

## Eugene 'Gene' Thomas Olmstead, 92

Eugene "Gene" Thomas Olmstead, 92, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2007.

He was born Aug. 21, 1915, in Detroit Lakes, Minn.



His father, Isaac Lewis Olmstead, had moved to Detroit Lakes in about 1905 from Iowa, where Isaac's grandfather, Aaron, had homesteaded in 1854. His mother was Emma (Mexner) Olmstead, whose parents had immigrated to Jordan, Minn., from Germany around 1880. Eugene was the third of six children. His siblings were Warren, Everett, Luella (GeRoy), Evelyn (Kunz), and Phyllis (Frisvold), all of whom have preceded him in death. Everett died as a child.

Gene often told stories about growing up on a farm in the Detroit Lakes area and hunting in the woods of Minnesota during his youth. Prior to getting married, Gene and his boyhood friend, Bob Pearson, toured the Western U.S. on an Indian motorcycle, stopping as necessary to work so they could continue their travels.

Eugene Thomas Olmstead and Ione Elizabeth Paulson were married in Forest City, Iowa, Nov. 11, 1939. They lived for a time in the Minneapolis area prior to World War II. Gene moved his family back to Detroit Lakes after enlisting in the U.S. Navy, where he served during World War II. He saw duty in the Pacific Theater aboard the U.S.S. Long Island CVE-1, a converted aircraft carrier. He returned to Detroit Lakes after the war ended.

Gene and Ione had five children, Ronald E. Olmstead of Mesa, Ariz.; Judith M. (Olm-

stead) Brose of Spokane; Thomas K. Olmstead of Kalispell; Dan L. Olmstead of Stansbury Park, Utah; and Kathy I. (Olmstead) Ohnoutka of Omaha, Neb.

Ione, his wife of 46 years, died of cancer on Jan. 17, 1985, in Kalispell.

Gene was a carpenter, an occupation he enjoyed. He was very innovative and took great pride in his ability to create woodworks. In the early 1950s, he completed a stint working in Greenland. He was a hard worker and always put his family first.

In 1953, he moved his family to Montana, where they lived in Harlem, then Havre. Finally, in 1965, they settled in Somers overlooking Flathead Lake and the Flathead Valley. There, Gene and Ione found an ideal location, thoroughly enjoying their home and family.

His favorite pastime was reading or sitting at the kitchen table looking at Flathead Lake and the mountains. He enjoyed visiting with family and friends. He had a great sense of humor, quick wit and always had a good story to tell. He was an avid reader and enjoyed reading about science, physics of the universe and history. His love for reading gave him a wealth of information and he could carry on a conversation about any subject. Gene's hobbies were geology, rock hounding and lapidary. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping with the family.

Gene had 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with Rev. Wayne Pris officiating. Burial will be after the services at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Mabel Margaret (Schaberg) Olsen, 87

Mabel Margaret (Schaberg) Olsen, 87, passed away June 19, 2007. She was born Oct. 29, 1919, in Ryder, N.D., the youngest of six children and the last surviving member.

In her younger years, she lived in Plaza, N.D., Brockton, Poplar, Wolf Point, and Fort Peck. As a child during World War I, Mabel's family was afflicted by the flu epidemic but survived. Each family member was a gifted musician.

Mabel rode a horse to school. During the Great Depression, in 1939, Mabel married Albert Foss Olsen in Wheeler. They lived in Illinois, Indiana, California and Montana.

In the early '40s they moved to California to work in the shipyards for World War II. In 1944, they moved to China Lake and Ridgecrest, Calif., on the Mojave desert, due to health reasons, where they lived for 12 years.

In 1956, they moved between Kalispell and Columbia Falls, where Mabel resided until January of this year. Mabel recently resided near her daughter, in Hillside Health Care Center in Missoula, where she moved following a fall.

Mabel was preceded in death by one sister, Buelah King, and four brothers, Noel, Lloyd, Paris, and Chester Schaberg.

She is survived by son, Gary and SueAnne Olsen, and their

children, Kenny and Amber Olsen, and Becky and Dude Aylor, and grandchildren, Michael, Aerial, Kenison, Chloe, Sebastian and Josie; son, Robert and Linda Olsen, and grandchildren, Rich and Brent; daughter, Janice Schaberg, with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Casey Shamp, Jennifer Shamp, Elisa (Bryan) Haubrich, Ann, (Clint and Rachael) Taxter, and Lee Shamp.

Thanks to all Mabel's friends for their love, prayers, and support.

"In her own words we find great courage and faith gained from a very full life. 'Yes, there's been many heart aches, a bushel of tears shed. But God has been good. He's been my Source, and I learned to praise my way through every battle. The joy of the Lord has been my strength. There have been many good times, too. I have enjoyed and appreciated my three children and the grandchildren they have given me.'"

There will be a viewing at 9 a.m., and a celebration of Mabel's life at 10 a.m. Friday, June 22, at the Columbia Falls Assembly of God Church, officiated by Rev. Darrel Newby. Interment will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens, Kalispell.

Funeral arrangements provided by Columbia Mortuary of Columbia Falls.

## Virginia Gifford Olson, 90

On Monday, Feb. 19, 2007, "Jesus wrapped his loving arms around Virginia Gifford Olson and carried her to heaven", surrounded by her beloved family. Virginia



was born in Lewiston, Idaho to Lester and Anna (Sulier) Gifford on Nov. 8, 1916. When she was 6 weeks old, her father was killed. Left a young widow, her mother, Anna, made a trip with her baby daughter to Montana to visit her sisters who lived in Valley Creek, near Arlee.

There Anna met Ed Schall, who was also widowed and had two young daughters. Ed and Anna were married in 1920 and settled on the Schall Ranch near Arlee, where Mary Virginia grew up. She attended the University of Montana at Missoula where she met her husband, Will Olson.

During their lives together, while raising a family of four, they lived in Montana, Washington, California, Wisconsin and Florida, while Will pursued his career as a newspaper advertising man. While raising her family she continued her education and graduated from the University of West Florida with a degree in Microbiology. Virginia's career was in medical laboratory work and she worked for many years in Pensacola, Fla., at the Florida State Board of Health as a Microbiologist, retiring in 1980. Later they moved back to Montana and lived in Polson, overlooking Flathead Lake, for many years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Will Olson; her father, Lester Gifford; mother, Anna Schall; and her beloved baby granddaughter, Cathy Olson.

Virginia is survived by her loving family consisting of sons, Curtis G. Olson and his

wife, Chen Yi, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Chris Olson and his wife, Susie, of Polson; William A. Olson, Jr. and his wife, Judy, of Neenah, Wis.; and daughter, Joy E. Bell and her husband, Robert Bell, of Pensacola, Fla.; one brother, Ted and Juanita Schall of Arlee; and two sisters, Cleo Lytle of Tucson, Ariz. and Sidney and Tuffy Powell of Arlee; brother-in-law, Arnold Holding of Arlee; sisters-in-law, Betty Schall of Arlee and Dorothy Wendt of Great Falls. Virginia loved her grandchildren and they cherished her too. Surviving their Grandma are Amy Hansen, Carol Madden, Danny Olson, Andy Olson, Anna Olson, Cindy Pritchard, Jeremy Olson and Donny Olson; 17 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Virginia loved gardening in her beautiful big yard overlooking Flathead Lake and she also loved growing her African Violets. She was a member of the South Shore Garden Club and was a volunteer at the Country Store in Polson. She was a life-long voracious letter writer and was the author of the book "Mountains in the West", a collection of memories of the early families who settled in Valley Creek in the early 1920's. She loved riding horses and had a varied and interesting life as the child of some of the earlier settlers in Montana and Idaho.

Graveside services will be held at a later date at Mountain View Cemetery in Ronan, where her remains will be placed with her husband, William Olson.

The family wishes to express their deepest gratitude to the nurses, staff and caregivers at Four Seasons Assisted Living Community in Coeur d'Alene, where Virginia lived for the past year. They were good to her and she was very fond of them all.

Arrangements are under the direction of Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory in Polson.

## LeRoy 'Slim' O'Myer, 72

LeRoy "Slim" O'Myer, 72, died Monday, Sept. 24, 2007 at his home in the Happy Valley community south of Whitefish.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; and one daughter, Hollie O'Myer, of Somers.

No services are planned at this time.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family. An online guest book is available at [www.johnson-mortuary.com](http://www.johnson-mortuary.com).

## Gertrude Julia St. Onge, 86

Gertrude Julia St. Onge, 86, a longtime Whitefish resident, died of natural causes Monday, Feb. 26, 2007, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.



She was born Feb. 28, 1920, in Hammond, Ind., the daughter of Steve and Alice Panko. She lived in Michigan until 1948.

She married Roy Daniel St. Onge on June 14, 1939, and the couple had four children, and in 1948 came to a ranch in Trego, and then came to Whitefish from 1961 to 1999.

Gertrude enjoyed sewing and traveling, and was involved in clubs and organizations in her community. She was a member of the Catholic Church.

After the death of her hus-

band, Roy, in 1979, she worked at Alpine Touch.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Roy; and a son, Larry St. Onge, in 1982.

She is survived by two sons, Ron and Carolyn St. Onge in Bigfork, and Ed and Ginger St. Onge in Polebridge; a daughter, Betty Ann and Lowell McKee in Spokane; 14 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren; and by many other relatives and friends.

Viewing will be from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 3, at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 3, also at the funeral home, with the Rev. Ron Pierce officiating. Burial will be afterward at the Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell.

The family suggest that any memorials be made to the Brantsberg Wing of the Immanuel Lutheran Home.

## Marjean J. Orr, 48

Marjean J. Orr, 48, died Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center of injuries received in a vehicle accident near Libby.

Marjean worked at Warehouse Foods in Libby before moving to Washington state in the early 1980s, and then worked for the Benton Coun-

ty Sheriff's Office.

Survivors include her father and stepmother, Marion and Diane Orr, of Libby.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Libby Christian Church.

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

## Georgia Ruth (Tuss) Otten, 83

Georgia Ruth (Tuss) Otten, 83, died of congestive heart failure Feb. 20, 2007, at Roo-Lan Health-care Center in Lacey, Wash.

Georgia was born Sept. 8, 1923, in Wilmott to Peter F. and Katherine (Martinich) Tuss. She grew up in Lewistown. She graduated from Fergus County High School in 1941. She married John F. Otten on his 24th birthday, Oct. 4, 1941.

Georgia worked at several jobs in her adult life. She was a clerk at JC Penney in Kalispell, a clerk at a shoe store in Libby, and a book-keeper at Montgomery Ward in Kalispell until it closed. She then was a home companion until she retired.

She was very involved at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. She belonged to the Daughters of Isabella group, Council of Catholic Women and was active in Church Women United. She loved her church family at St. Matthew's and spoken often of them with deep regard. Georgia and John counted the offering several times a year on Mondays at St. Matthew's. They could be counted on to do whatever was asked of them.

Georgia and John were also



avid bowlers and bowled until their bodies no longer allowed it. They loved baseball. Georgia attended all of her son's games. The whole family was involved with Little League and Legion ball, first in Libby and then in Kalispell. She was very proud of her children.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband, John; a son, P.J. Otten; a daughter, Gina Eskew; and grandsons, Jeffrey Otten and T.J. Eskew. She was also preceded in death by four half-sisters, Mary, Helen, Shonny and Louise; two sisters, Betty and Jerry; and two brothers, Frank and Pete.

Georgia is survived by her daughter, Rebecca, and Phil Wiebe; sons, Jim and Jill, and Michael and Kelli Otten; her sister, Jean Purdom, of Bend, Ore.; half-sister, Anne Smith, of Lewistown; one grandson; seven granddaughters; 17 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. March 10 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church with interment afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens. A reception will be held at the church after interment.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to St. Matthew's Parish, 602 S. Main, Kalispell, MT 59901, payable to St. Matthew's School.

## Robert Bruce Owen, 69

Robert Bruce Owen died Nov. 3, 2007. Born April 23, 1938, in Riverside, Calif., to Dorothy Owen Powers and Lawrence Terrill Owen, he retired to his beloved Montana, a place he had visited every summer throughout his childhood.

A graduate of Claremont McKenna College and the University of Southern California, he retired as an executive vice president at Security Pacific Bank in Los Angeles.

Bruce was one of the founding members of the Bigfork Rotary Club and served as an elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell. He also attended a Friday morning Bible study group, affectionately known as the Dirt Bags.

He loved reading and sports, and he had a lifetime passion for the study of the history of Montana and the West.

He will be remembered for his generosity, integrity and quick wit.

He will be dearly missed by his wife, Brenda, of 39 years; daughter, Ashley, of London, England; and son, Jeffrey, of Pasadena, Calif.; and brother, John Terrill Owen of Castle Rock, Colo.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday at the Bigfork Community Cemetery on Swan River Road.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell, 540 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901.

## Linda Ann Owen-Segura, 64

Linda Ann Owen-Segura, 64, died Friday, Sept. 28, 2007, at her home in Troy.

Survivors include her partner, Wayne Belcher, of Troy; sons, Jude Noyal Yancy Segura of Jacksonville, Fla., and Keelan Joseph Segura of New Iberia, La.

Services will be at 2 p.m.

Thursday, at the Troy Baptist Church with Rev. Cam Foote officiating. Interment services will follow at Milnor Lake Cemetery. Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home and from noon to 1:45 p.m. Thursday at the church.

## Brandan Keith Owens, 47

Brandan Keith Owens, 47, of Kalispell passed away of a brain aneurysm Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.



Brandan was born Oct. 13, 1960, in Austin, Texas, to Dennis and Arline (Moeller) Owens.

The first 12 years of Brandan's life were spent at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. He spent most of his summers with his grandparents in New Braunfels, Texas. Brandan's family moved to Kalispell in 1972 where he was a 1978 graduate of Flathead High School.

He started his career in the logging industry, and was at one time logger of the year. He was the owner of the Finish Line Lounge and Casino in Kalispell and was a member of the Montana Tavern Association.

Brandan was an avid participant and supporter of the race-car community, and he had a passion for all water sports.

Brandan will be greatly missed by his family, friends and the community.

Brandan is survived by his children, Jessica Lee Thompson of Whitefish, Kristen Jane Owens of Kalispell, and Richard Keith Owens, also of Kalispell; his parents, Dennis and Arline Owens, of Marion; his brothers, Scott Owens and wife, Donna, of Helena, and Randal Owens and wife, Peggy, of Dillon; his sister, Kelly Hines, and husband, Tony, of Hampton, Va.; also his nephews, Austin and Jeramie Owens; his nieces, Heather and Lauren Owens, and Kylie and Chelsea Hines; along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and special friends.

Memorial services for Brandan Keith Owens will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, in the Johnson Mortuary chapel, with Deacon Fred Topp officiating.

The family suggests donations may be made to the Alert Foundation, 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson Mortuary is caring for Brandan's family. You are invited to go to [www.johnson-mortuary.com](http://www.johnson-mortuary.com) to offer condolences and sign Brandan's guest book.