

Mitchell J. Babcock, 78

Mitchell J. Babcock, 78, of Columbia Falls, died Friday, Oct. 5, 2007, at his home in Columbia Falls.

He was born Nov. 30, 1928, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Vernon and Florence Babcock. He was raised and educated in Browning by his mother and by his second family, Robert and Roma Douglas.

Mitchell served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953 and was honorably discharged as a sergeant.

He married Mary Lou DesRosier in 1951. They lived, worked and raised eight children in Browning. They moved to Columbia Falls in 1976.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and a son, Scott in 1992.

Mitchell is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Lou, in Columbia Falls; his children, Tony and Linda Babcock of East Glacier, Stephen and Carolyn Babcock of Cut Bank, Janet Babcock of Columbia Falls, John and Kathy Babcock of

Kalispell, Paul and Theresa Babcock of Columbia Falls, Ronald and Lisa Babcock of Columbia Falls, and Doug and Courtney Babcock of Columbia Falls; sisters, Helen Hill, Donna and Terry Bremmer, and Delores Andersen; and brothers, Russell, Gary, and Sam Douglas; 12 grandchildren, Mitchell Jr., Kyle, Drew, Michael, Angela, Amanda, Bryson, Emily, Shawn, Jacob, Colton, and Cooper Babcock.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2007, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

A rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2007, at the mortuary.

A Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2007, at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls. The Rev. John Miller will officiate. Burial will be afterward at St. Richard's Catholic Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Virginia E. Bach, 67

Virginia E. Bach, 67, of Somers, died on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007, at the Brendan House in Kalispell.

She is survived by her son, Robert Bach, of Somers.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family.

Hallie Mildred Bailey, 96

Hallie Mildred Bailey, 96, of Eureka, died Saturday, March 10, 2007, at Mountain View Manor from natural causes.

Survivors include a son, Richard Bailey, of Eureka; and daughter, Helen Grego-

ry, of Auburn, Wash.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 15, at Tobacco Valley Cemetery.

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

Lillian (Risdal) Ramsfield Bailey, 83

Lillian (Risdal) Ramsfield Bailey, 83, passed away Tuesday, July 10, 2007, at Brendan House after a four and a half year battle with lung cancer.

She was born June 6, 1924, in Sidney, to George and Gustava Risdal. The family moved to the lower Flathead Valley in 1938, and she graduated from Flathead County High School in 1942.

Lillian married Eddie Ramsfield in Merced, Calif., in 1943. They returned to Montana in 1946, and purchased a dairy farm in Ferndale. She lived on that same property until January 2006 when she moved to Buffalo Hill Terrace in Kalispell.

She married Nebb Bailey in 1978. They enjoyed traveling and visiting relatives especially after Nebb's retirement from the Anaconda Aluminum Company.

Lillian worked for many years at the Bigfork Drug Store and also at Sliters Hardware in Bigfork.

She was a long-time member of the Ferndale Sewing Circle and Bethany Lutheran Church where she taught Sunday School, was active in the women's organization, and faithfully quilted for Lutheran World Relief.

Singing was her passion. It began at home with her parents and siblings. Her involvement in music continued as a member of high school choir and



ensemble, church choir, Sweet Adelines, Valley Chamber Choir, and Heartstrings quartet.

She enjoyed tending her flower and vegetable gardens, which were once part of the Bigfork Garden Tour.

Her parents; husbands, Eddie Ramsfield and Nebb Bailey; siblings, Jorgen, Thorvald, Olav and Esther Risdal, and Thelma Bollinger, preceded her in death.

Lillian is survived by her children, Beverly and Dennis Ostroot of Bigfork, Carolyn and Bryce Abel of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Ron Ramsfield of Bozeman; sister, Agnes Lee of Kalispell; brothers, George and Claudine Risdal of West Monroe, La., and Ralph and Jackie Risdal of Sammamish, Wash.; grandchildren, Johann Ostroot, Amy and Jeff Flavin, and Darcey and Cory Pierce; and great-grandchildren, Calen and Cameron Ostroot, Megan and Alex Flavin, and Hailey Pierce. Numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives also survive her.

Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. today, July 13, and from 10 a.m. until noon Saturday, July 14, at the Bigfork Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 14, at Bethany Lutheran Cemetery followed by a memorial service at 2 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bigfork.

Memorials are suggested to Bethany Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 398, Bigfork, MT 59911; the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718; or a charity of your choice.

Condolences may be sent to P.O. Box 214, Bigfork, MT 59911

Claude W. Bailor, 46

on Aug. 3, 1991.

His mother, and a brother, Al, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Judy Bailor, of Kalispell; children, Trinity Palmerton and wife, Tracey, of Kalispell, Kimberly Palmerton of Kalispell, and Nicole Bailor of Kalispell; grandchild, Trinity Palmerton Jr., of Kalispell; brothers, Mike Schmitt of Seattle, Charlie Swearingen of Las Vegas, and Pete Bailor of Billings; sisters, Kathy Bailor of Libby, Maggie Olsen of Libby, and Charlene Lauer and husband, Jaymen, of Sultan, Wash.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 8, at Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday.

Claude W. Bailor, 46, of Kalispell died March 1, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center from natural causes. He was born in Dillon to Claude W. and Helene Fischer Bailor. He moved to Libby at an early age and had attended school here.

After high school, he went to work on the oil rigs and had worked in Montana and California. He worked on a fishing boat in Alaska before returning to Libby. He worked for Fire Tech in Libby with Don Peterson. He worked for Rocky Mountain Contractors, subsequently Continental Line Builders, installing fiber optics. He was a member of IBEW Local 768.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and everything that involved the out-of-doors.

He married Judy Palmerton

Lewis L. 'Lou' Bain, 84

Lewis L. "Lou" Bain, 84, "went to the house of the Lord" on Friday April 20, 2007. Lou was born May 14, 1922, in Foremost, Alberta, to Oakford and Estella Robinson Bain. He was the youngest of six children, moving with his family to Essex soon after, then to Kalispell at the age of 2, where he resided most of the rest of his life. Times were tough during his early years, and he and his family lived in a tent later during the Great Depression.



Lou came from a broken family and learned the hard knocks of life at a tender age, when the unexpected death of his mother left him and a brother to scratch for themselves. As a youngster, he sometimes held down several jobs to meet expenses.

Lou attended elementary schools in Kalispell, and later Flathead County High School, where he was a standout all-around athlete. He was awarded an athletic scholarship at the University of Montana, a stint that was short-termed as he later entered the armed forces during World War II. Although physically handicapped, his early sense of responsibility led him to what he believed was his duty to serve his country.

Lou married his high-school sweetheart, Betty Schomer, on May 9, 1942. They traveled to various Army bases, where he served as an academic and military instructor. He became an expert in all small arms, and administered basic training to hundreds of Army inductees, preparing them for overseas military service.

After Lou was discharged from the Army in 1946, he held down a combination of jobs, beginning with an advertising agency, then advertising and printing salesman, and as a sports reporter for the Kalispell News.

In 1961, he became a partner-owner of O'Neil Printers and Office Supply. He later added business machines and office furniture to his product line, focusing on furniture and interior decorating. He sold the business in the mid-1970s, finishing out his career as an office-furniture salesman. Many of Kalispell's professional offices were the result of his decorating expertise.

He was very active in a number of civic and fraternal organizations during the early part of his business career. Lou became very active in veterans affairs, and served through all the

chairs in the American Legion Post No. 7, the Legion District No. 4, as well as the Legion Honor Society, the Forty and Eight, of which he served the highest office of Chef de gare. He advanced to the position of Montana senior vice commander of the American Legion, and was tabbed as Legion state commander, a position he declined to accept since he was burdened with numerous other business and social activities. During his 25 years in veterans affairs, he also published a monthly newspaper carrying the banner of the veteran known as The Topkicker.

Lou and Betty had six children, five boys and one girl, all of whom were raised in Kalispell. During their childhoods, Lou spent a great deal of time teaching them the fine art of athletics. In prep school, he was especially proud of their accomplishments in their athletic endeavors. He was their most ardent fan. Altogether they share a Flathead High School family record, being awarded 52 letters along with many other honors in athletics before continuing their activities in college, where they were awarded 11 additional letters.

The tradition has carried among his grandchildren, who claimed an additional 65 letters in football, basketball, track and baseball.

Lou was a member and eventual president of the original Downtown Coaches Club, and later was one of the organizers of the Braves Bench. He once constructed a miniature athletic complex in his oversized yard, featuring pits for vaulting, high jumping, a runway for hurdles, a shot put and discus pad, a long jump pit and a wooden basketball court. The complex was the center of attraction for youngsters throughout the Evergreen area until much of it was destroyed by the great flood of 1964.

Lou especially cherished the Yule season and kids, when the true meaning of Christmas was exemplified as a menagerie of beautiful handmade displays came to life with more than 25,000 colorful lights covering a spacious lot centered by a home, every inch of which was covered with lights, from foundation to roof. Over the years, it became known as Santa's Home, attracting carolers, children and adults alike, as throngs cluttered the nearby streets from Thanksgiving to Christmas and beyond.

When the years caught up with Lou, the Columbia Falls Chamber of Commerce perpetuated a large portion of the project, erecting part of it for public display at Marantette Park. The

official Columbia Falls parade, signaling the beginning of the shopping season, ends each year at Marantette Park, where the lights are turned on, unveiling the display from Thanksgiving until New Year's Day.

Over the years, Lou collected many photos of the valley and wrote countless articles about sports and historical data, and occasionally published books, becoming a historian in time.

In recognition of his long and outstanding devotion to athletics, he was honored when the Legends Stadium Committee named him among the first six inductees into the Flathead High School Hall of Fame. Qualifications for his nomination included his being all-state in football and co-captain of Flathead's first state championship football team in 1939, and co-captain of the basketball and track teams. He set school records in four track events — the high hurdles, low hurdles, high jump and pole vault — three of which lasted more than 20 years, and was state champion in the pole vault.

He was editor of the Flathead High sports programs from 1947 until 2006, chronicling many of Flathead sports accomplishments, present and historical, in the programs and as sports reporter for the Kalispell Weekly News from the mid-1980s to mid-1990s. He was author of several books including "Down The Years, 1898-1998, Flathead High School," "Flathead Valley Yesteryear," "Kalispell — The First 100 Years," and books on Bigfork, Somers and Whitefish.

Lou was a kind, gentle and generous person.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Estella and Oakford Bain; his wife of 61 years, Betty; three brothers, Arthur, Richard and Neil; and two sisters, Joyce Reynolds and Bernadine Cork.

Lou is survived by his five sons, Frank Bain and wife, Barbara, of Turner, Ore.; Ron Bain and wife, Bonnie, of Kalispell; Doug Bain and wife, Vivian, of Salem, Ore.; Dan Bain of Kalispell, and Scott Bain and his wife, Desiree, of Henderson, Nev.; and one daughter, Mary Kay Allison, of Columbia Falls; 13 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Lou's life will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at the Christian Center Assembly of God Church in Kalispell, with the Rev. Wayne Scheindmantle of the Canyon Community Church of Martin City officiating.

A fund has been established for Flathead High Athletics; in his memory, donations may be forwarded to the Flathead High School Activities Department in Kalispell.

Military honors will be provided by United Veterans of the Flathead Valley. After the military honors in the parking lot, a reception will be held in the activities center at the church.

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

David W. Baker Sr., 67

David W. Baker Sr., 67, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007, in Hungry Horse.

He was born Oct. 30, 1939, in Kalispell, to C. Everett and Clara G. Baker.

Survivors include his children, Lonnie, of Olympia, Wash.; Janie, of Missoula; David Jr., of Washington; and Paula, of Missoula; grandsons, Mathew and Christopher; granddaughters, Sylvia and Sydney; honorary son and best friend, David "Oscar" Gillespie and his wife, Annessa, and their children,

Lance, Jamie, Miranda (Bear) and Gunner; brothers, Leroy and Martin Baker; sister, Sylvia Hatten; and the many, many friends who loved him as a lover of all animals, a trusted friend, and very giving person.

We will miss you.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at the Whitefish Christian Church, 914 Second Street, in Whitefish.

Arrangements are with the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Elizabeth J. Baker, 75

Elizabeth J. Baker, 75, a longtime Libby resident, died Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2007, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital from natural causes.

Survivors include her husband, Leroy Baker of Libby; three daughters, Nancy Baker of Phoenix, Linda Kinney

of Sutherlin, Ore., and Diane Baker of Buckeye, Ariz.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Libby Christian Church in Libby.

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

Delraye Vernon Baker, 66



Delraye Vernon Baker, 66, passed away on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at his home in Kalispell, as the result of a heart attack.

Del was born on Nov. 7, 1940, in Kalispell, to Vernon and Eunice (Holcomb) Baker. He was raised in Oregon, Idaho and Montana. He attended schools in the Flathead Valley, where he graduated from Flathead High School. He attended Flathead Valley Community College where he studied psychology.

Del enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on Jan. 8, 1958. He was honorably discharged March 22, 1960.

He married Harriet Reidle in 1968, in Sidney. Del went to work for C and C Plywood in 1961, where he eventually worked up to becoming foreman. In 1968, he started working at Plum Creek. He worked in mills until 1983, when he went to work at Tannehill Auto Sales. He retired as Sales Manager at Rygg Ford in March of 2005.

The last two years, Del had been living his dream as a rancher, and co-owner with his wife of Diamond Heart Paints and Quarter Horses. He was a certified auctioneer, and throughout his life he did many auctions for benefits and fundraisers.

He was deeply involved with his family and horses. He enjoyed selling cherries and fireworks during the summer. When he could find time, he enjoyed going to and having fun at horse races and rodeos. All of his free time was spent entertaining his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Vern M. and Eunice Holcomb Baker; and two brothers, Rick and Jim Baker.

He is survived by his wife and soulmate of 38 wonderful years, Harriet Baker; children, Justin Baker of Priest River, Idaho, Jeff Baker and his wife, Jessica, of Kalispell, Laurie Baker of Kalispell, and Shawn Baker and his wife, Suzanne, of Kalispell; two brothers, Larry Baker, and Terry Baker and his wife, Pat, all of Kalispell; grandchildren, Josh, Brad, Matt, Colt, Brady, Courtney, Desiree and Alyssa; great-grandchildren, Anthony Ray and Madison, aunt, Norma Johnson, of North Dakota; Jerry and Leola Fredrieks of Kalispell; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. A Celebration of Del's Life will be held at 3 p.m. Burial will follow the service at C.E. Conrad Cemetery with the United Veterans of Flathead doing military honors. A reception will follow the interment at the Outlaw Inn, in the Stage Coach Room.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Dorothy M. Baker, 76

Dorothy M. Baker, 76, a longtime Whitefish resident, passed away of natural causes Friday, Oct. 12, 2007, at the Lake View Care Center in Bigfork.

She was born June 11, 1931, in Biddeford, Maine, the daughter of Robert and Hazel Smith. In 1946, her family moved to Columbia Falls, where she attended grade school and then graduated from Columbia Falls High School.

She was a true caregiver and worked for Buffalo Hill Nursing Home and Kalispell Regional Medical Center as a nurses' aide. She often received recognition and appreciation from patients and their families who were under her care.

Her hobbies included: crossword puzzles, reading, baking and crocheting. She made afghans, baby blankets, baby booties and sweaters, doilies, and dolls. Her work was beautiful and flawless. Dorothy was compassionate, but no-nonsense.

She had a tremendous capacity for hard work, devoting her life to her family and the care of others. "It is comforting to know she is in the presence of the Lord who is surely enjoying her honest laugh, direct wit, and contagious smile." She is greatly missed.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Harold Richard "Dick" Baker, of Whitefish; her children, Al Norris of Colorado, Royal Norris, Wayne Norris and Terry Norris of Kalispell, Wanda (Norris) Milan of Nevada and Robin (Norris) Sorbin of Mississippi; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; her brother, Rodney Smith, in Bigfork; and sisters, Myrtle Cagle in Cut Bank, Ruth Chapman in Columbia Falls, and Audrey Petersen in California.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2007, at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish.

Ellen Lydia Baker, 59

Ellen Lydia Baker was born on Sept. 4, 1947, in Allen, Pa., to Ralph and Olga Schwarz. She was the oldest sibling and had two brothers, Michael and Ralph Steven. She attended elementary and secondary school in Kalispell and graduated from Flathead High School in 1965.



Following her graduation from high school, Ellen moved to Spokane and studied in a dental assistant training program.

She married Rocky Steven Baker on Sept. 2, 1967.

In 1974, she gave birth to her daughter, Alex Hilary Baker-Campbell, followed by her son, Peter Nathaniel Baker, in 1977.

Ellen was a loving daughter, sister, wife and mother and found great joy in raising her family.

Ellen began her work career as a dental assistant. After her children were born, she felt blessed to have been able to be a stay-at-home mom for many years. Once Alex and Peter got older, Ellen worked as an educator for more than 15 years at spell Montessori School.

During that time she touched many students' and families' lives with her gentle and caring spirit. She was known for her wonderful field trips, camping trips, summer camps, and skills as a teacher.

Ellen was a craft-maker and brightened many lives with her creations. Her yard was filled with many flowers, as she loved to "dig in the dirt" and care for things as they grew.

She enjoyed time with her community of friends doing yoga, going for long walks, being a 'bookie' with her book circle, and spending Sundays with her mom going to church and exploring the valley. Ellen's presence and love will long be remembered in the communities she belonged to.

From the beginning of her illness, Ellen received loving attention and devoted care from her husband. She found solace in their long drives and reflecting on past memories. She passed away on the morning of June 30, 2007, with her husband at her side. She will always be remembered as an unconditionally kind, loving, positive and selfless woman.

Please join us for a celebration of Ellen's life at 1 p.m. Friday, July 6, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. A reception will follow at the Willow Glen Kalispell Montessori School campus. In the words of Ellen, "Bless your heart."

Lillian Ioleen Bales, 86

Lillian Ioleen Bales, 86, passed away on Oct. 14, 2007, at her home in Ferndale due to a stroke.



She was born Dec. 8, 1921, in Dublin, Ind., in Wayne County. She attended grammar school in Straughn, Ind., and high school in Hagerstown, Ind.

She graduated from Oro Beauty College in Oroville, Calif.

In 1939, Lillian married Kenneth Bales in Richmond, Ind.

Lillian was owner/operator, tow truck driver and mechanic for Bales Garage in Redondo Beach, Calif. She was also a beauty operator at Mary's Beauty Salon in Oroville, and a homemaker.

She enjoyed participating in car swap meets, sponsored Little League Baseball and she and Kenneth were founding members of the Hilltop Jeep Club.

Lillian refinished collectibles and antiques, old and new dolls, doll clothes and wigs. She collected anything and everything, including collecting and selling old cars, trucks and parts.

She enjoyed quilting and crocheting and entered many of handmade goods in the county fair. She was a skilled sewer, enjoyed cake decorating, ceram-

ics, dancing and raising canaries.

She also loved her jewelry. She was preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Grace (Huffman) Miller; her son, Kenneth Bales Jr.; brothers, Arther, William and Clent; sisters, Carolyn Cochran, Beulah Perry and Betty Miller; in-laws, Eula, Ivan, Layton, Keith and Mark Bales; and nephew, Roy Gale Hunter.

Lillian is survived by her husband of 68 years last July, Kenneth Bales; children, Arleen Ryan, Jeannie Bales and Donald Bales; sister, Joyce, and Herbert Hunter, and sons, John and Virgil; sister-in-law, Hoyt Tye; daughter-in-law, Brenda, and husband Bobby Guard; grandchildren, Belinda Wessel, Tina DesRosiers, Joleen Berendt, Joe and Kelly Ryan Jr., Kenny Bales, Ronda McGrath, Frank, Erika, Donald and Alisha Bales, and Dayna Hauderman; great-grandchildren, Daniel McGrath, Nina Ioleen Bales, Grant, Brad and Breann Wessel, Britney and Karlee DesRosiers, Sara Berendt, Michael Berendt and Darian Burns; and several cousins, nieces, nephews and special friends.

Cremation has taken place. Services will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Memorials are suggested to Hospice, or the Bigfork Quick Response.

Bonnie Mae Bancroft, 66

Bonnie Mae Bancroft, 66, "went to be with the Lord" on Oct. 4, 2007, in Whitefish. She was born Dec. 16, 1940.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, George Bancroft.

She is survived by her nine children, David Backen of Libby, Charlotte Backen of Oregon, Raymond and Tina Backen of Nebraska, Duane Bancroft of Martin City, Willie Bancroft of

Whitefish, Andrew Bancroft of Martin City, Robert and Jody Bancroft of Martin City, Jamie Bancroft of Malta, and Sandy and Chris Moore of Arizona; many grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Bonnie will be truly missed by all.

A celebration of life gathering will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at the family home.

Thomas F. Bardsley, 49

Thomas F. Bardsley, 49, passed away at his Kalispell residence Feb. 12, 2007. Thomas was born July 6, 1957, in Longview, Wash., to Bruce and Elizabeth (Michelsen) Bardsley. He spent his childhood years in Massachusetts, and in 1976 he graduated from the American-Nicaraguan High School in Managua, Nicaragua.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as an Army Ranger from 1983 to 1987, and he earned the Army Achievement Medal. He was honorably discharged.

Thomas then attended Clark University in Worcester, Mass., where he graduated summa cum laude in 1992. He also attended Emerson College in Boston. His primary degree was environmental sciences. Thomas also held a degree in film production.

He managed the chemistry lab at Holy Cross College in Worcester, as well as re-

organizing the hazardous materials storage facilities. He then worked for Semitool as a semiconductor wafer processor and R & D development in Kalispell.

He formerly was married to Gail Joubert Tyler of Columbia Falls.

Thomas enjoyed photography, music, birding and fishing.

He is survived by his parents, Bruce and Elizabeth Bardsley, of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; sister, Lisa Davison, and her husband, Frederic, of East Bridgewater, Mass.; brother, John Bardsley, of New York City; and several uncles and nieces.

A memorial service for Thomas will be held at 1 p.m. today, March 1, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1780 Talbot Road, in Columbia Falls.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Loetta M. Bare, 79

Loetta M. Bare, 79, died Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2007, at her home in Kalispell.

Arrangements are pending with Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory.

Alice A. Barna, 89

Alice A. Barna, 89, of Kalispell died Monday, Sept. 17, 2007, at Edgewood Vista Assisted Living in Kalispell.

She is survived by her daughter, Susan McCarrel, of Calgary, Alberta.

A celebration of life will be held at 3:30 p.m. Satur-

day, Sept. 22, at Edgewood Vista Assisted Living. There will not be a visitation.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family.

An online guest book is available at www.johnson-mortuary.com.

Raechel Anne Barnard, 18

Our Raechel died in a tragic motorcycle accident on Aug. 12, 2007, in Sidney. She was born in Great Falls, on Nov. 7, 1988.



Her loving parents and family will remember Raechel for her ability to make the best and the worst moments in life humorous and a joy to experience. Raechel took on each adventure with a fearless attitude. She had a love for kayaking, white-water rafting, camping, the television show, "Law and Order," and Jimmy Buffett music and concerts; but most of all her true passion was dance! No one could ever erase the memory of her beautiful smile — especially while dancing.

Raechel was a member of the CMR High School Wrangler Dance Team and a volunteer at summer school working with special needs children

for eight years. Each summer Raechel looked forward to hiking, camping and white-water rafting at Glacier National Park with her family and her grandparents, Tom and Eileen Barnard.

Among all of her friends and extended family, survivors include her parents, Jon and Debby Barnard, and Carol and Peter Kunnerup; her loving sister, Sara Barnard; and her brother, Trevor Kunnerup.

In lieu of flowers Jon and Debby ask that donations be made to the CM Russell Wranglers in memory of Raechel Anne Barnard; 228 17th Ave. N.W., Great Falls, MT 59404.

Please bring a copy of your favorite picture to attach on her memory board at the memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, at Faith Lutheran Church, 3125 Fifth Ave. South, Great Falls, with a reception afterwards.

"Sail on Raechel Barnard let the wind be your guide; be at rest and have peace."

David K. Barnett, 44

David K. Barnett, 44, of Libby died Friday, Dec. 7, 2007, at his home in Libby.

He was logging truck driver for many years.

Survivors include his wife Rita Barnett, daughter Arlene Barnett, father Gail Barnett, and wife, Helen, all

of Libby; and mother, Tammy Vanlue, of Bakersfield, Calif.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, at the Libby Christian Church. Arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

John J. Barnett, 88

John J. Barnett, 88, a longtime Whitefish resident, passed away peacefully Jan. 10, 2007, in Butte. He was born Aug. 13, 1918, in Columbus, Ohio. At an early age he left home to find a better life, and supported himself through high school by working for room and board on a farm. This self-reliance was a trait that marked his entire life.

Enlisting in the U.S. Navy after high school, he served through World War II in the Pacific, from Pearl Harbor to Guam, Okinawa, Midway and Japan. Although he rarely would speak of the battles, he spoke fondly of the Philippines and its people. Throughout his life, he believed in the power of America to bring freedom to others.

After his service in the Navy, John used his communications training to find work with the Bell Telephone Company, which took him throughout the Northwest. While working near Stanley, N.D., he met Elvira Smith, and they were married in 1956. They would live briefly in Spokane, and finally settle in Whitefish in 1965.

John worked for 25 years with the Great Northern and Burlington Northern Railway, serving as lineman from Spokane to Browning. Many dark

mornings were spent restoring communications service in the snowstorms beyond the North Fork. He remembered fondly working on the Stryker tunnel and the remotest parts of the rail line. All his life, he felt a connection to the outdoors and nature.

John and Elvira raised their children in Whitefish and were active in the community throughout the 1970s, '80s and '90s. Elvira passed away in 1998, and John soon moved to Butte to be near his grandchildren.

John left several good friends and neighbors in Whitefish, and he remembered them well.

In his last years, he enjoyed his well-earned retirement, making new friends in his neighbors in Butte, and reading the local history. John read widely the history and fiction of the West, and that tradition of independence, courage, strength and optimism was with him to the end. Those who knew him will remember:

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Grady and Tammy Barnett, of Butte; grandchildren, Kaylee and Cameron; and son, Nathan Barnett, of Clarkston, Wash.

A graveside memorial will be conducted at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 15, at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

Kirby Neil Bartlett, 63

Kirby Neil Bartlett, 63, a dear friend and confidant to many, passed on peacefully April 27, 2007, after a long and courageous struggle with cancer. Born Sept. 15, 1943, in Rensselaer, Ind., he grew up on the family farm in Brook, Ind., the middle son of three.



Kirby was preceded in death by his parents, Choice and Buss Bartlett and his older brother, Ronnie Bartlett.

He leaves his younger brother, Steve and his wife, Betsy; along with his nephew, Kyle Bartlett; grandnephew, Nathan; and niece, Heather Bartlett Costlow.

He graduated from Brook High School in 1961 and joined the U.S. Navy Oct. 11, 1965, receiving a rank of PN3 (personnelman, third class) at Bainbridge, Md. Proud to be an "Indiana farmboy", his roots in farming led to a keen desire for gardening and such pursuits as plant taxonomy studies. He received a degree in natural

resources with a minor in biology and chemistry from Ball State University, Muncie, Ind., in June 1974. After graduation and struck with a bit of wanderlust, Kirby toured the Pacific Northwest, living outside of Seattle for two years while attending a management training program for Bethlehem Steel. In the mid-'80s he was certified as a Montana nurseryman first class.

Montana became his real love, fueled by such passions as bicycling, cross country skiing and later, whitewater rafting. Kirby cultivated a large circle of equally passionate friends in the communities surrounding Glacier National Park. Well-known and respected for his ability to "be there" when friends needed him the most, he gave freely of himself with a heart as big as his barrel-chested laughter revealed.

After working for more than five years on a section gang for the railroad from Essex to Helena, Kirby retired to a quiet life in Martin City.

Kirby will be missed by many, from local canyon residents and his coffee klatch, to friends all across the country.

"We love you, Kirby!"

Raymond Max Barton, 55

Raymond Max Barton, 55, died Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2007, at his home in Kalispell.

Arrangements are pending with Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory.

Virginia Gail Battes, 56

Virginia Gail Battes, 56, passed away Oct. 5, 2007, at Health Center Northwest. She fought a long battle against cancer, where she was victorious four times. She was born Feb. 15, 1951, in Kalispell to Stella and Claude Rhodes. She grew up with her 10 sisters and one brother.



As a child she enjoyed playing softball, sledding, playing in old junk cars and wandering the neighborhood. She came from a large loving family.

Virginia and Duane met in 1964. They married in 1965. They would have been married for 42 years on New Year's Eve. Duane has lost his best friend and the love of his life.

Virginia went back to college at the age of 40 and graduated with honors in 1991 from Flathead Valley Community College. She started her own small business and then became a manager for Town Pump until June 2006.

Virginia enjoyed traveling with her husband, Duane. Some of Virginia's hobbies were taking pictures, collecting hundreds of bunnies and hummingbirds. She also enjoyed sitting next to her pond that her

husband made for her to enjoy.

Virginia's favorite holiday was Christmas. She loved playing Santa's helper and handing out presents. She loved when family got together and enjoyed life.

Virginia is survived by her husband, Duane Battes; her four daughters and their families, Tina and Nick Venturini and their children, Matthew, Tabitha, Mario, and Mallare, Tammy and Dan Curtin and their children, Lacie Jo and David, Tanya and Eric Lindsey and their son, Bryce, and Trisha and Ray Connors and their children, Bailey and Shaelin, whom she enjoyed playing with and playing practical jokes on. Virginia is also survived by her mother, Stella Rhodes; one brother; nine sisters; and many other extended family members.

Virginia was preceded in death by her father, Claude Rhodes; sister, Mary Fisher; brother-in-law, Ed Fisher; and niece, Misty Anderson.

A celebration of her life will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 8, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers or gifts please send donations to Virginia Battes Benefit, 2160 Airport Road, No. 23, Kalispell, MT 59901. A reception will be afterward at another location.

We invite everyone who knew and loved Virginia to join us in a celebration of her life.

Juanita Katherine 'Billye' Beatty, 89

Juanita Katherine "Billye" Beatty, 89, died Thursday, Aug. 9, 2007, at Riverside Senior Living in Whitefish.

Billye was born in San Francisco on Oct. 31, 1917, to Joseph and Catherine (Murray) Sharer. When she was 4, her family moved to Shelton, Wash. She received her education in Shelton, graduating in 1935, and subsequently attended business school in Seattle.

She met Howard Beatty in 1942 while he was stationed at Ft. Lewis, Wash. They were married April 17, 1943. She worked in Los Angeles during World War II. After the war, she and Howard moved to Great Falls, where their oldest son, Pat, was born. In 1948, the family moved to Whitefish, where Kathy, Judy and Jay were born.

When all the children had started school, she went to work outside the home as a bookkeeper in Whitefish and Kalispell. In 1964, she began working for DePratu Ford and was there until she retired in 1977.

After she retired, Billye was introduced to weaving, and it became her passion.

She and Howard enjoyed traveling in their fifth-wheel trailer. While visiting relatives who were wintering in Yuma, Howard and Billye were taken by the warm weather. They became snowbirds and spent winters there when they both were retired. After Howard's death in 1983, Billye continued her snowbird journeys until 1985, when she decided to move to Yuma permanently.

While in Yuma, she was a member of the Yuma Weavers and Spinners Guild and enjoyed demonstrating weaving skills at the Yuma Crossing Historic

Park. She really enjoyed the warm (hot!!) weather and the beautiful landscapes of southern Arizona.

In 2000, she moved to Columbia Falls to be near her daughter Kathy. She continued weaving, gracing her children's, friends' and relatives' homes with her colorful rugs and placemats.

Billye was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Olive; brother, Al; and her husband, Howard.

She is survived by her children, Patrick and Lillian Beatty of Albuquerque, N.M., Kathleen and Carl Thomas of Columbia Falls, Judy and Ron Haraseth of South Daytona, Fla., and Jay Beatty and Charles Ringer of San Francisco; her five grandchildren, Sue, Ben, Matt, Amparo and Noelle; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Her family expresses their gratitude to the staff of Riverside Senior Living for the loving care Mom received while she lived there. They also are very appreciative of the hospice community for their care and thoughtfulness.

A celebration of Billye's life will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Columbia Falls, with the Rev. Canon Bradley Wirth officiating. There will be a reception afterward at the church.

Memorials in Billye's name may be given to Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, No. 100, Kalispell, MT 59901 or All Saints' Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 1923, Whitefish, MT 59937.

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

Norman Beaudry, 89

Norman Beaudry, 89, of Libby, died Thursday, April 26, 2007, in Kalispell.

Survivors include his wife, Lillian, of Libby; his daughters, Cheryl LaRoque of Kalispell, and Marlene Hill of Seattle; sons, Gary Beaudry of Missoula, Larry LaRoque of Williston, N.D., Bruce Beaudry of Hingham, Dan Beaudry of Dracut, Mass.,

and Bob Beaudry of Spokane.

Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Monday at St. Joseph Catholic Church with interment following in the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home, with rosary and parish vigil service following at 7 p.m.

Irene S. Beach, 66

Irene S. Beach, 66, of Troy died from natural causes Saturday, May 26, 2007, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital.

She was born March 12, 1941, in Pocatello, Idaho, to Leon and Enid Killam Varnes. She married Albert Carl Beach on April 28, 1962, in

Coeur d'Alene.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 29, 2007, at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorial cards may be sent to the funeral home for delivery to the family.

Clara M. Beardsley, 96

Clara M. Beardsley, 96, of Kalispell, died on Sunday, Nov. 11, 2007, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell of natural causes.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Shrider-Thompson Funeral and Cremation Services of Ronan.

Leone Beaudoin, 88

Leone Beaudoin, 88, died Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2007, in Kalispell.

Private family burial will be held on Friday, Dec. 21,

at Brewster City Cemetery in Brewster, Wash.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Troy Allen Beavers, 86

Troy Allen Beavers, 86, died Friday, June 1, 2007, at Heritage Place in Kalispell. He survived by his daughter, Carolyn Raymond, of

Columbia Falls. Services will be held at a later date in California. Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family.

Deborah Kay Horn Wilke Beesley, 47

Deborah Kay Horn Wilke Beesley, 47, died Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007, at her home in Columbia Falls.



She was born Dec. 20, 1959, in Great Falls to Merle and Delores Horn. Debbie spent a great amount of time making crafts. She loved to go to craft shows to see and sell her creations. Debbie worked as a CNA for 30 years. A very strong-willed person, she fought her cancer to the very end. She was determined to see her first grandson born, which she did. She thought the world of the new addition to her family. Debbie

will be missed, but never forgotten, and remembered every day by all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her son, Michael. Debbie leaves behind her husband, Tim, of Columbia Falls; sons, Joe and Jeremy; sisters, Dottie, Christine, and Roseanne; brothers, Larry, Doug, and Mervin; many nieces and nephews; and one grandson. She was a great wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and friend.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, 2007, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. The Rev. John Miller will officiate. A viewing, beginning at 11 a.m., will precede the service. Burial will be afterward in Fairview Cemetery.

Lynne Rogers Behenna, 72

Longtime Kalispell resident Lynne Rogers Behenna died of breast cancer on April 13, 2007, in Kalispell, at the age of 72.



Lynne's abiding concern for animals led her to volunteer for many years with the Humane Society of Northwest Montana. Because of her personal experience with breast cancer, she also served as a volunteer for Reach to Recovery and for Hospice in Kalispell.

She earned an associate of applied science degree in human services at Flathead Community College in 1983.

Lynne was born in Millville, N.J., on July 24, 1934, to Elfriede and Raymond Rogers. She grew up in Rutfledge and Swarthmore, Pa., and attended Temple University in Philadelphia.

She married William Frederick Behenna in 1955; they soon moved to Kalispell, where Fred managed Kalispell Pole and Timber Company until his death in 1985.

Lynne is survived by her children, Laura Behenna of Kalispell; Wendy Behenna Ewing, her husband, Steve, and children Keyvin and Shane Ewing of Northampton, Pa.; Rick Behenna, his wife, Conny, and children Alexander, William and Juliana, of Chestermere, Alberta; by her sisters, Jean Carter of Allison Park, Pa., Karen Sims of St. Louis Park, Minn., and Faith Rogers of Sunnyvale, Calif., and their five children; and by her niece, Tyra Hobbs, and husband, Marvin Hobbs, of Kalispell.

Lynne's memorial service will be scheduled for June.

Contributions in Lynne's memory may be made to the Humane Society of Northwest Montana, 3499 U.S. 93 North, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Harold Jacob 'Jack' Behrens, 80

Harold Jacob "Jack" Behrens, 80, died Jan. 6, 2007, after a brief battle with leukemia. He was born to George and Jennie (Krauss) Behrens on Oct. 3, 1926, in Ottertail, Minn. Jack was the youngest of six children.



He was married to Joy Williams and they had two children, Dan and Diane. He was later married to Lena Skyba, who preceded him in death.

Jack and Rosa Lee Cramer-Wood were married for 19 years at the time of his death.

Jack moved to the Flathead at an early age. He attended school at Demersville and Flathead High School.

He served in the U.S. Air Force. Many will remember Jack working at Gambles in Kalispell for 31 years until the store closed. He then worked as custodian at Cornelius Hedges Elementary and Linderman schools for 12 years.

Jack enjoyed fishing, boat-

ing, camping and traveling any chance he got. Visiting with friends and enjoying the Western music at Sykes' was one of his favorite pastimes in his later years. Gene Autry movies were also a big favorite.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Clarence, George and Henry Behrens; and sisters, Elizabeth (Behrens) Fleming and Jen (Behrens) Hanson.

Survivors include wife, Rosa Lee Behrens, of Kalispell; son, Daniel "Dan" Behrens, and wife, Evon, of Kalispell; daughter, Diane (Behrens) Beck, and husband, Bob, of Missoula; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and cousins. He also leaves behind his very special dog, Cody.

Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. today, Jan. 9, at Buffalo Hill Mortuary.

A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, at Buffalo Hill Mortuary and Crematory, with burial afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Kathleen 'Kay' M. Belangie, 94

Kathleen "Kay" M. Belangie, 94, a resident of the Kootenai Valley for 60 years, died Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007, at the Libby Care Center.

Kay had been a longtime employee of the Credit Bureau of Libby.

She is survived by six grandchildren, Jim Ward, John Ward, Dave Domino, Patti Ward, Mark Domino

and Stefania Domino Nelson.

Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, at St. Joseph Catholic Church with the Rev. Jozef Perhubka as celebrant. Interment services will be after at the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 1 p.m. Friday, at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home followed by a parish vigil and rosary at 7 p.m.

Don 'Poppy' Benson, 71

Don "Poppy" Benson passed away Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2007, in Redding, Calif., as the result of complications due to abdominal surgery. He was born March 13, 1936, in Roberts County, S.D., the third of five children born to Leif and Helen Benson.



He was an optician for over 40 years and had his own optical shop in Kalispell.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, of Shingletown, Calif.; four children, Kevin and wife Tawny of Red Bluff, Calif., Brian and wife Leslie of Redding, Crystal Browne and husband Austin of Santa Rosa, Calif.,

and Eric Pitt and wife Connie of Kalispell; one brother, Leland; and two sisters, Betty and Carol. He has eight grandchildren, Kevin Jr., Stephen, Cameron, Brian Lyle, Samantha, Augustina, Alyssa and Stacey.

His youngest sister, Sonja, is deceased.

An informal celebration of his life will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 26, at their home in Shingletown. Family friends and neighbors are welcome to attend.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Shingletown Medical Center. To send a card to the family, the address is: Nancy Benson, 34538 Timber Ridge Road, Shingletown, CA 96088.

He will be cremated and arrangements are being made by Allen & Dahl Funeral Chapel.

Leona M. Benefield, 89

Leona M. Benefield, 89, died Wednesday, April 3, 2007, at a hospital. Leona had been a lifelong resident of Lincoln County. She was born in Eureka to L. Dow O'Brien and Blanche Ballargen O'Brien and was the granddaughter of Andrew and Sarah O'Brien, who were early pioneers of the Tobacco Plains in north Lincoln County. The family first resided in Eureka and later moved out to Black Lake near Rexford, where she attended the Black Lake School; she later walked five miles into Eureka each day to attend high school.

Leona married Clay Benefield on Aug. 8, 1938, and they resided at Black Lake until moving to the Libby area in 1943, living first on Sheldon Flats and later moving into town. She and Clay returned to north Lincoln County in 1950, where they lived at Rexford for 17 years until returning to Libby in 1967.

In the 1950s, Leona worked as a cook for the Forest Service, both at base and fire camps; during this time, she worked with Henry Hall in the camps and later worked for him at Henry's Restaurant in Libby for 10 years.

Leona and Clay enjoyed camp-

ing and later had worked as campground ranger and hosts at Logan State Park south of Libby.

Leona was very talented at handwork and enjoyed knitting and crocheting numerous items for both family and friends.

Clay preceded Leona in death in 1986; she was also preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Fred and Frank O'Brien; also by her daughter-in-law, Barbara Benefield, in March of this year; her sister-in-law, Pat O'Brien; as well as a nephew and niece, Lloyd and Frankaleen O'Brien.

Survivors include her sons, David Benefield and wife, Gayla, and Don Benefield, all of Libby; her brothers, Louie O'Brien of Libby, Leo O'Brien of Rexford, and Richard O'Brien of Libby; 10 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home chapel in Libby. Committal services will be afterward at 2 p.m. at Tobacco Valley Cemetery in Eureka. Friends may call from 1 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home in Libby.

Constance Allena Roberts Bennett, 82

Constance "Connie" Allena Roberts Bennett, 82, died on Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007, in Kalispell.

She had three children, her daughter, Bonnie L. Sporie, of Strafford, N.H., and

her two sons, Bruce R. Bennett and Thomas G. Bennett both of Fortine.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9, at Saint Michael and All Angels Church in Eureka.

Elmer C. Benson Jr., 86, "went to be with Jesus" on Nov. 27, 2007.

He was born Dec. 9 1920, in Wing, N.D., to Elmer C. and Emma (Zeigler) Benson

Sr. Elmer spent his childhood in North Dakota farming with his family. In 1934, he moved with his family from Carrington, N.D., to a farm near Creston.

On May 6, 1944, Elmer married Lulu May Jeffries in Kalispell. They raised crops



and their children on a farm between Kalispell and Columbia Falls. In 1965, the family moved to Kettle Falls, Wash., and bought the Singers Motel, which they ran for 17 years. In 1982, Elmer and Lulu sold the motel and moved to nearby Colville. In 2006, Elmer moved back to the Flathead Valley to be near his family.

Elmer was preceded in death by his parents; his dear wife, Lulu; his daughter Carol Ann; and his brother, Jack Benson.

He is survived by his children: son, Elmer Benson, III; son, Duane Benson and his wife, Edith; son, Jerry Benson and wife, Catherine; and daugh-

ter, Janet Pruett and husband, Morgan, all of the Flathead Valley; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his sister, Emma Vestre; sister-in-law, Bonnie Benson; and several nieces and nephews.

Elmer enjoyed farming and working the land, spending time with "the boys" in the woods and his daughter and her family. Elmer had the gift of being a good conversationalist and was always ready with a good story or a funny joke. Elmer's favorite moments were spent with his family, going to auctioneer school, taking a cross-country trip, sitting down to a good bowl of soup,

Rhylee Gene Benton

Rhylee Gene Benton passed away March 2, 2007, at Children's Hospital in Seattle. She was born Dec. 15, 2006, to Charles Benton and Tiara Olson-Maze.



Although she wasn't with us long, Rhylee was loved by all who knew her. Never once did she not bring a smile to people's faces, as they commented on how beautiful she was.

Rhylee was preceded in death by many relatives, and survived by her parents, Chuck Benton and Tiara

Olson-Maze, and her brother, Aidin Benton, of Kalispell; her maternal grandparents, Eva Church, Harvey Maze and his wife, Debbie Maze, of Kalispell; three maternal uncles, Tony Maze and Tim Hatlen of Kalispell, and Luca Maze of Missoula; one aunt, Jessi Maze, of Missoula; paternal grandparents, Cheryl and Fred Benton of Kalispell; three paternal uncles, Tim Benton, John Benton and Jimmy Benton, of Kalispell; and numerous other great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

A memorial for Rhylee will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at Lawrence Park in Kalispell.

Elmer C. Benson Jr., 86

dancing and fishing. Elmer never parted with his family when he didn't say "I love you." He will be missed by all.

The family would like to thank the kind and caring staff at North Valley Hospital and Colonial Manor of Whitefish.

Funeral services for Elmer will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, at Johnson Mortuary chapel. Burial will be after services at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Elmer's family. You are invited to go to www.johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Elmer's guest book.

Leroy B. Berg, 87

Leroy B. Berg, 87, died on July 17, at home in Kalispell.

Leroy was born on Oct. 10, 1919, in Shelby, to Conrad and Alma Sweno Berg.

He served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theatre during World War II.

Leroy married Mary Lou Moore in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in 1973.

He worked most of his life in construction, ending up as a superintendent.

He was a member of the Elks



Lodge.

He loved hunting, fishing and later RVing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Conrad and Alma Berg.

He is survived by his children, Conrad A. Berg of Chino Valley, Ariz., Cindy Lukreilein and Patti Lee Schooler, both of Jasper, Ind., and Timothy L. Berg of Columbia Falls; a sister, Ester Lloyd; 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Private family memorial services will be held.

The family requests memorials he made to the American Lung Association or the Leukemia/Lymphoma Association.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Maureen 'Reenie' Berg, 57

Maureen "Reenie" Berg, 57, passed away of natural causes Sunday, May 27, 2007, in Columbia Falls. She

was born in Kalispell on May 14, 1950.

In 1968, she graduated from Great Falls Central Catholic High School. In 1972, she graduated from Montana State University School of Nursing.

She worked in nursing until 1992. In recent years, she worked at Great Northern White Water Rafting Co., and Super 8 Motel in Columbia Falls.



Reenie married Gary Berg in 1972.

She is survived by her three children, Spike Berg and his wife, Cindy, and granddaughter, Sofia; and his wife, Kelly Berg; and Katrine Berg; four sisters, Colleen, Sandy, Corky and Jody; two brothers, Mike and Pat; and numerous nieces, nephews and in-laws.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mickey and Charlotte Kirkpatrick.

A vigil service will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 31, at St. Richard's Parish in Columbia Falls. Funeral services will be held at 9:30 a.m. Friday, June 1, at St. Richard's Parish, with Father John Miller officiating.

Mary Louise (Isch) DeYoung More Berg, 90

Mary Louise (Isch) DeYoung More Berg, 90, died from natural causes

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007, at her son's home in Libby. She was born April 9, 1917, in

Kalispell to Herman and Hattie Isch. She grew up on a farm in the Fairview area east of Kalispell. She graduated from Flathead County High School in 1934.

She came from a musical family and played the piano at many dances and nightclubs across the valley. She loved camping, flowers and crocheting.

She owned a cherry orchard on the east shore of Flathead



Lake.

She lived in Whitefish until 1959. She also resided at West Glacier, Hungry Horse and Kalispell. In later years she wintered in Arizona.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, John Wesley DeYoung, in 1969; and by husbands, Glen More and Leroy

Berg. Survivors include a daughter, Nancy Tiensvold, and husband, Lyle, of Yellow Bay; two sons, John DeYoung and wife, Linda, of Libby, and Gary DeYoung and wife, Mary, of Missoula; a sister, Dorothy Lindbad, and husband, Jack, of Spokane; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

Wyatt Wayne and Brian James Berglund, infants

Wyatt Wayne and Brian James Berglund, premature infant twins, passed away on Monday, Aug. 20, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center as the result of an auto accident. The twins' parents are Becky Elgin and David Berglund.

They are survived by a sister, Josephine "Josie" Elgin; grandparents, James and Linda Elgin, Brian and Shelly Berglund, Kim and Russ Padget; great-grandmothers, Velva Bruyer, Donna Berglund, Lorraine Wheeler, and Karen Berosik, great-grandfather, Dave Calobeer; and great-great-grandmother, Ruth Horn;

numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and other extended family.

They were preceded in death by great-grandfathers, Jack Wheeler, Bob Berglund and Russell Elgin.

Graveside burial will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 27, at Glacier Memorial Gardens, with the Rev. Dan Lambert officiating. The family is meeting at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home at 10:30 a.m. to process to the cemetery; all are welcome to join the procession. A luncheon will follow the services at Grandma Berglund's home, 1546 Fifth Avenue West in Kalispell.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Roger Jerome Berger, 50

Roger Jerome Berger, 50, passed away Friday Sept.

2007, on a Mercy flight, in Daniels County. Roger was born on July 7, 1957, in Plentywood, to Paul



and Dorothy Bjerke Berger. He attended schools in Missoula, Flaxville and Kalispell. He graduated from Flathead High School in 1975. When he was 14, he went to work for his father's car dealership. After graduating from high school, he worked for his father and grandfather on the family farm in Whitetail.

He was a member of the Somers Volunteer Fire Department, the Whitetail Fire Department, and the Jaycees in both Kalispell and Flaxville.

He truly enjoyed kayaking, especially with his wife Rose, fishing, flying, hockey and the Mariners games.

Roger will be remembered for his great sense of humor and his love of people of all ages, especially children. One of the highlights of his life was when he would play "Santa" for the children of the Smith Valley community, where his wife

teaches first grade. He was also known for "sneaking" the children at the Smith Valley school root beer float parties.

Roger met Rose Ivers in 2000. They had known each other in high school and had become re-acquainted. They were married on Thanksgiving Day 2001, in Las Vegas. Roger wanted to be married on Thanksgiving Day, so he would never forget their anniversary. He was surprised when he learned Thanksgiving doesn't fall on the same date every year!

Rose and Roger were soul mates. They loved to fish from their kayaks, and enjoyed many special times at Van Lake. When the fishing was slow, Roger would lay back and take a nap in his kayak and Rose would crochet.

Roger enriched Rose's life and encouraged her to attempt new adventures and to live her life to the fullest. He was instrumental in re-uniting Rose with

her Canadian family. They have spent many family holidays with each other and treasured their time together.

One of the most memorable trips they took together was a trip to the San Juan Islands, where they chartered a sailboat for a week. With Roger's strong emotional support, Rose was able to avoid getting "seasick."

Roger had endless, unconditional love for his son, Casey Colt Berger. He taught him how to hunt and fish. They enjoyed hockey games, sailing, and just "hanging out" and cherishing their time together.

Pat Wiley was a brother to Roger. They were life-long friends, and Pat was someone Roger could always count on for anything. It didn't matter what Pat and Roger were doing, just being together was all that they needed.

Roger loved traveling and some of his fondest memories were of South Africa, Europe, Hawaii and Canada. He had a deep love for the family farm that his grandfather had homesteaded in the early 1900s. It was very important to Roger that the farm always remain in the Berger's family. He took pride in farming the land for more than 32 years.

Following notification of Roger's heart attack, Rose was driving to meet Roger, when she reached the Continental Divide, Rose suddenly felt physically ill and stopped. She later realized that Roger had passed away at that same time and their spirits met at the highest point in Montana to say, "Good-bye for now."

Roger was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Dorothy Berger; a sister, Denise Berger; grandparents, Carl and Emily Berger, and Wylvil and Vera Bjerke; and an uncle, Bucky Bjerke.

He is survived by his wife, Rose Berger; mother-in-law, Elsie Cooper; children, Lars and Casey Berger; a sister, Nancy, and husband, Jim Skurvid; a childhood friend he considered his brother, Pat Wiley; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Sharon Francis Bergman, 81

Sharon Francis Bergman of Polson, lost her battle with cancer on Jan. 19, 2007, at the age of 81. She was born Aug. 13, 1925, in Denver, to Arthur and Cora Wynne.



The family homesteaded in Gila Bend, Ariz.; then moved to Polson, where she went to Polson High School, graduating in 1942.

After high school, Sharon relocated to Hollywood, Calif., where she met and married Ray Bergman. She became step-mother to Don and had three children — Susan, Beverly and Keith. Sharon and family returned to Montana in 1960 to a cattle ranch in Hamilton. She was divorced from Ray in 1964 and she went to work for the electric co-op and ran a Laundromat in Corvallis.

Sharon returned to southern California in the early '70s for a few years, then took a position with the Women's International Bowling Congress (WIBC) where she entered a profession that held one of her passions — the sport of bowling. She managed the Rules Department and wrote the rule books that governed women's bowling.

She retired from WTBC as executive assistant in 1988 and moved back to Polson where she stayed involved with bowling — writing a newsletter for the Polson newspaper, coached the junior bowlers, and continued to work in the media room at the national bowling tournaments each spring.

She loved the outdoors, and was active in the Audubon Society, photography and travel.

Sharon remained active in the Polson community, working at the Senior Center until August 2006.

She had a special relationship with all of her children, and was best friend to them all. She touched the hearts of all who knew her.

Sharon is survived by her children, Don Bergman and wife Josie of Hamilton; Susan Mateel of Vancouver, Wash.; Beverly Martinez and husband Carlos of Kalispell; and Keith Bergman of Hamilton; along with 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of her life will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Polson Senior Center, Polson.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in her name to the American Cancer Society.

Ruth Anne Bergvist, 70

Ruth Anne Bergvist "went to live with the Lord" on Dec. 15, 2007 at the Immanuel Lutheran in Kalispell. She was the first daughter of James L. and Virginia Hays, and was born March 16, 1937, in Franklin, Pa.

Growing up in a small community surrounded by family and friends with the center of her activities in Rocky Grove Presbyterian Church, Ruth Anne enjoyed days of exploring and play that children miss today. Ruth Anne moved with her family to Warren, Pa., in her early high school years and then on to Bradford, Pa., where her dad took a position with the Kock-Chatley Memorial Chapel Funeral Home. Ruth graduated from Bradford High School in 1955.

Her career began as a PBX operator for the MW Kellogg Company in Williamsport, Pa. Here she met the love of her life, Melvin Bergvist. Career opportunities arose in New Jersey near family so they lived the beginning years of their marriage in the area.

Ruth and Buddy later moved to Bradford to be near Ruth's parents, and there they established a lifetime of dear friends. They shared many days of traveling golf, working in their orch, Bradford First United Presbyterian Church, and taking part in Mason and Shrine activities.

Most memorable days were spent with Buddy (Melvin's) children, Robert and Joy, and watching their families grow. Happy times were memorable with their nephews, Jim, Dave and Bill.

Buddy preceded Ruth in death, in 1993.

Ruth moved to Kalispell in 2000 with her mother to be near her sister, Dottie Maitland and family. She loved the beauty of Montana and enjoyed sharing

the laughter of her nephews; she held in esteem the name Great Aunt Ruth and loved the little ones who shared tea parties, picnics and zoos. Her friends from the Eagles were always steadfast and caring.

She held the staff of Immanuel Lutheran as a true blessing as she visited her mother every day at the home. Immanuel became her home as well, following surgery in Seattle. Her last flight to Kalispell was a piece of heaven — her description — and gift from God, provided by a generous Kalispell businessman.

Ruth was preceded in death by her father, James L. Hays; and her husband, Melvin Bergvist.

She is survived by her mother, Virginia Hays, a resident of Immanuel Lutheran; her sister, Dottie Maitland, and husband, Jim; her nephews, James Maitland and family of Auburn, Wash., David and Kerrie Maitland of Kalispell, and Bill Maitland and family of Kalispell; stepson, Robert Bergvist, and wife, Barbara, and family of South Carolina, stepdaughter, Joy Lynn, and husband, Peter, of LaPorte, Pa.; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren in South Carolina and Pennsylvania; and cousins from Pennsylvania, Maine, New Jersey, Maryland and Vermont.

Memorial services will take place at 1:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Home on Saturday, Dec. 22.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Immanuel Lutheran Home, 185 Crestline Ave., Kalispell, MT; or a charity of choice.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Ruth's family. You are invited to go to www.johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Ruth's guest book.

Leona Mae (Simons) Bernhard, 95

Leona Mae (Simons) Bernhard, 95, dearly loved mother and grandmother, passed away at her home in Fortine, the morning of July 12, 2007, one day before her 96th birthday. Leona was born July 13, 1911, in Rock Rapids, Iowa, to Henry and Sena Bringer. As an infant, she traveled by train with her mother and two siblings to Devil Lake, N.D., where she grew up and attended area schools.

On Dec. 2, 1932, Leona married Roy Simons; to this union four children were born. In 1946, the family loaded up the old Chevy truck and car and made the long move to Lakeside.

Leona fell in love with Montana and never wanted to go back to live in North Dakota because she didn't like those terrible North Dakota blizzards. While living in the little log house in the woods at Lakeside, Mom grew a beautiful vegetable garden and flowers which were watered daily with water hauled in barrels from Stoner Creek.

After living in the beautiful trees, Mom decided to try her hand at Christmas tree cutting, which she thoroughly enjoyed and was one of the best. She cut trees for many years and always said, "It's not like work when you love what your doing." She also worked with her husband Roy doing logging. When her son Kenny had his logging camps, she was his camp cook. She was a wonderful cook. The lumberjacks would praise her for the delicious meals she made them.

Mom was a born again Christian with a deep faith in Jesus



Christ. Knowing that it eases the pain we feel. Mom attended the Fortine Community Church.

On Feb. 14, 1977, her husband, Roy, passed away. A year later Leona moved to Kalispell, where she resided for 25 years.

She married Cecil Bernhard in Kalispell. He passed away in 1999 and then Leona moved to Fortine where she had lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Lenore and Keith Burgess.

Leona was a very loving and generous mother, grandmother and friend with unconditional love, and we loved her even more. She will be missed so much. There will be a huge void in our lives but we know she is rejoicing in heaven with the loved ones who have gone on before.

Leona was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters; and one brother; her husband, Roy; and son, Kenny Simons, in 1977; her husband, Cecil Bernhard, in 1999; daughter, Mavis Thornton, in June 2007; and grandsons, Dale Thornton, Talis Buck and Collin Thornton.

She is survived by her daughters, Lenore and husband, Keith Burgess, and Karen and husband, R.D. Mower, all of Fortine; sister, Doris Isaacs, of Kalispell; stepchildren, John and Kathy Bernhard, Laurence and Elaine Hauglum, and John Bernhard of Missoula, Gene and Lorraine Decker of Libby, and Bonnie Kalitchy of Kalispell. She is also survived by many grandchildren who were so very special to her; this includes four sets of five generations.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, July 16, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Visitation will from 9 a.m. until services. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Beulah 'Bea' M. Bernard, 92

Beulah "Bea" M. Bernard, 92, died at Brendan House in Kalispell on Tuesday, March 27, 2007.

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

Michael David 'Mike' Benz, 52

Michael David "Mike" Benz, 52, died Friday, Oct. 26, 2007, at his residence west of Kalispell.

He is survived by his wife, Karen, of Kalispell.

Funeral services will be held at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31, at the Johnson Mortuary chapel. Visitation will

be from 9 a.m. until service time Wednesday. Military honors will be conducted by the United Veterans of the Flathead.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family. An online guest book is available at www.johnsonmortuary.com.

Ray Berreth, 85

Ray Berreth of Eureka, and more recently, Kalispell, died away Monday, Aug. 13, 2007, of pneumonia. He died from complications of a car accident.



Ray was born at home in Billings to Henry and Maggie Berreth on Jan. 25, 1922.

In 1939, Ray's high school education was interrupted by World War II when he joined the Army and was member of the 136th Infantry. He served overseas in New Guinea and other locations. He was honorably discharged in 1945 after a five-year tour of duty.

Following the war, Ray returned to Billings where he fell in love with Ida Turbiville who was attending nursing school. They were married in June 1947. They celebrated their 60th anniversary just this summer.

After returning from the war, Ray's first job was selling pianos for Cecil Musberger. He always remembered Cecil's son Brent (ABC Sports anchor-person) pedaling his tricycle

around the store. Then he returned to school, receiving a certification to repair radios and TVs from the Chicago Radio Institute. This training led to the desire to own his own business so he purchased a radio and TV shop in Eureka. The family moved in 1954 and raised four children, living there for nearly 50 years.

He enjoyed watching Grizzly football, reading newspapers, watching John Wayne movies and repairing radios and TVs.

Ray was the fifth of six children, all of which are deceased.

He is survived by his wife, Ida Berreth; daughter, Nancy Berreth of Kalispell; sons, Rick Berreth of Superior; Ron Berreth and wife, Bonny, of Havre; and Bob Berreth of Lakeside; eight grandchildren, Bill, Brian, Steven, Brandon, Alex, Ellie, Emma and Ava; and four great-grandchildren, Zack, Nathan, Drake and Mya.

Viewing will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 17, at the First Baptist Church on 301 West Wyoming in Kalispell, followed by the services at 1 p.m. Afterward there will be a graveside military ceremony at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Barbara Ann Besel, 59

Barbara Ann Besel, 59, passed away Wednesday, May 16, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell. Barbara was born July 12, 1947, in Havre to Everett and Maymie (Julkowski) Swisher. She was raised in Havre, where she attended schools.



Barbara was married to Gordon Besel on July 18, 1992, in Missoula.

She had worked for Tomlison Black Realty of Spokane for many years.

After moving to the Flathead Valley, she went to work as a loan officer for the Flathead Bank in Kalispell.

Her interests included her friends, family, gardening, her

dog and golf.

She is survived by her husband, Gordon Besel, of Kalispell; daughter, Teri Szombathy, of Sun Valley, Idaho; sister, Patti Best, of Spokane; grandchildren, Alexa and Olivia Szombathy of Sun Valley; nephew, Brian Best, and a niece, Brandy Best, both of Spokane.

A celebration of Barbara's life will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 26, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bigfork, with the Rev. Tom Gopp officiating. Urn burial will be at C.E. Conrad Cemetery. A reception will be held at 2 p.m. at the Besel's home, 39 Gray Hawk Court, in Bigfork.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the Humane Society of Northwest Montana, 3499 U.S. 93 North, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Wallace H. Best, 80

Wallace H. Best, 80, passed away as a result of an accident in Lakeside on June 29, 2007. Wallace was affectionately known as "Grizzly Wallace" to his many friends. He was born Dec. 10, 1926, in Washington state and was raised in Helena and Dillon.



He received his Bachelor of Arts degree at Carroll College and went on to receive his master's and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard.

He served as a U.S. Naval officer for four years. Wallace married Evelyn Christensen in Placentia, Calif., in 1949. Wallace taught business management and health science at USC and UCLA and spent three years in the Middle East.

He published the Saturday

Viewpoints newspaper, attended church and senior luncheons and frequented the library in Lakeside.

He enjoyed reading, writing, conversation and politics.

Wallace was preceded in death by his parents, Judson Pierson and Christy Cecelia (Hill) Best Sr., and his wife, Evelyn.

He is survived by his daughters, Celia and husband, Jack Goodman, of Lakeside, and Christy and husband, Curt Furr, of Prescott, Ariz.; and son, Malcolm and wife, Kirstie Best, of Spokane; brothers, Peter Olson Best and Juddy P. Best Jr.; grandchildren, Krista Njapa, and Raymond and Daniel Furr; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 15, at the Lakeside Community Church with Reverend John Ulrich officiating.

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

Jeral Lee Bos, 54

Jeral Lee Bos, 54, passed peacefully on the night of Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2007, while sleeping.

He was born July 30, 1953, in the Whitefish hospital.

Raised in Whitefish, Jerry was a true country boy. He loved to be in the great outdoors. Whether he was hunting, fishing or just going for a drive. He felt most at home in the mountains.

His memory and spirit live on, not only in our hearts, but also in our mountains, lakes

and rivers.

He is survived by his daughter, Lindsey Lee Bos; his son, Michael Bos; his mother, Roberta Bos and his father, Darrell Bos; two brothers, Wayne and Robert Bos; his best friend and companion, Sheri Pierce; and by many more dear friends and family members.

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17, at the VFW in Whitefish.

Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish is in charge of arrangements.

Marvin Neil Brenneman, 83

Marvin Neil Brenneman, 83, passed away on Dec. 17, 2007, in Kalispell, of natural causes. Marvin was born Aug. 2, 1924, in Lima, Ohio.

He married Luella Alice Billings in Lima on Dec. 6, 1943.

Marvin spent 10 years in the U.S. Navy and four more years with the National Guard. He honorably served in both World War II and the Korean Conflict.

After the war he worked as a machinist at McDonald Douglas, working as a truck driver, before becoming a master mechanic. He loved doing volunteer work, helping the Veterans Administration, and volunteering his time working as a mechanic on automobiles. He enjoyed NASCAR, water skiing,

fishing, boxing, and reading.

Marvin was preceded in death by four brothers, five sisters and one granddaughter, Laura Emminger.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Alice Brenneman, of Kalispell; son, Larry, and wife, Claudia Brenneman, of Necedah, Wis.; daughter, Rhonda, and husband, Guy Emminger, of Kalispell; son, Steve Brenneman, of Quartz Hill, Calif.; Michael Brenneman of California; daughter, Patty, and husband, Don Skinner, of Lancaster, Calif.; sister, Violet Brenneman, of Bucyrus, Ohio; 13 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Mary (Brome) Bielenberg, 83

Mary (Brome) Bielenberg, 83, passed away peacefully July 12, 2007, at her home on the family farm in Bigfork of complications from skin cancer. Mary



Elizabeth Brome was born in Missoula on Nov. 18, 1924, to Levi and Ruby (Riddle) Brome.

She attended and graduated from Missoula County High School and the University of Montana. While at the university, she was a member of the Delta Gamma sorority and was active in many clubs on campus. She taught school in Great Falls after graduation. In 1957, she married Robert "Marc" Bielenberg of Avon, who at the time was a fur trapper, trout culturist and also engaged in mining industry. Together they had two children, Marcum Brome and Claudia Meredith.

Mary enjoyed those first several years raising her children, helping them collect butterflies and learn about wildflowers and animals. She had a terrific knack for decorating the Christmas tree (her kids claimed it took days) using lots of colored lights, foil icicles and ornaments evenly distributed on each and every branch. The tree was always magical. The birthday cakes she made would have rivaled any professional chef's! All holidays were made special for her children.

In the mid-1960s, the family moved from the Avon ranch to Hamilton, where they lived for more than 30 years. She loved the Bitterroot Valley and was active in several organizations, including Chapter AF, PEO, and the Bitterroot Public Library. In the mid 1990s, Mary and her husband moved to Bigfork to be closer to their daughter.

Mary enjoyed travel, hav-

ing visited many foreign countries with family and friends. She and her husband had the unique opportunity to travel on several occasions with their good friend Countess Margit Besseney, Marcus Daly's granddaughter, to South Africa, Austria, Hungary, Hong Kong and China. These trips she often fondly recalled. She also loved and had deep appreciation for music, history, art, literature and theater, often remarking on her memories of the many musical productions she saw on her trips to London.

She kept in close touch with several of her Delta Gamma sorority and PEO sisters over the years, enjoying their friendship and sharing family experiences.

Mary loved flowers and had many varieties at the Bigfork farmhouse. She always planned to add more, hopefully, that the deer wouldn't find appetizing or the raccoon babies wouldn't make a bed out of.

She was a 55-year member of PEO, and also a member of Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mary was preceded in death by her stepson, Robert Kurt; and her son, Marcum Brome.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Marc; and daughter, Claudia and Lloyd Thorsrud, all of Bigfork. She also leaves her wonderful caregivers, Kelly Imlay and Nancy Balistreri; her "surrogate" granddaughter, Hyasmin Mendoza; also her caring neighbors and medical staff. She also leaves behind her loving family pets Cassie, Tippy, Spookie, Norman, Rocky and Apollo.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests charitable donations to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 600 S. Third St., in Hamilton or the University of Montana marching band in Missoula. At Mary's request, no services will be held.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home caring for the family.

Scott Waring Billmayer, 52

Scott Waring Billmayer, 52, of Bigfork died Sunday, Feb. 26, 2007, at his residence.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Billmayer, of Bigfork; son, Joshua Billmayer, of Conrad; and a daughter, Jacklyn Billmayer, of

Kalispell. Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, March 2, at the American Lutheran Church in Hogeland. Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family.

Doniell Lea Birk, 39

Doniell Lea Birk, was born July 15, 1967, in Whitefish, daughter of Thomas I. and Thallis M. (Clare) Birk. "Our beloved daughter, sister, aunt and friend" died Feb. 23, 2007.



Her love for new places and cultures was not as apparent as her love for home and the people most important to her when her journey ended so close to where it began.

Doniell grew up a cowgirl, and her horses were her most compelling and permanent passion. Whether going to 4-H horse shows, high-school rodeos, or packing into the "Bob," Doniell's goal was to let her horses live up to their potential, and Jerrie, Annie, and Sadie always amazed her.

The essence of her favorite places, and the beings in her life were the most important things to Doniell, the material only important for its sustenance of the spirit. She accomplished so many of her goals, personally and professionally, but all she really

wanted was the respect of those she loved and respected.

Doniell was always the champion of the innocent, her nieces and nephews, or her pets or nature, and her cares defined her life as she followed a career with the Forest Service. She enjoyed almost any outdoor activity and was a talented skier, canoeist, and fly fisher.

She loved music and good books.

It is fitting that she was accompanied in passing by Barney, her dog and best friend for the past 14 years.

"Waiting for her" are brother, Tommy; and grandparents, Henry and Illyhia Clare, and Ingvald and Selma Birk.

She is survived by her parents, Tom and Thallis Birk, of Kalispell; sister, Kim, and husband, Lloyd Bell, of Frenchtown; brothers, Tim and his wife, Julie, and Bret of Kalispell; her nieces, nephews and extended family, and her many friends.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 1, at Johnson Mortuary chapel in Kalispell. There will be no visitation.

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