron worker.

He enjoyed motorcycles, doing all kinds of mechanical work, and he loved fast cars.

He was preceded in death by a

grandfather, Charles A. Paxton; grandparents, Iola M. and James Lewis Gallant; and a nephew, Micha L. Paxton.

He is survived by his wife, Sherry Paxton; parents, Laverne C. and Mary Jean Paxton, and Joe and LaDean Miller; sons, Cody, Eric and Larry Jo Paxton; brothers and sisters, Charles, L. Paxton, Mark A. Paxton, Margery Chansler, and Christopher D. Paxton; grandparents, Jeanette Rose, and Robert and Elizabeth Lewis; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Private family services will be held.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Laila S. Pearson

Montana native and longtime Flathead resident Laila S. Pearson passed away peacefully on July 19, 2006. She was 83. Laila Jean Stranahan was born the only child of Benjamin and Genevieve Stranahan in Fort Benton on June 23, 1923.

Laila's grandmother, Ella Goodwin, came to Montana on the Steamboat Viola Belle in the 1860s. Her grandfather, Farand Stranahan, was a district judge and mayor of Fort Benton in the early 1900s. Her father was in the banking business. She spent her early years living in several Montana towns as her father's assignment changed, attending three high schools before graduating from Butte High. She attended the University of Montana and was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Later, she was a social worker in Butte where she worked with miner's families.

She met her first husband at the Veteran's Hospital in Missoula and later moved to London, England, for three years, moving back to Montana after the marriage ended.

She met Kermit Pearson, her partner for life, in Butte, and they were married Aug. 17, 1952. They were married for 52 years. Together they raised six kids. She helped her husband in his veterinary practice for many years in Butte.

In 1965 the family moved to a ranch near Whitehall where they lived the country life until 1968 when they moved to Missoula. With her kids all in school or on their own Laila turned a lifelong passion for old houses and antiques into a career in real estate which she continued after the family moved to their dream location, the Flathead Valley, in 1971. At the end of her career she

was a broker and partner in Big Sky Real Estate.

Laila was active in outdoor and social activities all her life. Laila loved to play bridge and her bridge club buddies became some of her closest friends. She was a duck hunter, camper, skier and accomplished sailor. She and Kerm were charter members of the North Flathead Yacht Club. She volunteered many hours helping with races and associated activities.

She was very interested in art, putting together an impressive collection over the years. She also loved to travel, visiting many European countries, Africa and Japan plus sailing adventures in the Caribbean with her husband and friends. In 1978 Kerm and Laila moved into what would become their retirement home in Somers with a beautiful view overlooking the lake. They remodeled it into a comfortable home and spent many happy years there.

Laila was preceded in death by her parents; her oldest son, Randy; and her husband, Kerm.

She is survived by three sons, David and wife Leslie in Indian, Alaska, Timothy and wife Barbara of Kalispell and Benjamin, also of Kalispell; and two daughters, Darrielle and husband Wally Wyatt of Homosassa, Fla., and Jennifer and husband Jeff Fisher of Rollins. There are 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

There will be a celebration of her life at 1 p.m. on Sept. 15 at 145 Pavilion Hill Avenue in Somers.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Sue Snyder Fund, Flathead Bank, P.O. Box 769, Lakeside, MT, 59922.

Johnson Mortuary & Crematory is caring for Laila's family.

Cynthia Ann 'Cindy' Pederson, 37

Cynthia Ann "Cindy" Pederson, 37, passed away Oct. 9, 2006, in Kalispell as the result of a traffic accident. She was born May 16, 1968, in Kalispell. She was raised in Kalispell and attended Kalispell schools.

Cindy enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, and spending time with her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her son, Frederick Benton.



Cindy is survived by her fiancé, Brett Barce, of Kalispell; her parents, Raymond Pederson of Reno, Nev., and Charlotte Probert and Roger Minnich of Columbia Falls; her son, Ron Benton, of Columbia Falls; her sisters, Lisa and Tony Darsow, and Bonnie Puemer; brother, Paul Pederson; aunts, Dee Voight and Edna Kappan; and other aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews too numerous to mention.

Cremation has taken place. There will be a memorial celebration of her life and potluck at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15, in the Senior Citizen Center on Nucleus Avenue in Columbia Falls.

Opal Peevler, 94

"The radiant light of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother extinguished at home Tuesday, March, 21, 2006, only to brighten up in another



place more perfect and divine. As she shines in the arms of our Lord," her gentle warmth and wit will forever linger in the souls of all who loved and knew her.

It began for Opal Jane on a bright but cold day Dec. 17, 1911. Being the third born of 11 brothers and sisters, her destiny to serve was set forth.

She married Robert Peevler, the love of her life, in 1936 and spent the next 63 years being the consummate homemaker — cooking, cleaning and taking care of her husband and children.

All who knew her could attest to her razor-sharp wit and unparalleled sense of humor, which delighted most and eluded some. She had no special talent, never had a driver's license, no special beauty mark, wouldn't sing, had

no manicured nails to file, but what she had she flaunted with the style of a fur-lined stole — she flashed her beautiful soul.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert "Bob" Peevler; four brothers, Edmund, Earle, Oscar and Donald; and three sisters, Myrtle, Ruby and Alberta.

Survivors include her brother, Homer; and two sisters, Pauline and Geneva.

Opal and Bob had three daughters, Bobbi Burnum of Nampa, Idaho, Linda Bruns of Kalispell and Reatha Windecker of Fargo, Okla. She always had a special place in her heart for all her children, seven grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Her life had immeasurable impact and influence in the lives of many. She inspired us, encouraged us, entertained us, teased us, loved and comforted us.

Our mother and grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Over the course of the past 10 years she slowly left us, while her memories of us left her, ours of her have not.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Dixie Lois Brock Peltier, 80

Dixie Lois Brock Peltier, 80, died Friday, May 19, 2006, at Kalispell. She was born to Roy Brock and Kathryn Gaertner Brook at Lone, Wash., on April 3, 1926; she moved with her parents back to the family homestead on the West Kootenai in north Lincoln County. Because Dixie was bedridden with asthma for 10 months at age 6, the family placier mined gold on Wolf Creek for a short time to get her out in the sunshine. Dixie attended Lincoln County High School in Eureka, graduating from there in 1945.

She married Richard Peltier on April 9, 1949, while he was serving with the United States Army at Fort Ord, Calif. They resided in Eureka, Condon Ranger Station, Kalispell, and had resided in Libby for 33 years before retiring and moving to Kalispell permanently.

In Libby, Dixie was a salesperson for several companies, including Avon. She had been a Boy Scout den mother and had served on the district roundtable as well as serving as publicity chairperson for the area Girl Scouting program.

Dixie had a great love of embroidery work and sending cards and letters to friends. She had been an active, donating member of the food pantry and friends of the animal shelter of both Libby

and Eureka.

Best known in the area for her writing skills, Dixie had been a member of the MIA Libby Writers Group and later the Authors of the Flathead. She had produced numerous articles, stories and short stories in many magazines and books, most recently submitting a work soon to be published in Focus On The Family Magazine.

While in Libby, she had attended the Episcopal church and after moving to Kalispell, had attended the Nazarene church. She had been a longtime member of the Minerva Minions home demonstration club and an active volunteer at Heritage Museum in Libby.

Surviving her is her husband of 57 years, Richard "Dick" Peltier of Kalispell; daughter, Kathy Peltier, of Kalispell; and sons, Larry Peltier of Trego, and Marty Peltier and wife, Carol Ann, of Libby; her grandchildren, Christina, Kyle, Nathan, Jona and Karl; as well as many cousins and numerous lifelong friends.

Services will be at 11 a.m. today, Tuesday, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Eureka. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to service time. Interment will be in Tobacco Valley Cemetery under the direction of Nelson and Vial Funeral Home.

Richard 'Dick' Douglas Pelton, 74

Richard "Dick" Douglas Pelton, 74, passed away Friday, Nov. 10, 2006, at his home in Kalispell. He was born April 13, 1932, in Columbus, to George Arthur and Henrietta Albertina (Mills) Pelton.



Dick received his early education in Stillwater County, attending grade schools there. He graduated from Great Falls High School in Great Falls in 1950 and joined the United States Air Force in 1951. He separated in October 1952 and then enlisted in the Navy Reserve until 1956.

Dick met Evelyn Townsend while on active duty. They married on June 6, 1953, in Aurora, Ill.

Dick went to work for Caterpil-

lar Tractor Company in Aurora in 1957. He retired after 31 years of service and moved to the Flathead Valley. In 1995, the couple moved to Kalispell, where Dick enjoyed volunteering with the Civil Air Patrol. He was also involved with the HAMM radio operators and the American Legion.

Dick was preceded in death by his wife, in 2000; a son, Scott, in 2004; and his parents.

He is survived by a son, Tim Pelton, of Kalispell; a daughter, Dawn Biehl, and husband, Tom, of Bethlehem, Ga.; his 103-year-old mother-in-law, Elizabeth Townsend, of Aurora; and five grandchildren, Seth, Sarah, Katie, Brandon and Talisha.

Graveside services for Richard will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

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

Harry 'Logan' Pennoyer, 84

Harry "Logan" Pennoyer, 84, of Ronan, was "called home by our Lord" surrounded by loved ones Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006.

Logan was born April 3, 1921, in a covered wagon in Nirada, to Fred and Laurell Pennoyer.

He was a World War II veteran serving with the Army Air Corps in Burma. Upon his honorable discharge he returned to Montana, where he worked several jobs including the Flathead mines and construction of the Hungry Horse Dam. He then started at the Anaconda Aluminum plant, where he worked for 28 years until retiring.

In 1983, he moved to Ronan. He was one of the founding fathers of the Kalispell Volunteer Fire Department and the Ravalli Community Church where he was an active member.



He married Thelma Tallard in 1961, later divorcing.

In November 1983, he married Blanche Marquardt in Ronan.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers John, Clayton and Melvin; and one sister, Alice James; his daughter, Laurell Anne, and stepson, Harland Tallard.

Survivors include his wife, Blanche, three daughters, Kathy Pennoyer Smith of Emmett, Idaho, Cindy Ward of Baileyton, Ala., and Paula Garrison of Kalispell; one sister, Ella Jane Nelson, of Fayetteville, Ark.; and five grandchildren, Logan Bussey, Chandra Smith, Rashael Cozad, Dallas Cozad and Gracey Garrison.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Ravalli Community Church, with Pastor Lee Wraith officiating, with graveside services afterward Friday morning in Ronan.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials to the Ravalli Community Church, P.O. Box 631001, Ravalli, MT 59863. Call (406)745-3583.

Jim Perry, 60

Jim passed away Oct. 30, 2006, in Salt Lake City.

Jim Perry was born Nov. 3, 1945, in West Point, Miss., to Clarence and Pauline Perry. He graduated from Redondo Beach High School in California and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving his country in Vietnam.

He married Janine, his wife of 33 years, in August 1973. After having their first child, Zachary, in 1977, they moved to the mountains of Montana to raise a family. In 1980, his family was finalized with the birth of their daughter, Heidi.



Jim carved out a living at the lumber mills and later with the National Park Service, acquiring numerous friendships along the way. Jim was a true character, a person who spoke from his experiences and was not intimidated by anyone who opposed his principles. He could put a smile on anyone's face and draw a laugh from even the most reserved.

Jim enjoyed barbecuing for family and friends, conversations around the campfire, especially of a political nature, and Notre Dame football. Above all else, Jim loved his family.

As a beloved son, husband and father, Jim's spirit will remain alive in us always. "We love you Papa!"

No services will be held.

Bunny Personett, 85

Bunny Personett, "spark plug" for the North Valley Troubadours, passed away Sunday, Dec. 24, 2006, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

She was born to Art and Ellen Cowan on Sept. 12, 1921, amidst the aroma of MacIntosh apples and in the shadow of Trapper's Peak on the family ranch near Victor. It was here that she spent most of her childhood, attending Victor grade school and graduating from high school in 1939. Her memory of this place was vivid to her until her last days.

She went on to Tacoma, Wash., after graduation to attend beauty school. There she met and married Ernie Goslee. From this union, three children were born, Patricia, David (deceased), and Jim. They later divorced, around 1945.

She returned to the Victor area and married Roland Personett. They had four children, Robert, Rusty, Peggy and Cathy. In 1950, they moved to Cobalt, Idaho, a mining town in the mountains and spent five years there before moving to Columbia Falls in 1955.

Bunny found work selling Avon and at the Montana Veterans Home, retiring from there in 1983. She always raised a big garden and instilled her work ethics in her children with a shared time pulling weeds or

picking raspberries. Her fried chicken was the best in the West. She was a valued member of the VFW Auxiliary, Cooties, North Valley Seniors and spent many hours volunteering at local nursing homes.

Bunny was preceded in death by seven siblings, Tom Fifield, Elsie Buker, Rolie Fifield, Freddie Fifield, Nellie Miller, Peg Muhlman and Bo Fifield; sons, David Goslee (infant) and Robert Personett; and one great-granddaughter, Cassandra Rhine.

She is survived by her daughters, Pat Roberts of Columbia Falls, Peggy Colby of Kalispell, and Cathy Graham of Flagstaff, Ariz.; her sons, Jim and Betty Personett of Columbia Falls, and Rusty Personett of Flagstaff; a sister, Alice (Blinks) Gingrich of Victor; seven grandchildren, Tom, Trisha, Brian, Tammy, Adam, AJ and Karin; nine great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A reception service and luncheon for Bunny will be held at noon Friday, Jan. 5, at the Columbia Falls Senior Citizens Center with a private family inurnment in Woodlawn Cemetery and on the ranch near Victor in the spring of 2007.

Arrangements are with the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Barbara Ruth (Collier) Peterson, 70

Born on Dec. 16, 1935, in Kalispell, Barbara Peterson passed away Aug. 17, 2006. A beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Barbara will forever be in the hearts of the many who loved her. Her spirit, compassion, and deep love for the Lord will continue to inspire and uplift her friends and family forever. Adored by all of those around her, Barbara lived an exemplary life and her loss is greatly mourned.

Born to proud parents, Ruby and Leslie Collier, Barbara enjoyed a wonderful childhood along with her younger sister Garnette. Always interested in writing and art, Barbara excelled in these subjects as a student at Flathead High, winning many awards for her exceptional abilities.

In 1958, she married Jerald Peterson, and shortly after they welcomed their first daughter, Pamela. During the next decade, they had three more daughters, Janet, JoAnn and Connie. As a devoted and active homemaker, Barbara spent most of her time caring for her family. She enjoyed cooking and baking, and her family recalls her wonderful meals made for them on a daily basis. Barbara also had a strong faith in God, and became an active member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. With a deep faith in the Lord, Barbara turned to prayer in times of need.

Her husband Jerald, a certified public accountant, often had to transfer positions, so Barbara became accustomed to moving around the country. Having lived

in Montana, Alaska, Idaho and California, she and her family eventually moved to Woodinville, Wash., in 1979, where she lived for the rest of her life. Shortly after their move, Barbara welcomed her first granddaughter, and since then has had the joy and privilege of having 10 grandchildren. Just as she was a giving mother, she was a wonderful grandmother as well. She loved making crafts for them, teaching them how to sew, and welcoming them to her home.

In her later years, she enjoyed sewing and decorating, as well as antique shopping with her daughters. An avid gardener, Barbara often spent weekends planting fruits and vegetables in her backyard. She also loved to travel, and had the honor and joy of taking two trips to China for the adoption of two grandchildren — experiences that had a great impact on her life.

Barbara's legacy will live on always in the minds and hearts of her family. Her sad loss follows a joyous, fulfilling life.

She is survived by many loved ones, including her husband, Jerald; daughters Pamela Harrington, Joann Czapiewski, Janet Peterson and Connie Moore; sister Garnette LaFrance; 10 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

A visitation will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23, at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

A graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, at Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell.

Cletys Marie Peterson, 89



Cletys Marie Peterson was born March 26, 1916, to Frederick Doty and Christina Joyce (Keagy) Boehning, in Newton County, Mo. She passed away Monday,

Feb. 20, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell. Mrs. Peterson was 89 at the time of her death.

Mrs. Peterson was a teacher at Kuehn country school for a year before being hired to teach fifth grade at Elrod Elementary school in Kalispell. She taught at Elrod until her retirement in June 1978. She received her teaching degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Mrs. Peterson was united in marriage to Leonard Morse Peterson on Oct. 30, 1943, in Missouri. They were married until his death March 7, 1986. To this union three children were born.

Mrs. Peterson was preceded in death by her parents; and her sisters and their spouses, Lucy Claudeen and James Alsup, Laura Evelyn and Robert Denney, and Fredda Joyce and Donald Cochran. She also was preceded in death by one granddaughter, Angela Kay Lea; her father- and mother-in-law, Harry and Theresa Peterson; brothers and sisters-in-law, May and Donald Kohler,

Harry N. Peterson Jr., Lila and Merwin Frank, Sidney and Marge Peterson, Donald Peterson, and Betty Vlasak; nephews, Sidney Frank, William Peterson, Frederick Alsup, and James Alsup; and nieces, Carol Jean Frank and Theresa Carol Peterson.

Those who remain to mourn her passing are her son, Donald Vance Peterson, of Kalispell, and her daughters and sons-in-law, Kathleen and Charles Vernon of Kalispell, and Carol and VR "Bill" Lea of Steelville, Mo.; her five grandchildren, Charles "Nick" Vernon, Kimberley Kay Vernon, Christopher and Windy Vernon, Meredith Marie and Jason Chew, and Ross and Jessica Lea; her great-grandchildren, Alexandria Lynn Vernon, Random Harrison Vernon, and Incarnadine Fenn Vernon. She is survived by her brother-in-law, William S. and Betty Peterson, and sister-in-law, Ruth Lowe; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

All arrangements are under the direction of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Public visitation will be from 2 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. The funeral will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, at Central Christian Church, with the Rev. Jan Van der Pol officiating. Interment will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the DAV Auxiliary or the Central Christian Church education department.

Conrad Peterson, 69

Conrad Peterson, 69, of Polson, died April 28, 2006, from leukemia.

Cremation has taken place. A gathering of friends will be held from 4 to 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 8, at the Boardwalk Cafe at Boettcher Park in Polson.

Grogan Funeral Home of Polson handled arrangements, 883-2808.

Dale Miles Peterson, 44

Dale Miles Peterson, 44, was found in the Flathead River on Jan. 9, 2006.

Dale was born July 7, 1961, in Great Falls to Richard and Darlene Peterson.

He worked most of his life as a landscaper. His interests and hobbies were artwork, camping, fishing and many other outdoor activities.

He was loved and respected by everyone who knew him. He loved his whole family, and they always came first. He will be truly missed by his family.

He was preceded in death by



his parents, Richard and Darlene Peterson.

He is survived by his brothers, Richard A. Peterson of Kalispell, Brian and his wife, Keryl Peterson, of Cascade, and James Bigoness of Whitefish; sisters, Donna Vandeman and husband, Arthur, of Pasco, Wash., Shirley Peterson and husband, Jim Watson, of Marion, Rebecca Bolves of Great Falls; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; and many friends.

Memorial services will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Dale already has been cremated.

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

Shawn Henrik Pettersen, 25

Shawn Henrik Pettersen, 25, was "called back home by God" on Sunday, Sept. 24, 2006, in Kalispell. He was born July 16, 1981, in Sheridan, Mont., the son of Richard "Rich" Henry and Judy Ann (Clark) Pettersen.

As an intensely bright shooting star lights up the night sky, Shawn lit up our lives and the lives of hundreds of people around us. He has left us with an indelible memory of having experienced something very wonderful. The world is a better place for his having been here and he will be profoundly missed.

"Your children are not your children; they are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself. They come through you but do not belong to you. You may give them your love, but not your thoughts, and you may house their bodies, but not their souls. And so we reluctantly return Shawn to our Lord who was gra-



cious enough to loan him to us, and who has taken Shawn home to relieve him of his pain and suffering."

He is survived by his parents, Rich and Judy Pettersen, of Kalispell; brother, Kirt Pettersen, of Kalispell, who is currently working in Juneau, Alaska; grandmother, Helen Pettersen, of Lewiston, N.Y.; uncles, Ron Pettersen and wife Alice, also of Lewiston, Rodney Clark of Dillon, and Gary Clark of Belgrade; as well as many other family members and friends.

Memorial services for Shawn Pettersen will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 2, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Chapel on Whitefish Stage Road in Kalispell. There will be no public visitation at the request of Shawn's family.

The family suggests that any memorial contributions be sent to Flathead High School Theater Department, in care of Shawn Pettersen, 644 Fourth Avenue West, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

Ralph Leroy Phelps, 76

Ralph Leroy Phelps, 76, formerly of Kalispell and Ryegate, passed away on Thursday, Aug. 10, 2006, at the Pioneer Medical Center in Big Timber surrounded by family after a long courageous battle with emphysema.

Ralph was born Oct. 24, 1929, on a farm 14 miles south of Redstone, a son of Jasper Phelps and Jenny Severson Phelps.

Ralph married Virginia "Ginny" Ruggles on Sept. 4, 1955, in Plentywood. They farmed and ranched together in Redstone, then moved to a farm in Ryegate in 1968. After selling the farm in Ryegate, Ralph was janitor and bus driver for Ryegate School. In 1992 they moved to Kalispell and from 1992 to 2002, Ralph was janitor at Evergreen Junior High School in Kalispell. After retirement in 2002, Ralph moved to Big Timber.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Bryon; an



infant daughter; and his wife, Ginny.

Survivors include his brother Jerry and Dona Phelps, of Redstone; sisters, June and Phil Loucks of Ennis, Marion Hoyt of Bigfork; sons, Bryce and Nora Phelps and Jim and Shelley Phelps, both of Billings; daughters, Joanne and Bill Boles of Kalispell, and Lynette and Travis Shepard of Big Timber. He is also survived by five grandsons, Justen, Dylan, Landon, Sam and Seth; three granddaughters, Cristine, Jenna and Madison; and two great-grandsons, Wyatt and Cooy.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Peden and the staff at Pioneer Medical Center who brought peace to Ralph and comfort to his family.

A graveside service to remember Ralph and celebrate his life will be held at 1 p.m. at the Ryegate Cemetery with Pastor Al Baglien of the Big Timber Lutheran Church officiating. A reception will follow at the Ryegate Senior Center.

"May God be with you. We love you Dad."

Arrangements are by Stenberg Funeral Home.

Betty Marie Pierson, 71

Betty Marie Pierson, 71, of Kalispell passed away peacefully March 26, 2006, at Immanuel Lutheran Home surrounded by her family.

She was born April 28, 1934, in Bagley, Minn., the daughter of Ludvig and Birdie Ysen.

Betty loved crafts, gardening, coffee, cats, knitting, making shopping lists, potato dumplings, her Norwegian heritage and spending time with family and friends. Betty had a special place in her heart for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She had a wry sense of humor and enjoyed making people laugh.

Betty is survived by her children; Linda and Stuart Erickson, Mike Norlander, Bruce and Kathy Norlander, Gordon Jeffery and Susie Peterson, Susan Peterson and Cathy Peterson; stepdaughter, Cindy and Brad Skramstad; grandsons, Jason and Koni Erickson, Nick and Julie Erickson, Jeffery and Ranee Peterson and Tyler Norlander; granddaughters,



Heather Peterson, Andrea Norlander and Ashlee Skramstad; great-grandsons, Cameron, Hunter and Jeffery Peterson, Lincoln Erickson and Colt Erickson; great-granddaughters, McCall Erickson, Haley Erickson and Leah Banyai, brothers, Marshall Ysen and Elmer Ysen; sister-in-law, Deloris Ysen; and many nieces and nephews.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Frank and Donald; sister, Doris; grandson, David Erickson; husband, Ervin Pierson; and stepson, Jeff Pierson.

Per Betty's wishes, no service will be held. Cremation has taken place, and her ashes will be spread at the family cemetery in Bagley.

The family would like to thank Dr. Annie Bukacek, the caring staff at Immanuel Lutheran Home and the compassionate staff of Home Options Hospice.

Memorials may be given in her name to the Immanuel Lutheran Home, 185 Crestline Ave., Kalispell, MT 59901; Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901; or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Duane Pinkerman, 78

Duane Pinkerman, 78, of Polson, died Friday, Nov. 10, 2006, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula from natural

causes.

Grogan Funeral Home in Polson will announce arrangements at a later date.

Eugene 'Gene' Carter Pitman, 82

Eugene "Gene" Carter Pitman, 82, died on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

He is survived by his wife, Alma, of Fortine; two daughters, Brenda Huyck of Fortine, and Linda Thompson of Troy;

and one son, Jim Pitman of Port Orchard, Wash.

Services are not scheduled at this time.

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

Robert Ray Pitman, 54

Robert Ray "Bob" Pitman, 54, died at his home of pancreatic cancer on Friday, Oct. 20, 2006.

Bob was born on May 14, 1952 in Bozeman to Richmond and Mary Frances Pitman. He was the oldest of four sons. He grew up in Deer Lodge, attending Powell County High School where he was very active in sports, playing football, basketball and golf. Bob graduated in 1970 and began work for the Milwaukee Railroad, spending the summer in Avery, Idaho, to earn money for college. After a year at Montana Tech, he returned to the Milwaukee Railroad in what would be the beginning of a long and diverse career in the railroad industry.

It was Bob's desire to live his life in Montana that guided many decisions throughout his life. Except for two short exceptions, this fourth generation native Montanan lived and died in the state he loved.

Bob married Penny Dues, and together they suffered the loss of their premature son, Jonathan Kern Pitman. They later divorced.

Bob continued his career with the railroad, enjoying the opportunities on days off to spend time in the mountains fishing, hunting and camping. Stories keep surfacing of Bob's skills with his rifle and fishing rod and his knowledge of the outdoors.

On June 30, 1979, Bob married Maryanne Day, a transplant from Michigan. He shared a lifetime of adventures and love of the outdoors with her; he gave her his Montana.

After the Milwaukee Railroad pulled out of Montana, Bob enjoyed a summer working as a white-water river guide for Western Waters, floating the Alberton Gorge, loving the high water and the crab leg feasts at Forest Grove. With severance pay, he bought his own white-water raft, adding another dimension of joy to his life.

With a surplus of unemployed railroad workers, Bob and Maryanne had to leave Montana. In October, 1980, after a series of short-term moves, they moved to Klamath Falls, Ore., where Bob was able to obtain a yardmaster's job with the Burlington Northern Railroad, with a seniority date which would eventually allow him to transfer back to Montana.

A son, Braden Rogue, was born on Feb. 3, 1981, in Klamath Falls. Later that year the family moved back to Montana.

In the summer of 1983, Bob worked on the Alaska Railroad out of Anchorage, while his family went to Michigan where a son, Raymond Richmond, was born on June 27, 1983. After a winter in Seeley Lake, they moved to Whitefish, where Bob worked as a yardmaster/trainman.

On Nov. 12, 1984, a son, Geoffrey Logan, was born. In 1985, they moved to Livingston, where Bob worked as a brakeman, and fished and hunted and floated. Yellowstone Park was a favorite day trip with the family. In 1988, they moved to Columbia Falls and Bob worked as a yardmaster in Whitefish. After several heart attacks and heart surgery, Bob left the railroad on disability.

Bob's talent with computers was stunning. Beginning with an IBM-PC in Livingston, Bob devoured the most technical manuals, and enjoyed developing special projects for the railroad. This same mental intensity was evident in his chess game and his golf game. He grew up working and playing on a golf course, as his father maintained the course at Deer Lodge.

Bob shared his passions and knowledge with his sons, teaching them to fish, hunt, run a river, camp, golf, play chess and use the computer. These skills will be with them forever.

Bob was preceded in death by his son, Jonathan Kern Pitman, and his father, Richmond Kern Pitman.

Bob is survived by his wife, Maryanne; his sons, Braden of Missoula, and Raymond and Geoffrey, of Columbia Falls; his mother, Mary Frances Pitman, of Deer Lodge; his brother, Mike and his son Reed, of Deer Lodge; his brother Dan, of Boise, Idaho; his brother, Ken and his wife Pam, and their sons, David, Steven, and Mathew, of Seeley Lake; and many well-loved aunts, uncles and cousins. He is survived by many friends from his railroad career. Bob is also survived by an amazing group of classmates, who, through the Internet, have been able to remain close, sharing memories and love.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the United Methodist Church in Columbia Falls. The family would be blessed to share time and memories with Bob's friends at a reception following the service.

Alfred H. Piva, 78

Alfred H. Piva, 78, passed away Sunday Nov. 19, 2006, in Kalispell. Alfred was born March 24, 1928, in Oshkosh, Neb., to Paul and Mary Piva.

He graduated from Garden County High School and entered the U.S. Air Force in 1950. He was honorably discharged in 1954.

Alfred farmed in Oshkosh before moving to Montana. Once living here he was employed at Plum Creek for 26 years. During that time he operated a forklift, graded lumber and was a supervisor.

He was involved in the Coram Volunteer Fire Department and acted as treasurer there. He was a Boy Scout leader in Martin City for a number of years. He had hiked the Great Northern several times with his scout troop. Alfred was also a life member of the V.F.W.

He loved fishing, camping and hiking.

He married Vi Ahrens in Cheyenne, Wyo., on Oct. 5, 1962. They had 42 wonderful years together.

Alfred was preceded in death by his parents, Mary and Paul; and a grandson, Erich Ahrens.

He is survived by his wife Vi Piva of Coram; son Chuck Ahrens of Littleton, Colo.; brothers, Chuck Piva and his wife Ruth of Chapell, Neb., and John Piva of Oshkosh, Neb.; grandson, Michael Ahrens; great-grandchildren, Nicolle and Jason Ahrens, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Ste. 100, Kalispell, MT, 59901.

Services and interment for Alfred will be held at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, at a later date.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

John R. Pohl, 30,

John R. Pohl, 30, a resident of Whitefish, formerly of Dayton, Ohio, died after injuries sustained in a traffic accident Aug. 9, 2006 near Dixon.

A memorial service will be

held at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 14, at Christ United Methodist Church in Kettering, Ohio.

Bunch-Toews Funeral Chapel of Plains is handling the arrangements.

Rosemary Ann Poland, 64

Rosemary Ann Poland, 64, passed away Saturday July 1, 2006, as the result of an automobile accident north of Deer Lodge.



Rosemary was born Nov. 30, 1941, in New York City, to Alexander and Alice Doerle.

She was preceded in death by her father and brother.

Rosemary is survived by her mother, Alice Doerle; daughters, Lisa Marie, Robin and son-in-law, Brandon Rice, Cheryl, Tracey and Diane; and five grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday July 5, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

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

Marci Lynn (Lee) Polansky, 38

Marci Lynn (Lee) Polansky, 38, passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 4, 2006. After a strong and courageous battle with the relentless disease of cancer, she died at home with her family and loved ones at her side.



Marci was born March 26, 1968, to Robert and Linda Lee in Kalispell. She was a lifelong resident of Kalispell, attended Kalispell schools, graduated from Flathead High School, and then attended the University of Montana in Missoula.

Marci married David Polansky on Oct. 10, 1992, in Kalispell where they made their home. She worked at Kmart in customer service for several years, Eisinger Motors for a time, and later owned and operated Jungle Rama Drop-in Child Care Center until she decided to pursue other business ventures.

Marci was a wonderful wife, mother and friend to everyone who knew her. She loved life and this was reflected in her sparkling smile and in the lives she touched, especially children. She was at her best when the sun was reflecting off the water and there were lots of people around. Marci was kind, sensitive and gentle, with a great deal of inner strength that was with her until the end.

Marci was preceded in death by her grandparents, John and Eunice deYong, and Jim Lee and Ella Mae Lee Montpetit; her uncle, John Lee; and father-in-

law, George Polansky.

Marci is survived by her husband and soul mate, David, and their two sons, Bryar and Braedyn, her mother, Linda deYong, and her companion, Alan Quimby, her dad, Robert, and stepmother, Marie Lee, all of Kalispell; her sister, Jami, and her husband, Scot Johnson and their children, Kyra and Trevor, of Goodyear, Ariz.; her stepbrother, Ed Ralls, of Billings; her stepgrandfather, Dan Montpetit, of Kalispell; her mother-in-law, Clara, and her husband, Ray Koeser, of Pah-rump, Nev.; her brother-in-law, George, and his wife, Marsha Polansky, of Bozeman, and their children, Ben and Vanessa; her sister-in-law, Carol Stickney, of Pasco, Wash., and her children, Wendy, Joshua and Sarah, and their spouses and children; and several aunts, uncles, and other relatives.

A celebration of Marci's life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Central Bible Church, 902 First Ave. E., in Kalispell. Marci's sister-in-law, Pastor Carol Stickney, will be leading the celebration.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Polansky Memorial Fund in care of the Whitefish Credit Union, 234 E. Montana St., Kalispell, MT 59901. A portion will be donated to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942 in honor of Marci's love for children.

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

Estella S. Polich, 84

Estella S. Polich, 84, died Sunday, Nov. 12, 2006, at Lake View Care Center in Bigfork.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Dennis Jeffrey Poncelet, 37

Dennis Jeffrey Poncelet "was carried home by the angels" Friday, June 16, 2006, after a tragic electrical accident. Dennis was born June 30, 1969, and attended school in Whitefish and received a GED. He was going on to acquire his nurse's aide certification. He spent the last eight years of his life working as a concrete finisher and form fitter for Arrow Concrete Co., and was so proud of his accomplishments there.

Dennis had a wonderful, crooked smile that conveyed the gentle, loving heart within. As a little boy, he enjoyed swimming, baseball, and eating all kinds of fruit. He enjoyed cooking, fishing, drawing Native American designs, stock-car races, and had a great sense of humor and always was ready for anything fun. He was very proud of his Salish and Kootenai heritage, and in his later life became involved in the tribal rituals and traditions. Dennis' favorite place was the North Fork where his ashes will be spread.

Dennis' proudest moments came in the forms of his six children. He was a great "Mr. Mom" and he worked hard to overcome the challenges in his life so he could spend time with them.



Dennis is survived by his parents; Nick and Loretta Poncelet, in Whitefish; a brother, Morris Poncelet, in Kalispell; a sister, Nicole Adams, in Denver; daughters, Christina, Crystal and Lakesha, all in Idaho; son, Dennis Jr., in Idaho; a daughter, Destiny, in Kalispell; and a son, Gary, in Kalispell; grandmothers, Clarine Harker in Whitefish and Evelyn Poncelet in Great Falls; Uncle Jeff and Pam Poncelet in Great Falls; Uncle Greg and Melinda Poncelet in Bozeman; Aunt Peg Anderson in Whitefish; Aunt Buzzie and Ric Anderson in Whitefish; Uncle Jeff and Sheila Harker in Columbia Falls; Aunt Carol and Fred Born in Trenton, N.J.; Aunt Jinny and Jake Slater in Kingston, Ohio; nieces, Amy and Amanda Poncelet, Sonja and Isabelle Adams; nephews, Isaiah and Kalvyn Adams; his dear friend Tammi Haviland in Kalispell; and by many other relatives and friends.

An account will be established at the Whitefish Credit Union for the Poncelet children.

A viewing will be from 2 to 7 p.m. today at Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. A Christian wake service will be at 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

A Mass of the Christian burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 21, at St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish, with the Rev. Pat Patton as celebrant.

Kelly Marie Pope, 45

Kelly passed away peacefully as she wanted Monday, Dec. 4, 2006, and is now in a better place. She was the second oldest daughter in a family of four. She was born to Darrel Griffey and Rae Coverdell in Libby on April 11, 1961.

She lived for her family, her two sons, Kelly (19) and David (17), and her loving husband, Randy Pope. Her two sons were born to her first husband, Paul Greenfield.

Kelly was married to Randy on Christmas Eve 1998 in The Little White Chapel in Las Vegas, after which the family went to Disneyland, where they had the time of their lives. Randy and Kelly had a happy marriage. Everyone always commented on how they were the perfect couple.

Kelly spent most of her life doing what she loved to do, which was health care. She got her nurses aide license and went to Flathead Valley Community College, where she received her associate of science degree. She was working her way to becoming a registered nurse and completing her schooling.

Kelly always helped those in need and comforted those in pain, even though she, herself, was in pain every day from lordosis and scoliosis. Some days, she was in so much pain she could not get out of bed. She still held strong and kept many people going in life.

She had worked as a nurse



in the Navy, in hospitals, and at the Montana Veterans Home. She also enjoyed working in home health care, touching many hearts throughout the years. Kelly was a hard-working, motivated person who had that love and natural caring energy that made everyone around her notice the joy she emitted. She had a beautiful face with bright blue eyes that made you fall in love with her every time you would see her. Kelly was a pillar for many people.

She always put God and all of her love into everything she did. Kelly taught us to live our lives to the fullest and live each day as if it may be your last, while still being completely selfless and doing anything she could to help those around her. She kept her home clean and worked to keep her family happy.

Kelly was the best mother anyone could have wished for. She was so supportive of her children. She knew how to comfort you and give you the love you needed whether you were a resident, a veteran, young or old. She could make you feel better, no matter who you were.

Kelly Pope was one amazing person. There are so many people who are proud of her. She deserves all the praise and recognition she can. We will all remember her and keep her in our hearts forever.

Visitation will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Burial will be afterward in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Donald William Porter, 89

Donald William Porter, 89, a longtime resident of Whitefish, died Friday, Aug. 18, 2006, of natural causes.

He was born April 20, 1917, at Mold City, Wash., the middle son of Thomas and Clementine (Beaton) Porter. As a small child, he moved to Rosebud, Miles City and Billings. In 1922, the family moved to Spokane, where he attended grade school, Gonzaga High School and Kinman Business University.

He began his railroad career in Spokane with Great Northern Railway in 1935 and subsequently with promotions he worked in Wenatchee and Seattle, Klamath Falls, Ore., then Great Falls and finally Whitefish in 1955 as supervisor of accounting for the west end of the railroad. This territory extended from Williston, N.D., to Seattle and from Vancouver, British Columbia to Bieber, Calif. While working for the railroad, he traveled extensively through many states, and after retirement that travel included Hawaii and Alaska.

Don retired from Burlington Railroad on May 31, 1977, after 42 years of service. His career was interrupted for three years during World War II where he served as a platoon sergeant training combat engineer troops for overseas duty.

During his retirement he enjoyed his passions for golf and woodworking. He began golfing at age 13 and was Caddy No. 7 at the Spokane Country Golf Club in Spokane. His last golf partner was Jim Kane, owner of the Par 3 Golf Course in Whitefish.

Don was a member of St. Charles Catholic church and a member of the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, Elks Club, Burlington Northern Veter-



ans Association and Loyal Order of the Moose.

After moving to Whitefish, in 1954, he was chairman and president of many events including: Gala Days, Railway Appreciation Days, Whitefish Boat Regatta, March of Dimes and the original chairman of the United Way. He was once a Montana State judge of the Junior Miss Contest, on the board of directors of the Whitefish Lake Golf Course and derby chairman for many years during their 4th of July golf tournaments. He was selected as Boss of the Year in 1967. He was president of the Whitefish Winter Carnival in 1963 and chosen as King Ullr V in 1964. He also found time to coach, train and promote the Whitefish Boxing Team for three years.

Don was preceded in death by his first wife, Beth Barton; second wife, Joan King; his mother, Clemy; father, Tommy; and brother, Dale.

He is survived by two daughters, Sherry and husband, John Lewis of Reno, Nev., and Patty Patton of Kalispell; grandchildren, Cathy in Missoula, Tresa and her husband, Rick DeLaughder, and their children, Cole and Jesse in Marion, Earl and his daughter, Kiersten, in Kalispell and Earl's son, Kyle and wife, Brianna; and great-great-grandson, Israel, of Langley, Va. Also by Don's youngest brother, Wayne and wife, Dorothy, in Seattle; and by seven nieces and their families; as well as numerous cousins and their families.

Visitation will be 4 to 7 p.m. today at the Austin Funeral Home and followed by a Christian wake service at 7 p.m. today at the funeral home. A mass of the Christian burial will be 1 p.m. Monday at St. Charles Catholic church with Rev. Pat Patton as celebrant. Burial will follow at the Whitefish Cemetery with military honors provided by the United Veterans of the Flathead.

Gerald C. Porter, 70

Gerald C. Porter, 70, of Troy died Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2006, at his residence.

He worked in the timber industry for many years, mainly as a skidder operator until retiring.

He is survived by his daughters, Lola Porter of

Tempe, Ariz., and Deanna Thill of Troy.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Troy Church of God, with the Rev. Gene Bushnell officiating.

Arrangements are under the care of Nelson and Vial Funeral Home.

James B. Porter, 78

James B. Porter, 78, was born on Dec. 12, 1927, in East Orange, N.J. to John T. and Grace A. Porter. He passed away on Nov. 26, 2006, at home in Kalispell.

Jim moved to Carroll, Iowa, in 1936, where he received his early education.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1945 where he spent time in the Philippine Islands. He returned to marry Marcia Weeks on Jan. 20, 1947. He then enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1947, serving 18 months in Greenland and Duluth, Minn.

Jim returned to school at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D., in 1950 where he trained to be an X-ray technician. Jim later left X-ray to pursue other business ventures. From 1961 to 1962 he served active duty in the U.S. Army and in 1978 he pursued the real

estate business until his retirement.

Jim enjoyed hunting, fishing, and most of all, traveling with his wife.

Jim's beloved wife and bridge partner of 47 years, Marcia Porter, preceded him in death in 1994.

He is survived by his daughter, Cheri Magnuson, of North Bend, Wash.; three grandchildren, William "Corey" Souther, Troy Souther and Janae Magnuson; and two great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind his best canine friend, Pelly. "Pelly will be enjoying his own Heaven" with Janae and her three dogs in Wisconsin.

Services will be held at 1 p.m., Dec. 1, at St. Matthew's Church in Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to Home Options Hospice in Kalispell.

Nancy Ann Pratch, 46

Nancy Ann Pratch, 46, passed away July 8, 2006, in Whitefish. She was born Sept. 30, 1959, in Pasadena, Calif.

Nancy loved all critters, horseback riding, cooking, hiking, entertaining, reading, travel and life in all its glory.

She was preceded in death by her father, Michael Pratch.

Nancy is survived by her partner, Donald Neuerman; and mother, Joyce Pratch, of Altadena, Calif.



She also leaves behind her beloved pets: cats -- India, Cortez, Lucy, Pinkerton, Zipp, Alphaella, Fagioli, James, Menou, Jimmy, Chumba, Romeo, Sammy and Flobert; dogs -- Griz, Annabell and Hayfield; horses, Skokum, Tonto, Paddy, Wishbone and Ace; and peacock, Nellie.

A celebration of Nancy's life will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, July 15, at 555 Twin Bridges Road in Whitefish.

Memorials are suggested to the Humane Society of Northwest Montana, 3499 U.S. 93 N., Kalispell MT 59901; or Flathead Spay and Neuter Task Force, P.O. Box 2095, Whitefish, MT 59937.

William E. Prause, 75

William E. Prause, 75, of Libby died from natural causes Tuesday, June 27, 2006, at his home in Libby.

Survivors include his three children, Kathleen Joy Leonard of Prunedale, Calif., Kristine Llewellyn Prause of Missoula,

and Bill Prause of Libby.

There will be a gathering from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, July 8, at the family home, 269 North Central Ave., in Libby.

Arrangements are by Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

Esther M. Pray, 85

Esther M. Pray, 85, died Thursday, Aug. 31, 2006 at Mountain View Manor in Eureka.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

William 'Bill' Prentice, 75

William "Bill" Prentice, 75, of Libby, died Thursday, Aug. 17, 2006, at the VA Medical Center in Spokane.

He had been a painting contractor in Phoenix, for many years until his retirement.

Survivors include his wife,

Ruby, of Libby; three daughters, Billie, Patty and Pamela, all of Mesa City, Ariz.

Graveside services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at the City of Libby Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Nelson & Vial Funeral Home.

William E. Price, 58

William E. Price, 58, died Sunday, Nov. 12, 2006, in Columbia Falls.

He worked as a drywall installer for many years.

Survivors include his daughters, Sarah Bieber and

Addie Price.

A graveside inurnment service will be held Monday, Nov. 27, in Pottsville, Ark.

Arrangements are with the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Catherine Purfurst

Catherine Purfurst, a devoted wife and mother, a kind and caring friend, passed away peacefully at Brendan House in Kalispell on March 30, 2006.

Born Catherine Guilfoyle in Neola, Iowa, she later moved to Denver with her family, where she met and married her husband of 48 years, Kenneth Purfurst.

While raising her family, she also pursued interests in music and writing. A member of the Denver Area Music Teacher's Association, she taught piano for many years. As a freelancer, she wrote articles for the East Denver Journal; and she wrote poetry for personal pleasure, as well as for



publication.

Catherine later graduated from Metropolitan State College with a degree in early childhood education. She was a teacher for Head Start until she retired in 1980.

She was predeceased by her husband, Kenneth (1990).

She is survived by her daughters, Stephanie Baca of Kalispell, Karel Scott of Manhattan, and Barbara Pieper of Fullerton, Calif. She also is survived by her grandchildren, Cristina Duvall, Marcos Baca, Elise Hong, Daniel Baca and Hannah Hopper; and her great-grandchildren, Keegan, Andrew, Aiden and Christopher.

Catherine was dearly loved. All who have known her will miss her gentle, lively spirit.

A memorial Mass will be held in her honor at 11 a.m. April 7 at Church of the Risen Christ in Denver.