

FLORENCE MAE (HASSETT) AABERG
born: Jun. 22, 1898 -- died: Mar. 30, 1996
Liberty County Times
Apr. 3, 1996



Florence Aaberg

Florence Mae (Hassett) Aaberg was born at Nekoma, North Dakota on June 22nd, 1898. She was one of four children born to David and Mathilda (Ford) Hassett. She grew up in North Dakota and received her formal education at Nekoma. Florence began working in a cook-car for a thrashing crew at age 12. She met her husband-to-be, Carl Aaberg, and they were married at Devils Lake on January 10th, 1917. They farmed near Edmore, North Dakota until the early 1930's.

The Aaberg's moved to Webster, North Dakota where Florence worked as a high school janitor and also ran a restaurant. During the war years, they spent the winter months in California.

In 1945 they came to Chester, Montana where the family operated the Golden West Restaurant & Hotel. Florence also ran a restaurant in Joplin for awhile. Her husband, Carl, died in 1952. She remained in the Chester community for the next 20+ years. She worked as a cook for a local farmer, Clark McBride, from 1954 - 1969.

In 1975 Florence moved to Shelby to be near a daughter. She lived at the Crossroads Housing Retirement Complex until 1989, when she transferred to the Toole County Nursing Home. Florence died at the rest home on the morning of Saturday (March 30th, 1996). She was 97 years old.

Florence had been a hard worker her entire life. She officially retired at age 80. Because of her good health, she was fortunate to lead an active and independent life in her post-retirement years. During this time she made many solo road trips to California to escape the Montana winters.

Florence was a longtime member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester and did the janitorial work there for many years. She enjoyed vegetable gardening, embroidery, reading, and playing cards (she was especially fond of pinochle and whist). She collected cups and saucers. Her family will always remember her skills as a good cook and homemaker.

Florence is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Dave (Coral) Fyall of Kalispell and Mrs. (Gus (Annabelle) Fransen of Shelby; one sister, Gladys Rustan of Williston, North Dakota; one brother, Jim Hassett of Devils Lake, North Dakota; 13 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; 6 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two daughters (Caroline and Dorothy), two sons (Larry and Amos), one brother (Howard), and two grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Wednesday (April 3rd) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester. Reverend Joe R. Haugstuen of Shelby will officiate. The congregation will sing some of Florence's favorite hymns, including "Holy, Holy, Holy", "Beautiful Savior", and "The King of Love My Shepherd Is". Organ accompaniment will be by Karen Stack. Eulogist will be Blaine Thrasher. Pallbearers will be Blaine Thrasher, Dan Agnew, Steve Aaberg, Ken Solum, Craig Rude and Phil Anderson. A luncheon will be held at the church immediately following the services.

Graveside prayers will be 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday at the Mountainview Cemetery in Shelby by Pastor Haugstuen. Funeral arrangements are by Rockman Chapel of Chester.

Memorials will be given to the Toole County Nursing Home in Shelby or Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester.

OTTO KENNETH AFDAHL
born: May 20, 1919 -- died: Dec. 15, 1996
Liberty County Times
Dec. 25, 1996



Otto "Ken" Afdahl

Otto Kenneth Afdahl was born at Kallspell on May 20, 1919. He was one of three children born to Ervin and Bernadette (LeCuyer) Afdahl. Ken grew up on the family homestead two miles northwest of Rudyard and received his formal education there. He worked on the family farm until the outbreak of World War II, when he was inducted into the U.S. Army. During those three years in the military, Ken served in Australia and the South Pacific. Following his honorable discharge in 1945, he returned to Montana.

Ken corresponded with a pen pal, Helen E. Hough of Rehrersberg, Pennsylvania. They eventually met and were married on June 5, 1955. They made their home on the Afdahl farm at Rudyard and began raising their family of three. Helen died in 1971.

Ken farmed until 1989, then leased out his place to Bill Woods. He still enjoyed helping with the farming operations and continued to live on the farm. His health had been relatively good until recently, when he was diagnosed with a bad heart. Thanksgiving week Ken was admitted to Benefis East (Deaconess) in Great Falls for heart surgery. He developed other complications and remained in the hospital until his death on the evening of Sunday, December 15. He was 77 years old.

Ken loved Montana and the "great

outdoors. He was a cowboy at heart in the fact that he enjoyed raising cattle and riding horses. He had a soft spot in his heart for other animals, too. Ken's hobbies included fishing, hunting, woodworking and latch-hooking. In his quiet hours at home he enjoyed playing solitaire or reading his Bible. He liked to watch news and wildlife programs on television and he always enjoyed the "Paul Harvey" radio feature. Ken was a good cook and was especially fond of Norwegian foods like lutefisk and lefse. And he loved his coffee and ice cream.

Ken had always been an independent and quiet man. He liked to travel up and down the Hi-Line and be with people, but deep down he was really a shy and private person.

He is survived by two daughters, Joann Owens and Joyce Afdahl of Rudyard; one son, Joe Afdahl of Rudyard; two grandchildren, Kylene and John Owens of Rudyard; one brother, Elmer Afdahl of Milton-Freewater, Oregon; one sister, Joyce Lumsden of Lakeside; and numerous nephews and nieces. Ken was preceded in death not only by his wife and parents, but also by his stepmother, Ella.

Funeral mass was celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday, December 20 by Father Joseph Marmion at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Hingham. Vocal music by Gayle Chvilicek included "Amazing Grace", "In the Garden", and "The Wind Beneath My Wings". Iris White was organist. Greeter was Bob Letang, server/reader was Terry Hybner, Eucharistic minister was Dan Hybner, and eulogist was Pastor Nolan Spent. Friends serving as pallbearers were Bill Woods, Mike Voss, Kelly Domire, Leander Schweitzer, Edward Schweitzer and Mike Wendland. Following the Mass, a luncheon was held at the church.

Graveside services were at 2 p.m. Friday at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. Military rites were provided by the Havre V.F.W. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

MARIE KATHLEEN(OLSON) ANDERSON
born: Feb. 8, 1918 -- died: Apr. 9, 1996
Liberty County Times
Apr. 17, 1996

Marie Anderson

Marie Kathleen (Olson) Anderson was born at Ambrose, North Dakota on February 8, 1918. She was the youngest of five children born to Knute and Mary (Thorson) Olson. Marie grew up in North Dakota and was educated there.

She came to Joplin where she met her husband-to-be, Morris A. Anderson. They were married on December 7, 1938 in the Bethel Lutheran Church at Joplin. They farmed one mile north of Joplin until their retirement in 1983. Morris died in 1989. Marie remained in the Joplin community until 1995, when her health began to fail. She moved to a condominium in Bozeman where her daughter and family took care of her from that time on. Marie died at her Bozeman residence on the morning of Tuesday, April 9. She was 78 years old.

Marie was a longtime member of Bethel Church and W.E.L.C.A. She especially enjoyed her time spent with friends at Tuesday's Sewing Bee at the church.

Marie was fond of gardening, sewing and crocheting, many of her family members and friends have one of her handmade afghans. She was an exceptional homemaker and cook, and her family will always remember her talent for making "leifse".

Marie enjoyed reading. She started each and every day with a Bible

passage. She cherished the summers that she spent with her grandkids. Her love, patience and kindness will never be forgotten.

She is survived by her only daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Robert Ostrum of Bozeman; three grandchildren, including Karl Lamey and her husband Cory, Chad Ostrum and his wife Jodi, and Jason Ostrum; one great grandson, Cooper Lamey, all of Fishtail, Montana; one sister, Hazel Anderson of Joplin and numerous nephews and nieces. Marie was preceded in death by her parents and husband, a sister (Elnora Anderson) and two brothers, Odin and Marvin Olson.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 12 at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin with Reverend Darrell Cousino officiating. The congregation sang "Softly and Tenderly", accompanied by Iris White on the organ. Vocal tributes, "In the Garden" and "Sheltered in the Arms of God", were sung by Judy Lake. Ushers were Lysie James and Sandy Anderson. Pallbearers were Larry Olson, Duane Johnson, Leonard Olson, Jerry Thorson, Dean Lyle and Tom Wood, Sr. Interment was in the Joplin Cemetery with arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. Memorials are suggested to the Bethel Church, the Gallatin Hospice, 915 Highland Blvd., Bozeman, Montana 59715, or a charity of donor's choice.

KENNETH G. AXVIG
Born: April 28, 1916 - Died: August 26, 1996
Liberty County Times
September 4, 1996

Kenneth Axvig

Kenneth G. Axvig, 80, a Havre resident, died Monday evening, Aug. 26, 1996 at a local hospital of natural causes. Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. at St. Marks Episcopal Church of Havre with Father Kenneth Green officiating. Burial in Highland Cemetery in Havre will follow the funeral service.

Kenneth G. Axvig was born on April 28, 1916 in Froid, MT., the son of Oscar and Mary (Dunn) Axvig. He attended schools in Hill County. Kenneth farmed in the Kremlin area and was one of the longest term farmers in Montana. He also ranched in the Harlem area, and taught both mathematics and navigation.

Kenneth loved to pilot airplanes and was a world traveler. He was a member of the Eagles Club Aerie No. 166 F.O.E. of Havre, and a member of the Montana Pilot's Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Kenneth was survived by a sister, Louise Peterson of La Crescenta, CA, and a son, Ole Axvig of Laramie, Wyoming. He is also survived by a dedicated team of employees and staff.

Memorials are suggested to the Kenneth G. Axvig Educational Trust.

Holland & Bonine Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

HERMAN ERNEST BEECHER
born: Sept. 4, 1910 -- died: July 21, 1996
Liberty County Times
July 31, 1996

Herman Beecher

Herman Ernest Beecher, 85 years of age, a retired disabled veteran of WWII and a resident of Gildford, Montana, died of natural causes on Sunday, July 21, 1996 at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls, MT.

Funeral services were held July 25, 1996 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Havre, Montana with Pastor Christopher Brandt officiating. Burial with military honors was at the Highland Cemetery. Pallbearers were Marvin Alfred, Bruce Beecher, Joe Osterbauer, Keith VandeSandt, Neil McCormick and Dan Williams. Soloists were Diane Kent and Sheila Vig who sang "In the Sweet By and By" and "O That Will Be Glory For Me". The congregational hymn was "How Great Thou Art". Organist was Betty Flechsig.

Herman was born September 4, 1910 at Devils Lake, North Dakota, the son of Charlie and Hattie (Pulst) Beecher. Herman grew up in the North Gildford area and attended the country school there. He worked for farmers and ranchers in that area. He was also employed by the Gildford Garage from 1936-1938 working on automobiles, trucks and tractors. He overhauled motors, and replaced worn and broken parts. On December 3, 1943 he married the former Ellen Theodora McCormick. During WWII he served in the 5th Armored Infantry. He served in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Normandy. He was a machine gunner with a half track armed with a 50 caliber machine gun and transported riflemen. He was advanced to locate enemy positions and engage them. He loaded, aimed and fired weapons to provide both direct and covering fire. Also Herman acted as Platoon Leader in charge of an Infantry Platoon. He deployed men in action and was responsible for their care and welfare. As one of the nation's finest, he undertook the most severe task that one is called upon to perform.

His speciality was Rifleman 745. He was an expert M-1 Rifleman. For wounds he received in action he was awarded the Purple Heart medal. He was also awarded the Good Conduct medal, WWII Victory medal, and the American Theatre ribbon. Herman will be remembered by those who knew him and loved him for the great price he paid for the sake of freedom. In his later years Herman helped out with the town park in Gildford, mowing, watering and doing whatever needed to be done. On the side he repaired lawn mowers. He was a great baseball fan, and was noted for his pitching skills. He also loved to fish and hunt. Herman was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Ellen on March 24, 1964; one sister, Freda Wood on July 28, 1949; and by brothers, Ervin Beecher, Herbert Osterbauer, Walter Osterbauer and Joe Osterbauer.

He is survived by one sister, Lorraine Alfred of Spokane, Washington; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Memorials in Mr. Beecher's honor may be made to the St. Paul Lutheran Church or to a person's choice.

Holland & Bonine Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

ROBERT FREDERICK BRANDT
born: Feb. 26, 1928 -- died: Sept. 23, 1996
Liberty County Times
Oct. 2, 1996



Robert Brandt

Robert Frederick Brandt was born February 26th, 1928 at the farmstead of his grandparents (Gustav and Emille Krueger) northwest of Rudyard, Montana. Bob was the youngest of four sons and his parents were Ernest and Hertha (Krueger) Brandt. He grew up on the farm attended Hingham and Rudyard schools, and graduated from Rudyard High School in 1945. Following his education, Bob worked at the Farmer's Elevator in Hingham.

On September 28th, 1952 Bob married Katherine Jean Langel at the Goldstone Lutheran Church north of Rudyard. They made their home on the family farm where Bob initially worked with his father and brother (Irvin), and later with his son (Clyde). In addition to farming, Bob served as a rural mail carrier on the north and south Rudyard routes for 30+ years. And for 4-5 years in the late 1970's, Bob and Katherine worked as caretakers at the Rudyard Cemetery.

They moved into Rudyard in 1993 and lived there since. Bob has suffered from severe ulcers and diabetes for many years. On this past Monday (September 23rd, 1996) he died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Rudyard. He was 68 years old.

Bob was baptized and confirmed at the Hingham Lutheran Parish, and his dedication to the church continued there throughout his adult life. He

served in many capacities on the church council and was a loyal parishioner. He was proud that he taught Sunday School to all of his sons. In recent years, he enjoyed attending church conventions with his daughter (Marilyn).

When Bob retired from the Postal Service in 1988, he was given a "Safety Award" for logging over 100,000 miles without an accident. He was happy to see his son (Darryn) now driving the same postal route.

Because of his diabetes, Bob lost a lower leg to amputation in 1988. This made it difficult to complete many of his daily chores and activities. Still, he liked to stay active with his family and friends; in fact, they just had a family birthday celebration the day before Bob's death and he enjoyed being a part of it.

Bob had many hobbies. He loved watching baseball games. Years ago he was a New York Yankees fan, but more recently he loved the Cleveland Indians. On a local level, he followed the Great Falls Dodgers. Bob had a large collection of baseball cards and sports publications ("Sporting News" and "Baseball Digest"). He also enjoyed football and was an avid Montana "Grizzly" fan.

Other interests including fishing, collecting stamps, and crossword puzzles. Bob was a "trivia whiz" and his favorite TV programs were "Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune".

He had a remarkable memory, especially for the history of the Hi-line in the Rudyard and Hingham communities. He enjoyed sharing old stories and events with anyone interested.

Bob loved his family (especially the grandkids) and he appreciated any quality time he had with them.

His survivors include his wife, Katherine of Rudyard; 7 children, Marilyn Henry (and husband, Bill) of Havre, Robert ("Bobby") Brandt of Missoula, Clyde Brandt (andwife, Toni) of Havre, James and Gary Brandt of Great Falls, Darryn Brandt of Rudyard, and Karen Brandt of

Rudyard; 5 grandchildren (including Lindsey Brandt, Becky Henry, Keelie Brandt, Christopher Brandt, and Ryan Brandt); his brother, Irvin Brandt of Rudyard; his mother-in-law, Helen Langel of Chester; his aunt, Lydia Krueger Langel of Rudyard; and numerous nephews and nieces. Bob was preceded in death by his parents and by 2 brothers (Loren in 1948 and Wilmar in 1995).

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday (Sept. 26th) at the Hingham Lutheran Parish with Reverend Tim Hauge conducting. Terry Stevenson sang "How Great Thou Art" and "Rock of Ages". Organist, Sharon Spicher, accompanied the congregation who sang "Beautiful Savior", "What A Friend We Have in Jesus", and "Borning Cry". A postlude rendition of "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" was played. Ushers were Jerry Hybner and Ron Petrick. Pallbearers included Richard, Stan, Jerry, and Todd Langel, Doug Kaercher, and Shane Christiansen.

Burial was in the Rudyard Cemetery with arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. A luncheon followed at the church. Memorials will be given to the Hingham Lutheran church or to the Rudyard Historical Society....

HAZEL LEAH "PEGGY" BURFIELD
born: Apr. 12, 1910 -- died: Apr. 30, 1996
Liberty County Times
May 8, 1996



Hazel Burfield

Hazel Leah "Peggy" Burfield was born in Joliet, Illinois on April 12, 1910. She was the only daughter of two children born to William and Genevieve (Roush) Brown. The Brown family moved to Montana in 1916 and lived south of Gildford. Peggy received her formal education at Gildford and Hingham. She graduated from Hingham High School in 1927.

Peggy married Theodore S. Burfield at the Hingham Methodist Church on June 29, 1927. They farmed in the north Gildford community until their retirement in 1963. Peggy's husband died on March 30, 1972. She remained at their home in Gildford from that time on. Her health suddenly declined a month ago, when she was admitted to the Northern Montana Hospital in Havre. She transferred to the Northern Montana Care Center on April 5th. Peggy died at the nursing center on the afternoon of Tuesday April 30. She was 86 years old.

Peggy has been active in the Gildford community most of her life. She was baptized at the Gildford Baptist Church, where she served as church treasurer for many years and was active in the Mission Circle. She was a member of the Jolly Jane's Home Demonstration Club, the Gildford Senior Center, the Gildford Birthday Club, and had served as an election judge for many years. In the early 1970's she worked as a bookkeeper for the Gildford Co-op.

Peggy loved her role as a homemaker and she had many hobbies. She collected spoons, salt

and pepper shakers and miniature figurines for shadowboxes. She enjoyed quilting, ceramics and crafts, and floral arranging. She was an exceptional artist, and many of her family and friends will enjoy her beautiful paintings for years to come.

Peggy was an avid sports fan, especially KG Basketball. She had been an active member of the Hi-Line bowling leagues. She enjoyed the peaceful tranquility of bird-watching. Peggy liked to play all sorts of games, but seemed to enjoy crossword puzzles and cards the most. She loved to have family and friends stop by her house, where the coffee pot was always brewing!

Peggy is survived by two daughters and spouses, Rita and Don Dees of Kremlin and Marilyn and Chet Welsh of Hingham; one son and spouse, Ted and Diana Burfield of Havre; eight granddaughters, including Debra Lee Helebust, Lynn Gatzmeier, Holly Liles, Linda Boehm, Darcel Wesen, Perian Smith, Tedd; Jo Johannsen and Caron Burfield; 16 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. Peggy was preceded in death not only by her husband and parents, but also by her brother (Bob), a son (William), a daughter (Patricia) and her only grandson (Mitch Burfield).

Memorial services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, May 3 at the Gildford Baptist Church with Reverend Edward Fallo officiating. A poem entitled "A Friend" was written and read by Russell Crites. Vocal tributes were "Goodnight and Goodmorning" and "Get God's Sunshine", sung by Jerry Toner. The congregation sang "Rock of Ages" and Sharon Spicher served as pianist. Ushers were Pat Conway and Russell Crites. Friends serving as honorary bearers included Stu Brownlee, Willis Cady, Lowell Miller, Bob Swiney, Reid Stuart, Roger Swiney, Dick Derbyshire, Russ Crites and Pat Conway.

Graveside services were held at 3:30 p.m. Friday at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. A luncheon followed at the Gildford Church. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester. Memorials will be given to the Gildford Church or donor's choice.

LAUREL ELAINE CAMPER
Born: June 23, 1942 - Died: June 30, 1996
Liberty County Times
July 3, 1996

Laurel Camper

Laurel Elaine Camper, age 54, of Hamilton, Montana went to be with God on Sunday (June 30, 1996). She died at her residence of an undetermined cause.

Laurel was born June 23rd, 1942 in Havre, Montana. She was one of four children born to Chris and Frances (Tippie) Herman.

She will be missed by all whose lives she touched. Laurel had devoted her life to her church; one of her greatest joys was playing the organ and piano for the church.

Survivors include two sons, Keith L. Camper (and wife Tanna) of Corvallis and Scott D. Camper of Hamilton; one daughter, Christine Dunaway of Hamilton; her mother, Francis Herman Evenson of Rudyard; one sister, Marilyn Pester of Rudyard; two brothers, Fred Herman of south Havre and Floyd Herman of Rudyard; five grandchildren, including Tyler, Blake, Taylor, Carl and Allen; and several nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her father.

Services will be 2:00 p.m. Friday (July 5th) at the Corvallis Community Church with Pastor Keith McNeil officiating. Interment will follow in the Corvallis Cemetery. Arrangements by the Daly-Leach Chapel in Hamilton.

KENETH ANDREW CAMPROS
Born: November 16, 1954 - Died: May 13, 1996
Liberty County Times
May 22, 1996



Keneth Campros

Keneth Andrew Campros was born in Havre on November 16, 1954, he was one of ten children born to Andrew and Elaine (Horalek) Campros. Ken grew up in Chester where he was baptized, confirmed and received his religious training at St. Mary's Catholic Church. He attended school in Chester through grade 8, then transferred to a parochial school in California. He graduated from Bishop-Diego-Garcia High School in Santa Barbara in 1972.

Keneth returned to Montana to attend Carroll College in Helena, where he majored in psychology. He lived in Spokane for a few years and worked in the insurance business. During the past 15 years Ken has lived in the Great Falls community. He and his brother, Joe, have shared an apartment there since January.

Keneth has suffered from mental illness for the past 20 years. During that time he attended counseling sessions, took prescribed medications and did a lot of reading in hopes of rehabilitating himself. He was a very bright individual with a lot of potential, but he just couldn't control the disease that controlled him. On this past Monday, May 13, Ken went to a friend's house in Great Falls and while visiting there, he shot himself. He was 41 years old.

Ken was active in the New Direction Center in Great Falls. Even though he had a short attention span, he really enjoyed ceramics. He tried to expand his computer skills by attending the College of Great Falls this past winter, but his powers of concentration prohibited completion of the course. During Ken's high school years, he enjoyed basketball, snow-skiing and playing the drums. He was a very quiet, private person who enjoyed long, solitary walks.

Ken is survived by his parents, Andrew and Elaine Campros of Chester; three brothers, Warren Campros of Belle, Missouri, George Campros of Deer Lodge and Joseph Campros of Great Falls; four sisters, Diane Abrahamson of Shelby, Lana Juden of Great Falls, Janine Fox of Conrad and Maria Morelli of Gillette, Wyoming; and numerous nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by a brother Steven, a sister Yvonne and a niece and nephew Bridge and Richard Seidlitz.

Rosary prayers were recited at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 16 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester. The funeral mass was celebrated by Father Joseph Marmion at the church at 11 a.m. Friday, May 17. Vocal music by Marcus Jochim included "Ave Maria", "Oh Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts", "Panis Angelicus" and "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name". Iris White served as organist. Pallbearers were Warren and Joseph Campros, Charles Judert, Ken Osterman, Glen Wolfe and Bill Harmon. The mass ended with a tape-recording of "The Wind Beneath My Wings".

Following a memorial luncheon at St. Mary's Church, the funeral cortege went to Great Falls where graveside services were held at 3 p.m. at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Father Joe provided graveside prayers. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

NORBERT FRANCIS (NEWT) CHVILICEK
born: Mar. 31, 1933 -- died: July 9, 1996
Liberty County Times
July 31, 1996

Norbert Chvilicek

Norbert Francis Alvin "Newt" Chvilicek, 63, died July 9, 1996, at home in Wasilla, Alaska of natural causes.

Cremation and scattering of ashes has taken place, at his request. A gathering of family and friends was held at the family home. Memorial services may take place at a later date in Hingham, Montana.

Mr. Chvilicek was born March 31, 1933, in Hingham, to John and Marion Chvilicek. He graduated from Hingham High School and attended Northern Montana College.

He was a Korean War veteran, serving in 1953 and 1954.

Mr. Chvilicek went to Wasilla in 1968 and was an operating engineer for Local No. 302 for more than 35 years. He retired in 1995.

Mr. Chvilicek was a member of the Catholic church, an advisory board member and on the board of directors for Nugen's Ranch and served as a committee member for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

He enjoyed visiting with friends and family, sharing memories, helping others and playing pinochle and other card games.

His family said: "He was a loving father, husband and grandfather and a best friend to those who knew him. He was always willing to help and visit. Every life he touched was special. Newt gave freely of himself to those in need."

Survivors are his wife, Doris of Wasilla; daughter, Sarah Chvilicek of Reno, Nevada; sons, Joel of Libby, Montana, and Ken of Phoenix, Arizona; grandchildren, Erica, Bo, Brenna, Ryan, Jessica, Jeremy, Justin and Anina; stepdaughters, Holly and Kandi; brothers, Robert of Gabbs, Nevada, Dr. Lawrence at Pendleton, Oregon, Gerald of Woodward, Oklahoma; a sister, Alice Langel of Rudyard, Montana; and many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

Memorial donations may be sent to Nugen's Ranch, 3701 Palmer-Wasilla Highway, Wasilla, AK 99654.

Arrangements were handled by Valley Funeral home and Crematory of Wasilla.

MARGUERITE DEERING
Born: November 21, 1927 - Died: August 26, 1996
Liberty County Times
September 4, 1996

Marguerite Deering

Marguerite L. Deering 68, of Forsyth died Monday August 26, 1996 at the Rosebud Health Care Center in Forsyth, Montana.

Marguerite was born November 21, 1927 in New Underwood, South Dakota, the daughter of Edwin and Gladys Nelson Johnson. She spent her youth and attended schools in Box Elder and New Underwood, graduating from high school in New Underwood in 1946.

On October 29, 1947, Marguerite married Bill Deering in Rapid City, South Dakota. They lived in Thermopolis, Wyoming until 1966 when they moved to Montrose, Colorado. In 1967, they moved to Chester, Montana and in 1969 moved to Red Wing, Minnesota before coming to Forsyth in 1973 where Marguerite has lived since.

Marguerite enjoyed crafts with her children, sewing and wrote poetry.

She is survived by her husband Bill of Forsyth; four sons, Chuck and his wife Pat of Casper, Wyoming, Todd and his wife Jane of Forsyth, Ray and his wife Virginia of Forsyth, and Mark Deering of La Habra, California; three daughters, Donna and Mark Reid of Havre, Montana, Diane and Terry Gish of Chester, Montana, Jan and her husband Lance Zuelke of Havre, Montana; three brothers, Walter and Phyllis Johnson of Box Elder, South Dakota, John and Carla Johnson of Hot Springs, South Dakota, Archie and Shirley Johnson, of Box Elder, South Dakota; her sister-in-law Florrie Johnson of Rapid City, South Dakota, 19 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Marguerite was preceded in death by her three brothers, Francis, Russell and Raymond.

ELSIE R. (WEHR) DEMAREST
born: Feb. 9, 1907 -- died: Oct. 5, 1996
Liberty County Times
Oct. 9, 1996



Elsie Demarest

Elsie R. Demarest was born at Annamoose, North Dakota on February 9th, 1907. She was one of four children born to John and Elizabeth (Gall) Wehr. Her parents operated a creamery and cafe in Dogden, North Dakota, so she grew up and attended school there. Following her graduation from high school in 1924, Elsie went to Teacher's College in Valley City. She earned a teaching certificate, then began teaching in rural schools in North Dakota.

In 1930 she came to Montana. She lived with the Hoffner family in the Sweetgrass Hills and taught school near there. She met a Whitlash area rancher, Claude Demarest, and they were married on December 23rd, 1934 in Havre. They made their home on the Demarest ranch. Elsie continued to teach during the war years at several area schools, including Bear Gulch, Laird and Whitlash. She became a proficient horsewoman and enjoyed helping Claude with the ranching operations.

In addition to raising two children, maintaining a ranch home, and cooking for her family and assorted hired hands, Elsie found time to be active in community functions. She was a member of the Whitlash Home

Demonstration Club, the Galata Eastern Star, and she served as a 4-H leader for many years. She enjoyed gardening and yardwork, and she did a lot of canning and baking (her specialties were breads and pies!). Other interests included sewing, craft work, and music; she gave piano lessons to many children over the years.

Elsie loved to read, especially local history books. She could easily be called the "community historian" because she collected and documented the history of the Sweetgrass Hills and the people who homesteaded and lived in the area.

Elsie had strong religious convictions and was an active member of the Whitlash Presbyterian congregation. She was proud to have been on the Building Committee when the new church facility was constructed in Whitlash in 1951. She served as the church secretary/treasurer for many years, until she suffered a stroke in the early 1970's. Although the stroke caused some physical debilitation to Elsie, it never weakened her faith!

Two years ago Elsie moved to the Toole County Nursing Home in Shelby. She died there on the early morning of Saturday (October 5th, 1996). She was 89 years old.

Elsie was happy with her role in life and thankful for the many good tidings bestowed on her. She loved her family and friends, and was proud to have been Claude's wife for almost 62 years!

In addition to her husband, Elsie is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Tim (Auverne) Dieffenbach of Starwood, Washington; a son, Douglas Demarest of Whitlash; a sister, Velma Gardener of Chadron, Nebraska; six grandchildren (including Sandra Orman, Craig Dieffenbach, Brian Dieffenbach, Paula Broadhurst, Marty Demarest and Crystal Demarest; four great-grandchildren (including Tiffany Orman, Reed Broadhurst, Giavanna Dieffenbach and Amanda

Dieffenbach); and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother (Walter Wehr), and a sister (Margie Norris).

Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday (Oct. 8th) at the Whitlash Presbyterian Church with Reverend Ernest R. Doyle officiating. Congregational hymns included "The Old Rugged Cross", "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", and "Blest Be the Tie that Binds". The pianist was Helen Stratton. Pallbearers included Earl Thompson, B. J. Oswood, Bob Dafoe, Ron Wehr, Albert Fey and Kenny Morrison. Following burial rites at the Whitlash Cemetery, a luncheon was held at the Liberty Hall. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel. Memorials will be given to the church.

JOSEPH LAWRENCE DOMIRE
born: Mar. 10, 1944 -- died: Sept. 24, 1996
Liberty County Times
Oct. 2, 1996



Joe Domire

Joseph Lawrence Domire was born March 10th, 1944 at Havre, Montana. His parents were Bennie and Ann (Sohm) Domire, and he was one of four children. Joe attended Rudyard Schools and graduated from high school there in 1962. He continued his education at Carroll College in Helena then transferred to Northern Montana College in Havre. He graduated from N.M.C. in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education with a major in English. He did his student teaching at Gildford.

In 1967 during the Vietnam Conflict, Joe was drafted into the U.S. Army. Because of an asthmatic condition, he did not serve over seas and was granted an early honorable discharge.

He returned to Montana and helped with the family farming. In the off-season Joe worked several jobs around the state, including the McDonald Department Store in Helena, Pro-Mat Paint Store in Billings, and the Brighten-Up Shop in Great Falls. He also taught high school in Chester for a year.

On September 25th, 1971 Joe married Barbara Ann Stroh in Hingham. They made their home in Rudyard where Joe managed the Domire farm. For several winters he worked at Sanvik Brothers Store in Rudyard.

In the spring of 1994, Joe was diagnosed with lung cancer. He received medical treatments, but his health slowly deteriorated. He died at the Liberty County Hospital in Chester on the evening of Tuesday (Sept. 24th, 1996). He was only 52 years old.

Joe was a loyal member of Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Hingham. In addition to serving as an instructor for the C.Y.O., he was a church lector for many years. He was dedicated to his faith and was always willing to be of assistance whenever he could.

In his younger years Joe enjoyed hunting and was a member of the 4-H organization. In later years he enjoyed working on family histories and genealogy. He collected coins and antiques, and liked to play cards (especially pinochle). In his quiet hours he loved to read; he was fond of Montana historicals.

Joe will be affectionately remembered as "just an all around good guy"! He was loyal to his friends and family, and always put their feelings and interests above his own.

Joe is survived by his wife, Barb of Rudyard; 2 daughters, Shannon Brinkman (and husband, Patrick) of Great Falls and Jennifer Domire of Billings; 2 sons, Kelly Domire of Rudyard and Randall Domire of Havre; his mother, Ann Domire of Chester; 2 sisters, Dianne Folk (and husband, George) of Rudyard and Kathleen Tibbetts (and husband, Rod) of Hawley, Minnesota; 1 brother, Clarence Domire (and wife, Joanne) of Fairfax, Virginia; and numerous nephews and nieces. Joe was preceded in death by his father in 1979.

Vigil Prayers were recited Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Hingham. The Funeral Mass was celebrated at 2:00 p.m. Friday (Sept. 27th) at the church by Father Joseph Marmion. Vocal tributes by Gayle Chvilicek included "Prayer of St. Francis", "On Eagle's Wings", "Song of Farewell",

and "In Daddy's Hands". Iris White served as organist. Mass participants were greeters Jerry Hybner and Virgil Jurenka; servers Terry Hybner and Bill Mulvaney; lector Dan Hybner; communion gift presenters Teresa and Steve Schlauch; Eucharistic minister Mary Lois Hybner; and eulogist Glen Sager. Pallbearers included John Chvilicek, Mike Wendland, Kory Folk, Tim Rambo, Joe Afdahl, and Bryan Folk. Graveside services were 4:00 p.m. Friday at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. Members of the Havre V.F.W. provided military rites. A luncheon followed at the Rudyard Youth Center. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. Memorials will be given to the "Gift of Live" or Donor's choice...

CATHERINE "KAY" DUNCAN
born: Feb. 12, 1919 -- died: May 6, 1996
Liberty County Times
June 5, 1996

Catherine Duncan

Catherin "Kay" Duncan, 77, of Lakeside, died at Immanuel Lutheran Home on May 6, 1996.

She was born February 12, 1919 in Williston, North Dakota to John and Katherine Nolan. She spent her early life and graduated from high school there. She then worked as a telephone operator until she and her sister moved in 1948 to Whitefish where she worked as a PBX operator for Great Northern Railroad.

In 1954, she married Robert "Bob" Duncan. They moved to Cut Bank until 1956, when they moved to Joplin where they farmed until retiring in 1983 and moved to Lakeside.

She enjoyed harvest time and would drive trucks to help with the grain harvest. She was active in the Women Involved in Farm Economics organization. She and her husband took part in a gasohol-fueled caravan to Washington, D.C. to promote gasohol for automobile fuel.

She helped organize and

participated in a caravan of farm trucks to Lewiston, Idaho to assist in an attempt to obtain more reasonable freight rates for shipping grain to the West Coast.

She liked sports, especially the World Series baseball games. She loved to bowl and belonged to numerous bowling leagues and participated in numerous women's tournaments. She enjoyed camping and fishing, especially fishing for salmon in Flathead Lake.

She was an outgoing person and enjoyed being with people. She was always there to help when needed.

She is survived by her husband, Bob, at home in Lakeside; her sons, Bill Dalby, and his wife, Joanne, and their daughter, Janete, all of Lake Stevens, Washington; a sister, Frances Hartman of Spokane and several nieces and nephews.

Mass of the Christian burial was held on May 11 at St. Ann's Catholic Church of Somers with the Reverend Richard Sodja as celebrant. Burial was at Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

RALPH EVERETT EKLUND

Born: October 22, 1932 - Died: July 2, 1996

Liberty County Times
July 10, 1996

Ralph Eklund

Ralph Everett Eklund was born in Harlowton, Montana on October 22nd, 1932. His parents were Elmer Eklund and Eunice Mott, and he was one of six children. Ralph grew up on a ranch near Barber, Montana (his grandfather's homestead). He received his early education at Barber, then graduated from Ryegate High School in 1949. He attended Rocky Mountain College in Billings before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He served in the military during the Korean Conflict, he worked as a company personnel clerk in a MASH hospital unit. Following his honorable discharge in 1954, Ralph returned to Montana and continued his education at Billings.

He married Betty Kisse in Polson on January 19th, 1956. They lived in Polson for awhile, and Ralph worked at a bottling company there. He took a job at the employment office in Butte, and they later moved to Salt Lake City where Ralph attended railroad telegraph school. They lived in Conrad and Billings before moving to Roundup in 1960. While there, Ralph received his training from the U.S.D.A. He became employed as an engineering technician for the Soil Conservation Service, a position he held until his retirement in 1990. During those 30 years with the U.S.D.A. Ralph worked in Wibaux, Circle, Chester, Fallon (Nevada), and Gooding (Idaho). Following his retirement at Gooding, they returned to Chester to be closer to family and friends, and they have lived here since.

Ralph was involved in a serious auto-accident near Great Falls in 1978, which resulted in some permanent debilitation. He also had hypertension. On this past Tuesday afternoon (July 2nd, 1996), Ralph was admitted to the Chester hospital with complaints of weakness and chest pains. Later that evening, while being transported by ambulance to Great Falls, he died en route. Ralph was 63 years old.

Ralph enjoyed many of the simple things in life. He loved playing cards, especially pinochle, rummy and poker. He enjoyed board games, too. His favorite sporting activities were horseshoes, bowling and softball. In his younger years, he enjoyed deer and pheasant hunting. During his quiet hours at home, he liked wood-working projects.

Community events were important to Ralph. He had served as V.F.W. commander and had assisted with many veterans programs (like Memorial Day ceremonies and funeral rites). He started the local horseshoe club, called "Liberty Leaners", and was given a lifetime membership in the club. Ralph enjoyed working with kids. He was given an award from "4-H" for his help in their tree-planting project at the Canadian border and campground. Many years ago he was delighted to have coached a young and successful softball team called the "Ledger Lovers". He was always willing to offer his surveying talents without fee to schools and other organizations, and he was involved in the early development of the "outdoor classroom" at Chester Schools.

Ralph was proud of his Swedish heritage and his strong Democratic beliefs. In the same vein, he respected the opinions and concerns of his friends.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Betty of Chester; two sons, John and his wife, Mary Ann, of Winter Garden, Florida, and Ron of Boise, Idaho; one daughter, Yvonne Layton, and her husband, Steve, of Chester; one grandson, Karl Layton of Chester; three brothers, Ted and Gordon of Barber, Montana, and Don of Shawmut, Montana; two sisters, Joyce Stewart of Billings and Elizabeth Nunly of Bellevue, Washington; numerous nephews and nieces; and his pet dog, Freckles. Ralph was preceded in death by his parents and a grandson (Kirk Layton).

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Monday (July 8th) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester with Reverend Tom Dunham officiating. Jerome Lincoln, guitarist/vocalist, performed "Home on the Range", "In the Garden", and "The Lord's Prayer". The congregation sang "This is My Jack Seidlitz". Dennis Snyder, Ed Hofer and John Englund. Honorary bearers were Dave LaValley, Jim Marshall and Dave Hunnewell. Interment with military rites followed at the Chester Cemetery. Don Buffington presented the American flag to the family. A luncheon was held at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel.

FRANCES LOUISE (TIPPIE) HERMAN EVENSON
Born: September 14, 1915 - Died: December 30, 1996

Liberty County Times
January 8, 1997



Frances L. Evenson

Frances Louisa (Tippie) Herman Evenson was born on September 14th, 1915 on a family farm north of Rudyard, Montana. Her parents were Bessie Larson Narestad Tippie and Lawrence Tippie. Frances was raised with five half-siblings on the Tippie homestead of Little Sage Creek. She attended the Oreana country school and graduated from 8th grade in 1928. Frances moved into Rudyard to finish her education. While there, she lived with the Walter Cross family and worked for her room-and-board. Frances graduated from Rudyard High School in 1932. She continued her schooling in Havre at the Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing.

On September 14th, 1936 Frances married Chris Herman in Havre. Four children were born to the Herman's who lived and farmed north of Rudyard. Chris was killed in 1956 when his car was struck by a train at Rudyard. Shortly thereafter, Frances returned to school and earned her Licensed Practical Nursing certificate.

On October 26th, 1957 she married Thantas Evenson in Havre. They made their home in Rudyard, but travelled to Oregon and Alaska in the summer months because Tom enjoyed working in the fisheries there.

During their travels Frances worked as an L.P.N. She enjoyed nursing and worked in various Montana communities, including Havre, Malta and Chester. In later years Tom and Frances both developed health problems, so they stayed "close to home" in Rudyard. Tom died in 1993.

Frances passed away at her home in Rudyard on the late evening of Monday (December 30th, 1996). Her death was peaceful, as she sat in her favorite recliner in the livingroom. She was 81 years old.

As a child Frances was called "Tootsie" by her father. The nickname stuck, but in a shortened version, so most of her friends referred to her as "Toots".

Frances was a past member of the Sage Creek Women's Club. She was the first manager of the Rudyard Senior Citizen's Center. Frances enjoyed attending social functions and was active in church and prayer meetings. Her hobbies included dancing, playing cards (especially pinochle), panning for sapphires, collecting teapots, and family dinners.

Frances endured alot of illness and personal tragedy in her life, but still, she kept a positive faith and attitude. She was preceded in death not only by her parents and husbands, but also by a daughter (Laurel Camper), by three brothers (Harvey, Evan and Carl Narestad), and by three grandchildren. Frances loved her family and was very proud of her history and heritage, so in 1993 she wrote and published "Blue Sky, Wind, & Sage" her family story.

Survivors include her three children and spouses: Fred and Lavonne Herman of Havre, Floyd and Sherril Herman of Rudyard, and Marie Lynn and James Pester of Rudyard. 19 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson; two sisters: Evelyn "Netes" Langel of Rudyard and Gertrude "Gertie" VanWechel of Rudyard, three stepchildren: Tom Evenson, Julie Ann Fleck and Marilyn Jean Evenson, all of Alaska, and numerous nephews and nieces.

Funeral services were 11:00 a.m. Sunday (Jan. 5th) at the Calvary Church in Rudyard with Reverend Nolan Spensst officiating. Excerpts from Frances' "Blue Sky, Wind, & Sage" were shared by Tracy Spensst. Lynda VandeSandt shared some personal reflections of Frances. Ruth Maatta accompanied Lissa Overbe, who sang "Amazing Grace" and "An Evening Prayer". The congregation sang "The Old Hugged Cross", "In the Garden" and "When Upon Life's Billows". Ushers were Roger and Duane Lincoln. Grandsons served as pallbearers. Following the funeral a luncheon was given at the Rudyard Youth Center.

Graveside services were 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Grace Church Cemetery 18 miles north of Rudyard (near the family farm). Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

Memorials will be given to "Gift of Life" at www.giftoflife.org.

MILLARD EVENSON
born: Apr. 9, 1909 -- died: Feb. 7, 1996
Liberty County Times
Mar. 27, 1996

Millard Evenson

Millard Evenson, a homestead era resident of the Minneota area, north of Inverness, passed away February 7 in Sandpoint, Idaho where he had lived for many years.

Millard, son of Melvin and Mabel Evenson, was born in Barton, North Dakota, on April 9, 1909. His parents came west in an immigrant car together with their team of horses and all their household equipment in 1910 to settle on a homestead 25 miles north of Inverness. When Millard was 6, his parents moved to Whitefish where Millard and his two brothers, Everett and Roy were raised.

Millard collapsed Wednesday

afternoon, February 7, while cleaning a storm sewer drain. He was 86 years, 9 months and 29 days of age. Millard's wife of 60 years, Ruth, is at home in Sandpoint.

Days End

Aspens by a quiet shore reflect a golden sheen

And tamaracks across the lake blend yellows with the green

The peaks against the evening sky gleam white on indigo

Days end is flavored with the charm of Idaho.

—Paul Croy

GORDON L. FAHLGREN
Born: 1912 - Died: August 10, 1996
Liberty County Times
August 14, 1996

Gordon Fahlgren

Gordon L. Fahlgren, 83, son of the late Mrs. Wm. Lindstrom (Theresa) of Hinsdale, Montana, died at Pinole, California August 10. he was the oldest of 8 children born to Carl and Theresa Fahlgren on a homestead near Chester. Gordon's early schooling was at Chester. After the death of his father, Mrs. Fahlgren moved the family to Washburn, North Dakota where he graduated with the class of 1933.

Gordon joined the Navy in 1941 along with brothers, Warner, Glen, Vern and Ervin. Gordon, Glen, Vern and Warner were aboard the U.S.S. Vestal, a repair ship tied to the Arizona when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Their ship took two bomb hits and was towed to shallow water where it sank. It was repaired and Gordon, Warner and Vern served on the Vestal throughout the war. It was anchored

near the equator for 33 months and the crew of the Vestal worked around the clock building parts for ships that needed repair. Gordon was the only one of the ship that could take some stock metal and cut gears or whatever was needed. He often worked double shifts to build the needed parts. After serving 6 years in the Navy, he was called back during the Korean conflict. His working years were spent working in a sugar mill, still building parts and repairing machinery.

As a single parent, Gordon raised two daughters. He is survived by his wife, Marty, the two daughters, Tammy Downing and Theresa Fahlgren, one granddaughter, Melissa Downing and several step children and step grandchildren. Also four brothers, Glen of Billings, Warner and Ervin of Portland, Carl "Swede" Fahlgren of Malta, and one sister, Irene Gibson of Spokane, and two sister-in-laws,

Dorothy Fahlgren, Washburn, North Dakota and Lois Fahlgren of Pendleton, Oregon. He was preceded in death by his father, mother, stepfather, brothers Vern and Leonard. Gordon was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Pinole and has been cremated.

ROBERT LAWRENCE FRADET
born: Apr. 23, 1916 -- died: Dec. 22, 1996
Billings Gazette
Dec. 1996

**Robert Lawrence
Fradet**

COLUMBUS — Robert Lawrence Fradet, 80, passed away Dec. 22, 1996, at his home in Columbus. Bob was born in Berlin, N.D., April 23, 1916, a son of Lawrence and Evelyn Fradet. Robert attended school in Berlin through the eighth grade. Before hitchhiking to Montana in 1939, Bob learned his welding trade in Wahpeton, N.D. Small rural schools in Montana had just begun a shop program and Bob was an assistant welding teacher in the Kremlin and Gildford schools, along the Hi-Line.

Robert married Evelyn L. Curfman in Gildford on July 5, 1940. Bob then worked as a pipeline welder for MDU Gas Co., installing gas lines through eastern Montana in the Baker and Saco areas.

Later he taught adult education welding in the Miles City and Glasgow school systems.

During WWII, Bob worked at Pointer Willamette, welding and making parts for the war effort and also teaching and packing parachutes. Later Bob was a welder at Bremerton Navy Ship Yards after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.



MR. FRADET

In January 1946, Robert moved his family to Columbus and began his own welding and machine shop. Through the years, Bob did a lot of oil field welding around Montana, along with servicing the welding and repair needs of the Columbus area and building machinery for farmers and businesses. Robert has been very instrumental in developing and selling property in and around Columbus; with farming interest surrounding Columbus.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn, Columbus; a son, Gerald Robert Fradet, a daughter, Alice Fradet Nordahl, both of Billings; two sisters, Delores Cass and Angelin Bjerknes, both of Billings; two brothers, John D. and LeRoy Fradet, both of Sheridan, Wyo.; three granddaughters, Marjorie Ostermiller, Kathleen Herminghaus, both of Billings and Beverly Downam of Atlanta, Ga.; two great-grandchildren, Amy Beth and Brady Alan Ostermiller; and several half-brothers and half-sisters residing in North Dakota and Oklahoma.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, 1996, at Community Congregational Church in Columbus with interment in Mountainview Cemetery, Columbus. Smith Funeral Chapel, Columbus is in charge of arrangements.

COURTNEY ANN FREDERICKSON

Born: November 19, 1987 - Died: March 7, 1996

Liberty County Times
March 13, 1996



Courtney Frederickson

Courtney Ann Frederickson was born in Chester, on November 19, 1987. She was the youngest and only daughter of three children born to Daniel and Lora (Stratton) Frederickson.

Courtney grew up on the family farm northwest of Chester. She received her early education from her mother at the Chester Preschool. Presently, she was a second grader at Chester Elementary.

On the early evening of Thursday, March 7 Courtney was on a sled that collided with an automobile near the family farm. She was taken by ambulance to the Deaconess Hospital in Great Falls where she died from head injuries the following day. Courtney was 8 years old.

As an infant she was baptized at the Trinity Lutheran Church north of Lothair. Her childhood religious education was received at the Chester Assembly of God Church, where she had been active in the Missionettes group for three years and was presently a PRIM. Courtney enjoyed the Sunday School and Bible school programs, and had a great love for Jesus. Because of her strong beliefs, she was planning to be re-baptized this spring. In addition, Courtney enjoyed Christian rap music and her favorite artist was "DC Talk".

Courtney had a large collection of stuffed animals, and was especially fond of her stuffed Mickey Mouse and her "Big Brown Bear". She loved all of her dolls, especially "Mathew". She also collected rocks and figurines, and was a member of the "Precious Moments" birthday club.

Courtney was in her third year of dance at the Eileen Pettagrew Studio in Shelby. She loved singing and dancing and hoped someday to become a high school cheerleader.

Courtney was in her second year of piano with instructor, Curt Curtis. She was a quick learner and was doing well in her piano studies.

Courtney was an excellent student. She loved books and reading. In addition, she had a tremendous imagination and enjoyed writing stories and poems.

Courtney was fond of all animals, but most especially her two pets: "Eric", the black cat and "Ruby" the dog. She was a typical 8-year-old who enjoyed swimming, playing games or being with friends. She loved her family and had a very close relationship with her two big brothers. When asked if he had any special thoughts about his sister, Colt simply replied: "Courtney was a very giving girl!" What a powerful epitaph! And appropriately so, Courtney continues to GIVE (even after death), as many of her vital organs were donated to help save others.

Courtney is survived by her parents, Dan and Lora Frederickson of Chester; her brothers, Clint and Colt Frederickson of Chester; her two I.A.E.A. trainee brothers, Leo Jacobsen of Denmark and Scott Vincent of New Zealand; paternal grandparents, Lawrence and Betty Frederickson of Chester; maternal grandparents, Walt and Helen Stratton of Whitlash; maternal great-grandfather, Frank Lippa of Coutts, Alberta; uncles and aunts, including Chris and Carolyn Frederickson of Tyler, Texas, Clay Stratton of Whitlash and Tracy Money Penny of Colorado

Springs, Colorado; four cousins including Shawn and Cheri Frederickson and Crystal and Zachary Money Penny; a paternal great-aunt, Vianna Osborne of Shelby and a maternal great-aunt, Ethel Aaberg of Libby.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, March 11 at the C.H.S. Auditorium. Pastors Curt Curtis and Charlie Hanson officiated. Courtney's god-mother, Tammy (Ish) Blair, served as pianist. A vocal tribute by Loren Hawks was "Oh, How I Love Jesus". A taped selection by DC Talk, "He Loves Me", was played. Congregational hymns included "Why So Downcast Oh My Soul", "More Love, More Power" and "I Need You". A tape recording of Courtney singing and playing the piano was also shared. Men serving as pallbearers (who were important to Courtney) were Clay Stratton, Jerry Blair, Neal Eveland, John Schnitzmeier, Mark Lakey and Mike Hofer. Honorary bearers included all of her classmates; friends Mystel McKinley and Katy Engstrom; and

Eagle Creek friends Leona Hofer, Donna Wurz, Julie Wurz, Laura Wurz and Lisa Wurz. Usherettes and ushers were Courtney's friends and their fathers, including Mary and Jim DeVries, Kaitlyn and Lyndon Kacick, Amanda and Ron Violett, Brianne and Glenn Wolfe, and JoAnna and Joe LaSorte. Burial was at the Trinity Church Cemetery north of Lothair. A luncheon for family and friends followed at St. Mary's Church Basement in Chester. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel.

ROBERT AMADEUS FUNDERHIDE
Born: 1938 - Died: March 7, 1996
Liberty County Times
March 13, 1996

***Robert
Funderhide***

Robert Amadeus Funderhide, age 58, of Kremmling, Colorado, died of a heart attack March 7 in Plains. Mr. Funderhide was a Project Manager/Project Superintendent for the D.H. Blattner and Sons, a mining and Highway construction group out of Avon, Minnesota.

He is survived by his wife Diane Funderhide of Kremmling, Colorado; his three children Rob Funderhide of Ft. Morgan, Colorado; Cheryl Meier of Broomfield, Colorado; Daniel Funderhide of Big Timber, his two sisters, Rebecca Manthey of Columbia Falls and Sister Pat Funderhide of Billings; and four grandchildren. Robert was preceded in death by his parents and a brother Paul.

The visitation for Robert began March 10 at the Retz Funeral Home in Helena. A Vigil Service was scheduled Sunday at the Retz Funeral Home Chapel. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated Monday at 1:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Helena.

PHILIP W. FURLONG
born: July 26, 1916 -- died: Aug. 19, 1996
Liberty County Times
Aug. 28, 1996

Philip Furlong

Word was received last week of the demise of Philip W. Furlong; formerly of Chester. Death occurred on August 19, 1996 in Denver, Colorado, due to complications of Diabetes and Cardiac problems.

Philip was born in Chester to R. E. and Ina M. Furlong, on July 26, 1916. He was the third son in a family of seven boys and three girls. He lived and worked in the Chester area and attended Chester schools. He worked at Schultz Grocery, for the county as road supervisor, on numerous farms and ranches and for his father in the Blacksmith shop. He went to Denver with his brother, Warren, to enlist in the Air Force before WWII, but was not accepted because of a heart murmur. He stayed on in Denver and worked in a munitions factory as his contribution to the war effort. He met his future bride, Iris Crawley, and they were married February 13, 1943 in Denver, Colorado. After the war, Philip became a meat cutter and worked at this until he retired.

Philip had many interests including leatherwork, gardening, reading, writing, and reciting poetry and prose;

fishing and teaching. He was forever stimulating the young in the extended family to read and learn. One method he used to do this was to write letters using multi-syllabic words designed to encourage young minds to research and reading.

Philip is survived by his wife of 54 years, Iris Crawley Furlong; his daughters, Carol Denise Cummins and Doris Lu-jean Sims; all of Denver; one son, Douglas William Furlong of West Chazy, NY. Other survivors include a brother, Russel (Bing) Furlong and sister Alice F. Morrison of Chester; a brother, Noel D. Furlong of Kalispell and a sister, Ina-Belle (Kitty) Foreman of La Habra, California. Philip's survivors also include eight Grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by both parents, and brothers, Eddie, Miles, Warren and David, and by a sister, Lilly Eveland.

Interment was on August 22, 1996 in the Evergreen Memorial Gardens, Thornton, Colorado. His family continues to reside at the family home at 7076 E. 74th Place, Commerce City, Colorado 80022.

RUSSELL EDWARD (BING) FURLONG
born: Dec. 3, 1912 -- died: Oct. 24, 1996
Liberty County Times
Oct. 30, 1996



Bing Furlong

Russell Edward ("Bing") Furlong was born on December 3, 1912 at Chester, Montana, which was then part of Hill County. His parents were Edward and Ina (Keith) Furlong and he was the eldest of ten children. Bing attended school through the seventh grade, then began working to help provide for his younger siblings. In addition to working for his father at the family blacksmith shop, he worked on various farms in the Chester community.

Bing was inducted into the U.S. Army on February 19th, 1941. He served in the European-African-Middle Army on February 19th, 1941. He served in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre during World War II and received a "Purple Heart". He was a member of Cannon Company, 15th Infantry and attained the rank of Tech-4. Following his honorable discharge on July 11th, 1945 he returned to Montana.

Bing married Evelyn A. Earl in Great Falls on July 25th, 1942. To this union, three children were born. In those years following the war, Bing worked in Great Falls as a mechanic for Bison Motors, Central Machinery, and several road contractors.

The Furlong's moved to Chester and operated the Grand Cafe from 1961 to 1969. Bing worked for the City of Chester for several years and then became the maintenance man for the Liberty County Cemetery District. He retired in 1977.

Bing and Evelyn sold their home in Chester in 1986 and moved to the Sweetgrass Lodge. Bing's health remained relatively good until the last two years, when his heart and circulation began to fail. He was recently admitted to the Liberty County Nursing Home for care. He died there on the early morning of Thursday (October 24th, 1996) at the age of 83 years.

Bing was a 50-year member of the Great Falls Elks Lodge and life-member in the Disabled American Veterans and V.F.W. He served for 20 years on the Chester Volunteer Fire Department and assisted as an ambulance attendant during that time. He taught first aid to ambulance personnel, high school students, and to adults in towns along the Hi-Line. Bing was a retired member of the Machinist Union.

In their early married years, the Furlong's enjoyed square-dancing. Bing taught and called square-dancing in Fort Benton and at the Deaf-&-Blind School in Great Falls.

Other hobbies included hunting, fly-fishing, gardening and rodeos. Bing enjoyed bluegrass and hillbilly music, and he collected nature and wildlife videos. In their retirement years, Bing and Evelyn were active members of the Milk River Camping Club.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn of Chester; one son, Earl Furlong (and wife, Ann) of Geraldine; two daughters, Sharon Kettunen (and husband, Tom) of Pueblo, Colorado and Terrie Clark (and husband, Ray) of Billings; five grandchildren, including Kassey, Colleen, Eddie, Hannah and Amanda; two great-grandchildren; one brother, Noel Furlong of Kalispell; two sisters,

Ina-Belle ("Kitty") Foreman of LaHabra, California and Alice Morrison of Chester; and numerous nephews and nieces. Bing was preceded in death by his parents, by five brothers (Edmond, Miles, David, Phillip and Warren), and his parents, by five brothers (Edmond, Miles, David, Phillip and Warren), and by one sister (Lilly Eveland).

Memorials are suggested to the Chester Volunteer Fire Dept./ Ambulance Service, the Liberty County Hospital & Nursing Home, or the organization of your choice.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Monday (October 28th) at the Chester United Methodist Church with Reverend Lyndon Kacick officiating. Special remembrances were given by niece, Natalie Ghekiere, son-in-law, Ray Clark, and brother Noel Furlong. Iris White served as organist and Wayne Wardell sang "The Old Rugged Cross" and "On the Wings of a Snow White Dove". The congregation sang "How Great Thou Art". Ushers were nephews Neal Eveland and Gale Christenot. Pallbearers included Wilbur and Martin Eveland, Dale Staudacher, Narciss Gagnon, James Hull and Bob Aitken. Memorial bearers were listed as Bing's friends and relatives. Interment was in the family plot at the Chester Cemetery with arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. A luncheon followed at the church.

VICTOR CHARLES GATZEMEIER
born: Apr. 2, 1923 -- died: Sept. 14, 1996
Liberty County Times
Sept. 18, 1996



Vic Gatzemeier

Victor Charles Gatzemeier was born at Rudyard, Montana on April 2nd, 1923. He was one of nine children born to Edward and Anna Mae (Fort) Gatzemeier. Vic grew up on the family farm south of Rudyard and attended the Rathbun School near there. He finished his formal education in Rudyard, then began working on the farm.

Vic went to Butte to work in the mines, and while there, he learned the craft of welding. At the outbreak of World War II, he transferred to Bremerton, Washington to work as a welder in the shipyards. He was inducted into the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943. He served in the Central Europe Campaign and achieved the rank of Technical Sergeant. He was honorably discharged in 1945 and returned to Montana.

Vic worked for several Rudyard area farmers. On October 29th, 1949 he married Aurelia Dunn at Steger, Illinois. They bought the home place south of Rudyard in 1953. They raised five sons and lived on the farm until 1988, when they moved into town. Although officially retired, Vic continued to be active in the farming operations.

Vic had heart surgery about 15 years ago and his health had been good. On Monday (Sept. 9th) he suffered an attack at home and was taken to Great Falls for angioplasty. By Thursday he was feeling fine again. The Gatzemeier's were visiting family in Havre on Saturday (Sept. 14th);

they were leaving town when Vic suddenly collapsed. He was taken to Northern Montana Hospital where resuscitative efforts were to no avail. He died at the age of 73 years.

Vic was a member of Our Lady of Ransom Church in Hingham and had been active in the Knights of Columbus. He was a past board member of Rudyard Schools, South Rudyard Water District, and Cenex. Vic was a member of the Farmer's Union, the Chester V.F.W., and the Rudyard Senior Center. More recently, he had helped with projects at the new Rudyard Historical Museum.

Vic had many hobbies. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, bowling, and yardwork. He liked to read and do word-puzzles, and he enjoyed playing pinochle. He studied and invested in the Stock Market.

Vic had been a hard-worker his entire life. He was a capable builder and fixer, and he did a lot of preventative maintenance on the farm. He was a "good Samaritan" who shared his skills with friends and neighbors. Vic enjoyed people; he loved to tease and play practical jokes. He will be remembered as a very kind, caring and gentle man.

Survivors include his wife, Aurelia of Rudyard; five sons and their spouses, Paul (and Barb Skelton) of Butte, Chuck (and Janine) of Cut Bank, Tim (and Gaynelle) of Rudyard, Tom of Rudyard, and Don (and Paula) of Bothell, Washington; 12 grandchildren; two brothers, Ed of Helena and Joe of Havre; five sisters, Sister Clara Ann (Flora) of Mishawaka, Indiana, Mary Rockwell of Havre, Hazel Gatzemeier of Havre,

Helen Krejci of Rudyard, and Martha Haag of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and numerous nephews and nieces. Vic was preceded in death by his parents, and infant son (Michael), and a brother (Donald).

Vigil Prayers were recited at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday evening (Sept. 17th).

Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated today (Wednesday, Sept. 18th) at 11:00 a.m. by Father Joseph Marmion at the church in Hingham. Rachel Blake will serve as organist and Marcus Jochim will sing "How Great Thou Art", "Ave Maria", and

"On Eagle's Wings". Pallbearers will be Ray Warhank, Jerry Hybner, Bud Een, Tom Ludwig, Don Stark and Cliff Ulmen. Memorial bearers are listed as "all of Vic's many friends". Ushers will be Scott and Adam Gatzemeier; Lector will be Terry Hybner; Eulogist will be Paul Gatzemeier; Servers will be Eric Gatzemeier and Michael Jurenka; and the Communion Gifts will be presented by Kendra, Andrea, Ashley and Morgan Gatzemeier. A luncheon will follow the Mass at the church.

Graveside services will be 2:00 p.m. Wednesday at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. Father Joe will conduct the committal prayers and the Havre V.F.W. will perform military rites. Arrangements are by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

Memorials will be given to the Rudyard Historical Society, the American Heart Association, or donor's choice...

IRENE (FAHLGREN) GIBSON
Born: 1913 - Died: August 20, 1996
Liberty County Times
September 11, 1996

Irene Fahlgren

Mrs. James (Irene) Gibson passed away August 20 at Sullivan Care Center in Spokane, Washington after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's and cancer. Irene was the wife of the late James Gibson of Havre.

Irene Fahlgren was born on a homestead near Chester, in 1913, the daughter of Carl and Theresa Fahlgren; the only girl in a family of eight. Her father died when she was 10, and Mrs. Fahlgren moved her family to Washburn, North Dakota where they had lived previously. Irene attended school at Washburn and was married as a young girl and raised a boy and three girls. They moved to Havre in 1952. After her divorce, Irene worked for Havre Dairy and Havre Tire Company. In 1962 she married James Gibson of Havre and they moved to Spokane. He passed away in 1987.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, her step-father, William Lindstrom of Hinsdale; brothers Vern Fahlgren, 1981; Leonard, 1992 and Gordon, August 7, 1996 and a nephew, Dennis Fahlgren, 1973.

She is survived by her son, Donald Patterson, Spokane; daughters, Margo Fennick of Spokane, Patti Adams of Los Gatos, California and Bonnie Turner of Lampoc, California; four granddaughters and four grandsons and many nephews and nieces and two very special neighbors, Len and Ruth Swanson. She will be especially missed by the two grandsons, Pat and Mike Patterson, who grew up near her and often raided Grandma's cookie jar or joined her for breakfast.

Funeral services were held at the Spokane Valley Presbyterian Church.

Relatives coming from a distance included Ervin and Edna Fahlgren and their son, Greg and wife, Lora, of Wilsonville, Oregon; Warner Fahlgren of Portland, Oregon; Lois (Mrs. Vern) Fahlgren of Pendleton, Oregon; Carl and Doris Fahlgren of Malta; nephew, Russell and Lynda Fahlgren, Worley, Idaho; niece Ann Hoffman of Cottonwood, Idaho and friends, Maurice and Alice Reynolds of Liberty Lake, Washington, former neighbors of the Fahlgren's at Hinsdale.

TEDDY A. (TED) GIBSON
born: May 14, 1924 -- died: Nov. 28, 1996
Liberty County Times
Dec. 4, 1996



Teddy A. Gibson

Teddy A. (Ted) Gibson was born in Shelby, Montana on May 14th, 1924. He was the only son of two children born to Daisy Frydenlund and Edgar "Ted" Gibson. He received his formal education at Devon, then went to Seattle to work in the shipyards during World War II. Ted returned to Montana and began working on the McCarter farm near Devon. He met his wife-to-be, Leora Hill, and they were married in Shelby on April 2nd, 1944.

Ted worked at the Kevin Refinery for two years. In 1946 they began farming the Hill place northwest of Chester. They raised a family of two and made their home on the farm from that time on.

In addition to farming, Ted worked as a mechanic at the Chester Ford dealership from 1961 to 1975. He quit the mechanic job because of his early symptoms to Parkinson's Disease, but continued to farm until 1987, when they leased out their place.

Ted's health has deteriorated since 1991. He had numerous hospital and nursing home admissions since then, Leora and health nurses have provided most of his care at home. Ted died peacefully at his farm residence on the early morning of Thanksgiving Day (November 28th, 1996). He was 72 years old.

Ted was a long-time member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in

(including Chad, Drew and Gina); one sister, Rosella Thompson of Kevin; one uncle, George Frydenlund of Shelby; one aunt, Annie Epstein of San Diego, California; and numerous nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister (Eleanor Land Petty).

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Monday (Dec. 2nd) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester with Reverend Tom Dunham officiating. Karen Stack served as organist and the congregation sang "Blessed Assurance", "Rock of Ages", and "What A Friend We Have In Jesus". Usher was Wayne Wardell and pallbearers were Raymond Fritz; Robert Griffin, Herb Fenger, Kenneth Leck, Harry Heimbigner and Dick Burrows. Honorary bearers were Jurgen Wigen, John McCarter, Ben Oraw, Ike and Lloyd Knutson, and Bill Hochberger. Interment was at the Chester Cemetery with arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. A luncheon for family and friends followed at the church.

Chester. In those earlier years he helped build the church parsonage and assisted with numerous remodeling projects at the church. He was an exceptional carpenter.

Ted had a nice gun collection. He enjoyed hunting and shooting, and he reloaded his own shells. He was a member of the Eagle Creek Gun Club, which leased a small portion of his land for competitive shooting.

Ted was an avid ham-radio operator and was self-taught in electronics. Of interest was the fact that he and his brother-in-law (Sherman Hill) installed the first TV translator on Mt. Royal in the Sweet Grass Hills in the mid-1950's.

Ted's other hobbies included fishing, playing cards, prospecting for minerals, collecting rocks, and traveling.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Leora of Chester; a daughter and her husband, Carolyn and John Collis of Billings; a son and his wife, Gary and Anna Gibson of Las Vegas, Nevada; three grandchildren

MARY ANN (KRALICH) GRIMES
born: Aug. 14, 1920 -- died: Mar. 29, 1996
Liberty County Times
Apr. 3, 1996

Mary Grimes

Mary Ann (Kralich) Grimes was born at Black Eagle, Montana on August 14, 1920. She was one of seven children born to Bartol and Mary (Cohr) Kralich. Mary grew up in the Great Falls community and received her formal education there. She began working as a waitress and met her husband-to-be, Leonard H. Grimes. They were married in Great Falls on October 10th, 1943. They moved to the Grimes farm south of Gildford, where they raised their family and spent the rest of their married life together. Her husband, Leonard, died in 1988. Mary remained in the Gildford community until 1993, when her health began to fail. She moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester and has lived there since. Mary died at the Chester hospital on the early morning of Friday, (March 29, 1996). She was 75 years old.

Mary was a member of the Gildford Baptist Church. She and Leonard had been very active in the Republican party during their younger years.

Mary's hobbies included sewing, gardening, and raising flowers. In her quiet hours she enjoyed crossword puzzles, television and reading. She was especially fond of "short stories", and she read her Bible every night at bedtime. Mary was an exceptional

homemaker and cook, and her family will always remember her delicious turkey dinners. She loved her grandchildren and was always interested in what was happening in their lives.

Mary is survived by four daughters, including Mrs. Leroy (Marilyn) Wolery of Gildford, Mrs. Dan (Judy) Niemi of Menominee, Michigan, Mrs. Tony (Lenore) Hix of Great Falls, and Mrs. Dean (Kathleen) Converse of Mitchell, Nebraska; nine grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; one sister, Fran Brady of Absarokee, Montana; and numerous nephews and nieces. Mary was preceded in death not only by her parents and husband, but also by a daughter (Eileen), a sister (Amelia "Mild" Atchison), and four brothers (John, Ed, Walt and George Kralich).

Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Monday (April 1st) at the Gildford Baptist Church with Pastor Eddie Fallo officiating. Special vocal tributes, "Where The Roses Never Fade" and "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus", were shared by the trio of Kristi Borlaug, Amy Fallo and Jenny Jorgenson. They were accompanied by Judy Fallo on the organ. A special reading was done by grandson, Derek Wolery. Pallbearers included Craig and Derek Wolery, Dan and Pat Brady, David Storm and David Atchison. Ushers were David Toner and Stuart Brownlee. A luncheon followed at the church. Graveside services were held at 3:30 p.m. that afternoon at Highland Cemetery in Havre. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

LYLE ALVIN HADFORD

Born: April 3, 1927 - Died: January 19, 1996

Liberty County Times
January 24, 1996



Lyle A. Hadford

Lyle Alvin Hadford was born on his father's homestead south of Joplin, Montana on April 3rd, 1927. He was one of four children born to Carl and Clara (Shettel) Hadford. Lyle grew up in the Joplin community and received most of his education there. He graduated from Havre High School in 1945. That same year he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Lyle was serving in California when World War II ended and he was honorably discharged back to Montana where he began farming.

Lyle married Marjorie Elaine Needham on October 7th, 1949 at Carmangay, Alberta. They have lived at their farm home south of Rudyard since 1951. Lyle and his brother, Lloyd, were farming partners for 30+ years. In addition, Lyle and his sons began farming near Eastend, Saskatchewan in the 1970's. They eventually sold their Canadian interests to one of Lyle's special friends, Sam Gordon (and brother, Bud Gordon and family).

Even though his health has not been good these past few years, Lyle continued to help with the farming operations as best he could. Following a short stay at the Liberty County Hospital in Chester, he died peacefully there on Friday evening (January 19th, 1996). Lyle was 68 years old.

Lyle's main interests in life revolved around farming. He enjoyed those countless hours on a tractor in a summer fallow field, or discussing some new farming methods with a

neighbor, or teaching a younger friend a special welding technique, or even driving a combine at harvest time with an oxygen mask attached to his face. As long as it had to do with farming, he was always ready to be a part of it!

Lyle was a skilled welder. During the winter months in the early 1970's, he worked at the "Big Bud Tractor Company" in Havre. Word has it that his welding talents were part of the first tractors in production there.

Lyle enjoyed visiting with people. He was somewhat unique in the fact that his friends were from all generations. He loved to play cards, especially "poker" with his buddies at Hingham. In his quiet hours at home, Lyle enjoyed reading western and world historicals.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine of Rudyard; two sons and their wives, Gary and Penny Hadford of Havre and David and Shannon Hadford of Chester; two daughters, Lyla Swafford of Aloha, Oregon and Karen Hadford of Joplin; six grandchildren (including Jeremy, Chase, Casey, Chandra, Danita and Rachael); one great-grandson (Lincoln); two brothers and spouses, Lloyd and Alma Hadford of Joplin and Elmer and Dorma Hadford of Joplin; one brother-in-law, Delmar Greene of Carmangay, Alberta; and numerous nephews and nieces. Lyle was preceded in death by his father in 1975, his mother in 1993, and by a sister (Marie Greene)

Funeral services were 11:00 a.m. Tuesday (January 23rd) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard with Reverend Bart Coleman officiating. Iris White played the organ and the congregation sang "Amazing Grace". Vocalist, Jerome Lincoln, performed

"How Great Thou Art". Ushers were Scott Patrick and Don Kline. Pallbearers included Sam Hansard, Leonard Wendland, Clyde Brandt, Sam Gordon, Russ Wicks and Bob Toner. Memorial bearers included "All of Lyle's many friends...". Lyle's nephew, Kevin Keenan, was the eulogist.

Interment was at the Rudyard Cemetery with arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. A luncheon followed at the church.

ANNA MAE HANSON

Born: August 1, 1926 - Died: October 13, 1996

Liberty County Times

October 16, 1996



Anna Mae Hanson

Anna Mae (Wolfe) Hanson was born at Whitefish, Montana on August 1st, 1926. She was one of six children born to Daniel and Josephine (Steen) Wolfe. The Wolfe family moved to Chester in 1933. Anna Mae attended school in Chester through her junior year, then transferred to Woodland Hills, California where she graduated from high school in 1944. She returned to Montana to attend nursing school at Bozeman and Great Falls.

On March 23rd, 1946 she married Albert M. Hanson at Great Falls. They lived and worked on the Si Warrington farm south of Chester for several years. In 1950 they built a home in Chester and have lived here since. Albert farmed in the south Chester community and Anna Mae worked as

a farmwife and homemaker for their two children.

Anna Mae's health had been relatively good over the years. Recently, she developed some abdominal problems and was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. For the past week she had been a patient at the Liberty County Hospital in Chester, and she passed away there on Sunday morning (October 13th, 1996). She was 70 years old.

Anna Mae held memberships at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, the Royal Neighbor's of America, and the V.F.W. Auxiliary. She enjoyed working on family histories and was a charter member of the local "Broken Mountains" Genealogy Society which was formed in 1978. In addition, she served as historian for the Montana Genealogy Society. She liked photography and had participated in the "HiLine Shutter Bugs" organization.

Other hobbies included bowling, flower gardening and reading. Anna Mae collected coins, salt-and-pepper shakers, cut glass and antique dishes. She enjoyed writing poetry and artistic painting. Probably her greatest love was participating in the lives of her grandkids! Last, but not least, Anna Mae was a dedicated caregiver and best friend to her mother over all these years.

Anna Mae is survived by her husband of 50 years, Albert of Chester; a son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Glenda Hanson of Chester; a daughter and son-in-law,

Sheila and Bruce Peterson of Fort Peck; four grandchildren, including Heather, Heidi, Zak and Lindsey; her mother, Josie Wolfe of Chester; a sister, Maxine Wigen of Chester; four brothers, Delmar, Kenneth, Dean and Roger Wolfe, all of Chester; and numerous nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her father.

Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. today (Wednesday, Oct. 16th) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester with Reverend Tom Dunham officiating. Juanita Wardell will serve as organist and Anna Mae's niece, Darlene Abeln, will sing "Angels Among Us" and "The Lord's Prayer". The congregation will sing "The Old Rugged Cross". Pallbearers will be her brothers, Delmar, Kenneth, Dean and Roger Wolfe; and friends, Boyd Nealy, Jim Marshall, Gus Fransen and Charley Frey. Ushers will be Don Wolfe and Mike Nahrgang. Following burial at the Erickson Cemetery, a luncheon will be held at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel.

GEORGE JOHN HEIKKILA
born: Feb. 23, 1909 -- died: Sept. 15, 1996
Liberty County Times
Sept. 25, 1996



George Heikkila

George John Heikkila was born in Butte, Montana on February 23rd, 1909. His parents, both of Finnish descent, were John Henry Heikkila and Margaret Katherine Merila. George graduated from Beaver Head County High School in 1929 and attended Montana State College in Bozeman.

He met his wife-to-bee, Ruth Kathleen Angim, who grew up in the Chester community and was teaching school in northern Montana at the time of their engagement. They were married in Great Falls on April 12th, 1941. They made their home in Dillon where George operated an auto repair shop.

In 1951 the Heikkila's moved to Chester to take over the farming operations on the Angim homestead. They worked and lived in Chester until their two sons were educated. In 1968 they retired and moved back to Dillon, where they lived from that time on. Ruth died in Dillon on August 22nd, 1986.

George remained in Dillon until two years ago, when he moved to Minneapolis to live with his granddaughter and her husband, Tracie and Edward Reed, where many happy hours were spent with his three great-grandchildren. George's health continued to fail and he was recently admitted to the Hillcrest Nursing Home in Wayzata (Minnesota). He passed away there on Sunday evening (Sept. 15th, 1996) at the age of 87 years.

George was a life-member of the Dillon B.P.O.E. #1554 and was a past Exalted Ruler of the Elks club. His hobbies included fishing, playing cards (especially pinochle and cribbage), and socializing with friends.

George was preceded in death by his parents and his eldest son, Dr. Gerald Lee Heikkila (who died on April 11th, 1972).

He is survived by his second son, Ronald Dean Heikkila of Sacramento, California; a daughter-in-law, Sylvia Heikkila Anderson of Hillsborough, California; seven grandchildren (Gerald's children are Terrie Heikkila of San Francisco, Tracie Reed of Minneapolis, and Scott Heikkila of Dallas; Ronald's children are Wendi

Reini of Sacramento, Kelly Heikkila of Prague, C.R., and Heath and Holly Heikkila of LaCenter, Washington); three great-grandchildren, including Carson, Mackenzie and Dillon Reed; a brother and sister-in-law, Eddie and Louise Heikkila of Henderson, Nevada; and two nephews, Alan Heikkila of Alaska and Wayne Heikkila of Colorado.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Friday (Sept. 20th) at the Brundage Funeral Home in Dillon. Burial followed at the Mountain View Cemetery there. Services were conducted by Pastor Warren and special music was provided by Joe Morstein. Pallbearers were Ronald, Scott and Heath Heikkila, Steve Reini, Edward Reed and Earl Keith. Friends from the Dillon Elks Lodge conducted graveside rites. Undesignated memorials will be given to the Lodge.

DORIS J. HINNALAND
born: Aug. 11, 1914 -- died: Oct. 19, 1996
Billings Gazette
Oct. 1996

Doris J. Hinnaland

Doris J. Hinnaland of Billings passed away Oct. 19, 1996, at Deaconess Medical Hospital following a heart attack.

Doris was born on Aug. 11, 1914, at Niagara, N.D., the daughter of John and Dorothy Larson. After graduating from high school, she attended nurse's training at Deaconess Hospital at Grand Forks, N.D., graduat-



Mrs. Hinnaland

ing with an RN degree in 1936. After graduating, she and her sister accepted employment in the nursing field at Butte in 1937.

In October 1942, Doris married Martin (Marty) Hinnaland. They lived in Butte for many years, where Doris was employed at the Murray Hospital Clinic and the Casebeer Clinic.

In 1957, she and her husband and two daughters moved to Billings, and they have made their home in Billings ever since. Doris attended Montana State University, Bozeman and received a degree cum laude in nursing education in 1962. After this time, she was employed in public health in the Billings schools, and when she retired, she had been school nurse at West High for many years.

Doris loved her Lord and was a dedicated student of the Bible with her avid reading of the Bible and spiritual books. She loved her family so much and enjoyed every day of her nursing career. She was a member of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and earlier was active in teaching Sunday School and involved in young people's organizations within the church. She will be missed beyond words by her family and friends.

Her survivors include her husband Martin (Marty); a daughter, Sherrie Keating of Billings and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; a daughter, Peggy Smith and her husband Barry of Joliet; a granddaughter, Sara Smith, attending the University of Montana at Missoula; and a grandson, Casey Smith, attending Montana State University, Bozeman; her sister, Ada Shaughnessy and her husband, Marv, of Casper, Wyo.; her brother, Gilmen Larson and his wife, Lorraine of Seminole, Fla.; sisters-in-law, Sigrid Kalberg of Bozeman, Gert Hinnaland of Circle and Doris Larson of Pasco, Wash. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents from Chester; and her brother, Leland Larson of Pasco, Wash.

Doris was a people person and her life was built on love with a constant big, beautiful smile. She so enjoyed travels to Europe, Scandinavia and Mexico, but her most meaningful trip was to the Holy Land several years ago.

Funeral services are pending at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lewis Avenue and 24th Street West. Burial will be in Sunset Memorial Gardens. Michelotti, Sawyers & Nordquist Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be made to The Lutheran Center, Box 825, Billings, Mont. 59103, or Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1108 24th St. W., Billings, Mont. 59102, or charity of your choice.

ELWIN CHARLES (BUD) ISH
born: Apr. 24, 1928 -- died Sept. 29, 1996
Liberty County Times
Oct. 2, 1996



Bud Ish

Elwin Charles "Bud" Ish was born in Havre, Montana on April 24th, 1928. He was the only son of three children born to Bennie and Ruth (Rockman) Ish. Bud grew up in Chester and received his education here, graduating from C.H.S. in 1947. That summer he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves. He enrolled at the University of Montana in Missoula and played basketball on the freshman team.

At the time of the Korean Conflict, Bud transferred to active duty in the U.S. Navy. He served on the U.S.S. Weiss as a radioman 2nd class. He was honorably discharged in 1954 and returned to Montana.

Bud attended a telegraphy school in Spokane and began working for the Great Northern Railroad. In addition he worked on his dad's small farm near Tiber.

On March 14th, 1956 Bud married Rose M. Nealy in Chester. Bud worked for the State Highway Department for a few years. He and Rose purchased and operated the Liberty Theatre in Chester. Bud became a rural mail carrier on the Laird route in 1959, and he retired from the postal service after 26 years of service.

In 1970 Bud bought the Sid Rockman farm north of Lothair. They made their home in Chester and farmed/ranched with their son, Ben.

Bud was out working at the farm in March of 1993 when he suffered a massive and irreversible stroke. Since that time he has been a resident at the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester, where he died on the early morning of Sunday (September 29th, 1996). He was 68 years old.

Bud was a past member of the Joplin Masonic Lodge, the Chester V.F.W., the Chester City Council, and the United Methodist Church.

He was an avid sports fan, especially basketball. He would travel hundreds of miles to watch a good high school ballgame, and seldom missed a state tournament over the years. In the early 1980's he helped coach the boy's grade school basketball program for 3-4 years in Chester, and he was proud to see those boys compete so well during their high school years. In addition, Bud used to play town team basketball and also participated in the adult softball league years ago.

Other interests included horses, fishing, reading, and visiting with friends. Bud thoroughly enjoyed farming and working outdoors.

Survivors include his wife, Rose of Chester; son, Ben of Chester; daughter, Tamie Blair (and husband, Jerry) of Wichita Falls, Texas; two grandchildren, Jesse and Kendall Blair; sister, Lila Loy Dunn of Great Falls; an aunt, Lillian Wright of Chester and an uncle, George Rockman of Port Orchard, Washington; and numerous nephews, nieces and cousins. Bud was preceded in death by a sister (Helen) in 1941, his father in 1955, and his mother in 1985.

Visitation for family and friends was held at the Rockman Funeral Chapel all day Monday and Tuesday morning. Private family graveside services were held at the Chester Cemetery at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday (October 1st). Reverend Lyndon Kacick officiated. Military taps were played and the American Flag was presented to Bud's family. A reception followed at the Ish home in Chester.

DAVID FARNHAM JAMES

Born: December 6, 1905 - Died: July 7, 1996

Liberty County Times

July 17, 1996



David James

David Farnham James was born in Mason City, Iowa on December 6th, 1905. He was the youngest of eight children born to Martha Farnham and John L. James. David received his education in Iowa, graduating from Thornton High School in 1922. He attended Mason City Junior College before transferring to the University at Cedar Falls. He finished his studies in education in 1925, then accepted a teaching position at Joplin, Montana. He taught school in Joplin for three years and served as superintendent for five.

On January 5th, 1929 David married Lillian A. Meldrum. In 1933 they purchased a farm 6 miles north of Joplin. They lived and worked on the farm, and raised their family of four.

In 1939, David was elected to the State House of Representatives. He served Liberty County as a representative for several terms, then was elected to the State Senate. He served as a Senator until his retirement in 1974. He and Lillian remained on their Joplin farm throughout their retirement years. They spent their winters travelling - they made many trips to Florida, Arizona, California, and Nevada, and they also went on several memorable cruises. In 1933 they

purchased a home in Joplin, and have lived there since.

David's health had begun failing these past six months, and he was recently admitted to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester, where he died on Sunday evening, July 7th. He was 90 years old.

During his 35 years in State government, Dave will be remembered as a great diplomat and community leader. He was a member of the Democratic Party and the Montana Democratic Central Committee, but he was respected by Republicans as well. While in the legislature, he was instrumental in promoting the current State Hail Insurance Program. Dave also served on the legislative council in Washington, D.C. He enjoyed public speaking and served as "master of ceremonies" at many statewide events. Dave held numerous leadership positions as a Representative and senator, and was urged to run for State Governor or U.S. Congressman, but he always declined and indicated that he was content with his role in the legislature. Of interest was the fact that he did serve as "acting Governor" for a few days at the time of Governor Nutter's tragic death.

David enjoyed his community. He was a member of Bethel Lutheran Church on Joplin, where he had served on the council as congregational president and had been active in Lutheran Brotherhood. He was a life member of Joplin-Masonic Lodge #114, a past member of Chester Rotary, and a member of the local Farmer's Union. Dave's hobbies included reading, playing cards, and travelling. He enjoyed visiting with friends and sharing stories of days gone by. Dave loved his family, and he and Lillian were affectionately known as "Gramp" and "Granny".

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Lillian of Joplin, one son, Lysle James of Havre, three

daughters, Doris Nelson of Joplin, Dorothy Keogh of Great Falls, and Angela Eldridge of Big Fork, 14 grandchildren, and numerous nephews and nieces. David was preceded in death by his parents and seven siblings.

Funeral services were 2:00 p.m. Friday, July 12th, at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin with Reverend Darrell Cousino officiating. The congregation sang "In the Garden", accompanied by Susan Peterson, organist Jerome Lincoln sang "How Great Thou Art", and a vocal ensemble with Kay Mlinar, Denise Hochberger, Esther Meldrum, and Marlene Rocks sang "Softly and Tenderly" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". In addition, Connie McDonald accompanied her granddaughter, who sang "He".

Pallbearers were Dave's eight grandsons and honorary bearers were his six granddaughters. Memorial bearers were listed as "all of his many friends". Interment was in the Joplin Cemetery with arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester. A luncheon followed at Kjos Hall.

VICTOR E. JONES
born: Jul. 14, 1911 -- died: Apr. 25, 1996
Liberty County Times
May 1, 1996

Victor Jones

Victor E. Jones, 84 years of age, a retired farmer and a resident of Great Falls, Montana and formerly of Hingham, Montana, died April 25 at the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre, Montana of natural causes.

A memorial service was held at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 27 at the Hingham Lutheran Church in Hingham with Rev. Gerald Ebel and Rev. Tim Hauge officiating. Organist was Sharon Spicher and the soloist was Nick Alex, who sang "How Great Thou Art" and "Fields of Grain". The congregational hymn was "Softly and Tenderly". Ushers were Bill Spicher and Walt Myers.

Victor was born July 14, 1911 at Heron Lake, Minnesota, the son of William J. and Eva (McNair) Jones. In 1914 his family came to homestead south of Hingham. He attended Prairie City School three miles from his home. Victor attended high school in Hingham. He was active in the high school band, played the saxophone and also basketball. December 22, 1935 at Hingham, he married the former Dorothy Norenberg. After their marriage the couple lived in Clancy, Montana where they were gate keepers on the snow shed for the railroad. The couple moved near Helena, Montana where Victor worked on a gold dredge. The couple moved to Sloughhouse, California where Victor worked on another gold dredge. The couple returned to Montana and moved south of Gildford and lived with his mother and brother on the

family farm. The couple bought some land south of Gildford (the former Bennett place) and moved there. They also leased other land in the area. The couple later moved to Hingham. In 1991, Mr. Jones moved to the Eagles Manor apartments in Great Falls, Montana. He was a resident of the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre at the time of his death.

Victor loved to golf, fish, travel, dance and to play Bridge. He was a former mayor, school board member, and a member of the Hingham Volunteer Fire Department. He was a lifetime member of the Elks Club and a member of the Havre Eagles Club, both of Havre. He was a member of the Hingham Lutheran Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife in 1987, four brothers, two sisters, two infant brothers and one infant sister.

He is survived by one son, David E. Jones of Hingham; one daughter Deanna Bitz of Box Elder, Montana; special friend, Edna Bertsche of Great Falls, Montana; four grandchildren, Rhonda Jones Huntley of Missoula, Montana, Vicki Jean Ostrom of Seattle, Washington, Danielle Bitz of Box Elder, and Wade Bitz of Moorhead, Minnesota; and one great-grandson, Blaize Huntley of Missoula, Montana.

Memorials in Mr. Jones honor may be made to the Hi-Line First Responders, Hingham, Montana, 59528.

Holland & Bonine Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

NELLA KLEINSASSER
Born: July 7, 1996 - Died: July 19, 1996
Liberty County Times
July 24, 1996

Nella Kleinsasser

Nella W. Kleinsasser was born in Great Falls, Montana on July 7th, 1996. She was the youngest of four children born to William S. and Barbara J. (Hofer) Kleinsasser of Sage Creek Colony.

Following a routine delivery and hospital stay, Nella was discharged to family care. She was doing fine at home until Friday morning (July 19th), when she became ill. Her parents brought her to the Liberty County Hospital in Chester where she was admitted. Nella's condition worsened and she died prior to the arrival of the air-ambulance. She was only 12 days old.

She is survived by her parents, a sister (Diane), and a brother (Willie), all of Sage Creek Colony; maternal grandparents, Joseph and Anne Hofer of Bassano, Alberta; paternal grandparents, Cam and Annie Kleinsasser of Sage Creek; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Nella was preceded in death by her brother, Luke, who died on November 10th, 1995 from a congenital heart problem.

Funeral services and burial were at 12 noon Sunday (July 21st) at Sage Creek Colony north of Chester. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel.

Nella's death was due to natural causes. An autopsy was done Saturday morning in Great Falls, and the results are pending.

FRANCIS KURTZ
born: Feb. 1, 1922 -- died: Mar. 31, 1996
Liberty County Times
Apr. 10, 1996

Francis Kurtz

Francis Kurtz, 74 years of age, a farmer/rancher and a resident of Gildford, died on Sunday, March 31, 1996 at a Great Falls Hospital of natural causes.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, 1996 at the Holland and Bonine Chapel in Havre with Reverend Eddie Fallow officiating. Burial was in the Gildford Cemetery. The pianist was Judy Fallow. Soloist was Jerry Toner who sang "My God and I", "His Eye is on the Sparrow" and "Under His Wings".

Pallbearers were Lowell Johnson, Monty Borlaug, Bud Borlaug, Arty Hanson, Dick Hanson and Bob Swenney.

The honorary pallbearers were Conrad Rhoads, Reuben Scvheuerman, Ole Ous, Gordon Jorgenson, Stuart Brownlee, Art Rambo and Bob Keisling.

The ushers were Alvin Bitz and Dan Jorgenson.

Francis was born on February 1, 1922 in Havre. The son of Frank and Alice (Dunn) Kurtz and lived on the family farm south of Gildford his entire life. He attended Pride of the Prairie Grade School, one year at Dodson High School, and graduated from Havre High School in 1940. He also attended Northern Montana College. On June 4, 1950 he married Gertrude Sten at Waubay, South Dakota. After their marriage the couple lived on the family farm south of Gildford. Francis was engaged in farming and ranching all of his life. In 1976 he introduced beefalo to the Hi-Line areas. He took joy in gardening and special pride in his black walnut and other fruit trees. He was a member of the Gildford Odd Fellow's Lodge for several years. He also served on various local boards and was a member of the Son's of Norway.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one infant son Vernon and a brother-in-law Andy Fyall and two nephews; Dave Nordrum and Bruce Fyall.

He is survived by his wife Trudy of Gildford, sons Lynn Kurtz and special friends Kate Dwire and son Cody of Missoula, Lee Kurtz and wife Karen of Gildford, one daughter, Nancy Peterson and husband Mark of North Havre, sisters, Marion Fyall of Emonds, Washington; Grace Nordrum and husband Percy of Columbia Falls; three grandsons, Kody Peterson of Bozeman, Kyle Peterson of Havre, Robert Kurtz of Dodson and several nieces, nephews, grand nieces and grand nephews.

Memorials in Mr. Kurtz's honor may be made to the Columbus Hospital Dialysis Unit of Great Falls or to the Northern Montana Hospital Dialysis Unit of Havre or the Gildford Baptist Church or to a person's choice.

JESSICA DAWN LANGEL
born: Jan 15, 1982 -- died: Aug. 20, 1996
Liberty County Times
Aug. 28, 1996



Jessica Langel

Jessica Dawn Langel, age 14, died at her home in Inverness on Tuesday morning (August 20th, 1996).

Jessie was born in Havre, Montana on January 15th, 1982. She was the only child of William Langel and Pamela (Tribby) Langel. Jessie grew up at Inverness and received her education in the J-I school system; she was entering the 8th grade in the coming school year and had been an honor roll student throughout her elementary education. She had been a member of the "Kool Korus" at J-I and played 7th grade basketball. Jessie enjoyed bowling in the junior leagues at Rudyard. Other hobbies included baking, camping, fishing, boating and water skiing. She enjoyed listening to music and was an avid fan of the National Football League (her favorite team was the Dallas Cowboys). She loved all animals, but was especially fond of kittens.

Jessie had been a "fighter" since birth. She was born two months prematurely at a weight of 3 1/2 pounds, and survived a long hospitalization. She grew to be a

healthy, vibrant young lady who seemed to have an active zest for life. Unfortunately, she developed an acute depression which took control of her reasoning ability; she made a spontaneous and irreversible decision, then took her own life.

Jessie is survived by her parents, Bill and Pam Langel of Inverness; paternal grandmother, Alice Langel of Rudyard; maternal grandparents, Lloyd ("Pete") and Shirley Tribby of Malta; paternal great-grandmother, Helen Langel of Chester; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Jessie is also survived by her "honorary grandparents", Dalton and Myrla Dahlke of Inverness. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandfather, Arnold ("Bud") Langel.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday (August 24th) at the J-I High School Gymnasium in Joplin. Reverend Darrell Cousino officiated and one of Jessie's favorite teachers, Jane Rhodes, served as eulogist. Pianist Iris White accompanied the congregation, who sang "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name". Vocal tributes performed by Jerome Lincoln included "The Wind Beneath My Wings" and "On Eagle's Wings". Ushers were Paul Twedt and Barlow Haaland. Pallbearers were Mike Tribby, Barry Crowder, Cory Erickson, Jim Taylor, Clint Simpson and Dennis Langel. Honorary bearers included all of Jessie's classmates and friends. Immediately following the services, a luncheon was held at the J-I school cafeteria.

Cremation with private graveside services and burial of ashes took place at the Rudyard Cemetery. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

Undesignated memorials will be given to the J-I High School park fund.

DONALD ELBERT LINCOLN
born: Oct. 5, 1911 — died: Dec. 21, 1996
Liberty County Times
Jan. 1, 1997

Donald E. Lincoln



Donald Elbert Lincoln was born at Hillsboro, Oregon on October 5th, 1911. He was the 5th of six children born to Albert and Elizabeth (Haas) Lincoln. In 1912 the Lincolns moved to a homestead 16 miles north of Rudyard. Donald grew up there and received his education at Oreana, a one-room country school near the farm.

Donald married Mary Ritter on June 18th, 1936. They lived and farmed in the north Rudyard and Hingham communities until 1973, when they moved to a farm east of Ledger in Toole County. Although Don retired, he continued to work because "he just loved to drive tractor". In 1988 at age 77 he finally quit working, but only because of failing health.

Don moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester in 1993 and has lived there since. He died at the Chester hospital on the evening of Saturday (December 21st, 1996). He

was 85 years old.

The Lincolns were lifelong members of the Evangelical Church in Rudyard. After they moved to the Ledger community, they joined the Conrad Mission Church. In the 1950's Don served as chairman of the Hill County Sunday School Association.

Don learned to fly in 1946. By 1949 he had earned his Commercial Pilot's License and began one of the first crop-spraying businesses in the area. He ran this business for about 15 years and was a member of the organizing board of the Montana Chapter of "Flying Farmers International".

In addition Don was a longtime member of the Montana Stockgrowers Association. As a young man he was an avid big-game hunter. In later years, he and Mary traveled extensively. They enjoyed R.V. camping, picking huckleberries, and snagging "sockeyes". Friends will remember Donald for his "hearty laugh" and his love and enjoyment of life...

He is survived by his wife, Mary of Ledger; two daughters, Elizabeth Walden of Portland, Oregon and Edith Hodges of Sandpoint, Alaska; one son, Roger of Gildford; three sisters, Gladys Torgerson of Seattle, Washington, Irene Jackson of Rudyard, and Verda Warner of Monarch; eight grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. Don was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers (Edgar and Ervin).

Memorial services were held at 11:00 a.m. Friday (Dec. 27th) at the Calvary Church in Rudyard with

Reverend Nolan Spent officiating. Donald's daughter, Edi Hodges, played prelude music and accompanied Allen Underdahl, who sang "It Is Well" and "How Great Thou Art". The congregation sang "In the Garden" and "The Old Rugged Cross". Daughter, Edi, also shared special memories of her father. Ushers were Joe Lincoln and Ross Ritter. Memorial bearers included Brian Hodges, Don Lincoln, Duane Lincoln, Noel Gilstrap, Kirby Underdahl, Ron Olson, Brian Brickley and Henry Jajuga. Granddaughter, Brittanee Lincoln, played postlude music. Following the services, a luncheon for family and friends was held at the Rudyard Youth Center. Funeral arrangements and cremation was by Rockman Chapel, Chester.

MARY (ROLPH) LUHRS

Born: January 8, 1913 - Died: July 4, 1996

Liberty County Times

July 24, 1996

Mary Luhrs

Mary Rolph Luhrs was born on January 8th, 1913 south of Joplin at the family homestead. She received her elementary education in country schools where her mother usually taught. Her high school diploma was from Joplin High, and she was Valedictorian of her class!

Mary graduated with honors from the Sacred Heart Hospital school of nursing and received her P.H. degree. In 1936, she married Walter Luhrs in Cut Bank. Due to his ill health, they moved to Portland, OR and during the war years she worked as a pipe fitter in the shipyard to support her family. In 1945, Walter died, leaving her to raise three children ages five, six, and seven. After the war, she went to work at St. Vincent's Hospital first as a nurse, then as a supervisor. For many years, she was head of the Central Supply. These last years she lived in an apartment in a retirement home in

downtown Portland.

Mary passed away quietly in her sleep the early morning of July 4th at her daughter's home in Bend, OR.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Rosary church in Portland with burial at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Gresham, OR next to her mother and father, H.D. and Jessie Rolph and her youngest brother, "Bud".

Mary is survived by her three children, Mary Ann Jayn of Portland, John Luhrs of San Clemente, CA, and Lave Mattioda of Bend, OR, her two sisters, Hietpas Scheivonne of Portland, and Monica "Dolly" Smith of Chester, MT, a brother, Myron Rolph of The Dalles, OR, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death not only by her parents and husband, but by three brothers and two sisters.

Mary was a loving mother, daughter, grandmother, and sister. She was always ready with a smile and a word of encouragement.

EDNA GRACE (SHOWELL) LUND

Born: December 28, 1912 - Died: April 20, 1996

Liberty County Times

April 24, 1996



Edna Lund

Edna Grace (Showell) Lund was born at Missoula on December 28, 1912. She was one of five children born to Mary Wright and Herbert Showell Sr. After Edna's mother died in childbirth, the Showell children were placed in the Intermountain Children's Home in Helena for adoption. Edna was a young girl when she was adopted by Charles and Nellie Wickland. They moved to Portland, Oregon where Edna grew up and received her formal education. She graduated from Clatskanie High School in 1931.

Edna married Roger Ash Hoover in Vancouver, Washington in 1935. They had a daughter, Gloria. Their marriage ended in divorce in 1940, so Edna and her daughter came to Chester to be rear her sister, Katherine Keith. She began working as a switchboard

operator at the telephone company for Roy Goodbar.

Edna met her second husband, Loyd Lund; they were married on December 2, 1947 at Havre. They made their home in the Chester community, where Loyd farmed. In the mid-1950's Edna worked as a store clerk at the John Askvold Pharmacy. From 1970-1978 she worked as playground supervisor at the Chester Schools, and also helped in the lunchroom there.

Her husband, Loyd, died on April 6, 1972. Edna remained in their Chester home until 1978, when she moved to the Sweetgrass Lodge (she was one of the first residents there). During many of her years at the Lodge, Edna served as a news correspondent for the Liberty County Times. When her health failed in 1995, she moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home and has lived there since. Edna died at the Chester hospital on the early morning of Saturday, April 20, 1996. She was 83 years old.

Edna has been a longtime member of the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women in Chester. She was also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She was a loyal supporter and active participant in the Hi-Line Chuckwagon Band; she played the saxophone. Edna's hobbies included knitting, embroidery and playing cards (she liked "whist" and pinochle). In her quiet hours she enjoyed watching television or working

"word search" puzzles. Edna was a petite lady with a large collection of clothes and shoes; she took pride in her apparel and appearance.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Gloria and Loyd Boyer of Chester; four grandchildren, Darla Boyer of Seattle, Lana Boyer of Great Falls, Dana Lalum of Chester and Rod Boyer of Miles City; four great-grandchildren (Dustin, Damon and Devan Lalum and Caitlin Boyer). Edna was preceded in death by not only her husband and parents, but also by her four siblings (Herbert Jr, Katherine, Georgia and Ernestine) and a granddaughter Juanita Marie Boyer.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 23 at the Chester United Methodist Church with Reverend Lyndon Kacick officiating. Karen Stack accompanied Wayne Wardell, who sang "Beyond the Sunset" and "The Lord's Prayer". The congregation sang "How Great Thou Art". Ushers were Harley Rudolph and Neil Shepherd. Grandsons serving as pallbearers were Rodney Boyer, Dale Lalum, Dustin Lalum and Damon Lalum. Honorary bearers were Edna's friends in the Chuckwagon Band, who performed a few songs in her memory. Interment was at the Chester Cemetery, followed by a luncheon at the church. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel. Memorials will be given to the Methodist Church or the Sweetgrass Lodge.

CLARENCE JACK LYNCH
born: Mar. 26, 1915 -- died: June 12, 1996
Liberty County Times
June 19, 1996

Clarence J. Lynch

Clarence Jack Lynch was born at Geyser, Montana on March 26th, 1915. He was one of six children born to Grace Smith and Michael Lynch, Jr. Clarence was a third generation Montanan who grew up on a cattle ranch that was homesteaded by his grandfather Michael Lynch Sr., in 1888. The ranch was located near the head of Arrow Creek in the Highwood Mountains.

Following his formal education, Clarence moved to Great Falls in 1930 and worked at different jobs in the surrounding community. On April 13th, 1942, he married Gladys Rugtvedt.

Clarence was inducted into the U.S. Army during World War II and served in Europe in the 65th Infantry Division. Shortly before the end of the war, he participated in the liberation of Mauthausen and German Stalag concentration camps.

Following his honorable discharge, Clarence returned to Montana. He began farming the Rugtvedt family homestead south of Rudyard. He and Gladys made their home at Rudyard from that time on, except for the winter months they spent in Mesa, Arizona.

In 1958, Clarence started the Lynch Tire Company in Rudyard. In 1961 he and his business partners (Jim Brewington and the late W. V. Montee) formed B.L.M. Tire Company. They owned several tire stores throughout Montana and neighboring states. In 1977 they sold their interests to a company known as "Tire-Rama".

Clarence continued to farm at Rudyard through the fall of 1995 with the help of his close friend, Gerry Langel. His health began to fail at age 80, and the cancer slowly took its toll. Clarence and Gladys recently moved to Missoula so that his daughters could help with his medical care. He passed away quietly at his daughter's home on the early afternoon of Wednesday (June 12th, 1995). He was 81 years old.

Clarence was preceded in death

by his parents; by three brothers (Ed, Roy and Shirley); and by a grandson (Randy Patrick).

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Gladys of Rudyard; by four daughters and their spouses, including Collin Tipp of Missoula, Florene and Chuck Patrick of Billings, Penny and Dennis Kleingartner of Lakeside, and Jodi and Skip Harden of Missoula; two sisters, Ellen Clarke of Vaughn and Florence Fish of Great Falls; and by several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Clarence loved his family and friends. He enjoyed working, attending rodeos, and listening to country western music. He was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard; he once served as church treasurer and was active in the earlier development of the church.

Memorial services were held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday (June 15th) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard with Reverend Bart Coleman officiating. Grandson, Jeff Kleingartner, offered a special reading and personal comments. Sharon Spicher served as organist and the congregation sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic". A family friend from Missoula, Pastor David Ophus, sang "Beautiful Savior", "How Great Thou Art", and "Borning Cry". Ushers were Gerry Langel, Bud Ean, and Bobby Toner. Burial of ashes and graveside prayers followed at the Rudyard Cemetery. A coffee hour for family and friends was held at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester. Memorials will be given to Our Savior's Lutheran Church or to donor's choice.

FRANK ALBERT MEISSNER
born: Jun. 28, 1913 -- died: Dec. 27, 1996
Liberty County Times
Jan. 8, 1997



Frank A. Meissner

Frank Albert Meissner was born on June 28th, 1913 at the family ranch south of Chester, Montana. He was one of seven children born to Margaret Eckert and George Meissner, Sr. Frank grew up on the family farm and attended the Meissner School near there. Following his formal education, Frank began working for area ranchers, including L.D. Pugsley, Henry Kolstad, Morris Stewart, Walt Widmer, and V.M. Smith. He eventually came back to the family farm to become a lifelong working partner at Meissner Ranches.

Frank was inducted into the U.S. Army during World War II. He served in the medical corp in the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign. He was honorably discharged in 1946 and returned to the family ranch.

In 1952 Meissner's purchased the Prescott Ranch near the Sweetgrass Hills. Frank and brother George moved there to work and manage this extended ranch in northern Liberty County. They have lived there since.

Frank's health remained good over the years. At age 83 he continued to work on a daily basis. On this past Friday morning (Dec. 27th, 1996) Frank complained of some back pains, and he later collapsed in his home. He was dead on arrival of ambulance personnel.

Frank loved working with horses (especially colts) and enjoyed raising buffalo on the ranch. He was an immaculate housekeeper and during his quiet hours at home he enjoyed reading (he was fond of local and Montana historicals). Frank liked rodeos and had attended the Calgary Stampede on numerous occasions. Although not an avid hunter, he did enjoy a hunting trip to Alaska, mainly just to experience the beautiful environment there.

Frank is survived by three brothers, George (and wife, Gladys), Lawrence, and Paul (and wife, Arlene), and one sister, Margaret, all of Chester. Other survivors include four nephews, Shawn, Blaine, Wallace, and Ken; two neices, Joey and Pam; and three great-nephews, Shea, Jeremy and Jeff. Frank was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers (Ernest in 1993 and Joe in 1995).

Vigil Prayers were recited by Tom Osterman at 7:30 p.m. Monday (Dec. 30th) at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated by Father Joseph Mammion at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday at the church. Iris White served as organist. A vocal quartette of John, Jack, and Pat Seidlitz and Anne Seidlitz-Melton performed "On Eagle's Wings", "Hosea", "Bread, Blessed & Broken", and "Valleys of the Green". At the end of the service Oscar Erickson sang "Home on the range". Ushers were Jack Smith and Larry Elings. Mass participants were Tom Osterman (reader), Deb Jeppesen (eulogist), Ken Osterman and Jeremy Seidlitz (servers), and Ken Gagnon (eucharistic minister). Pallbearers included Arnold Lalum, Dick Burrows, Dan Wolery, Mark Wickum, Carl Klingaman and David Pugsley. Interment was at the Chester Cemetery where the military flag was presented to the family by Don Buffington. A luncheon followed at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

ELVINA MELDRUM
born: Dec. 1, 1911 -- died: Dec. 25, 1996
Liberty County Times
Jan. 8, 1997

Elvina Meldrum

Elvina Meldrum passed away on Wednesday, December 25, 1996 in Long Beach, California. Born on December 1, 1911, in Chester, she was the daughter of the late John and Anna Keldrauk.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Julian Meldrum; her son Jerry Meldrum and wife Kaye; her granddaughter Melodie; her daughter Heather Leonardo and husband Steve Leonardo.

She is also survived by sisters Loreida Griffith and husband Tom, Ella Boren and husband Bill; and brothers John Keldrauk and wife Cornelia, Walter Keldrauk, Alex Keldrauk and wife Ruth, Rolland Keldrauk and wife Mary, and Jerry Keldrauk, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and close friends.

She was dearly loved and will be sorely missed. Funeral services were conducted at the Forest Lawn Hope Chapel in Cypress, California on Saturday, December 28, 1996. Interment was at the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Cypress, California.

IRENE (WHITE) MOOG
born: May 23, 1900 -- died MAY 16, 1996
Liberty County Times
May 22, 1996



Irene Moog

Mary Irene (White) Moog was born in Collis, Minnesota on May 23rd, 1900. She was one of seven children born to Alphonse LaBlanc White and Rose Mader. She came to Montana with her family in 1909 and they homesteaded near Inverness. Irene completed her formal education at Inverness.

She married Otto Henry Moog at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church on September 8th, 1920. Otto worked as a manager of the Moog General Store in Inverness and inherited a 160-acre farm south of town from his brother. Irene and Otto made their home on the farm and raised their family of six. They both worked hard; Irene handled the farming details and Otto worked on the railroad. Sundays were set aside for church and family get-togethers.

After 65+ years of married life, Otto died on March 14th, 1986. Irene remained at the family home until 1989, when declining health took her to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester. She died peacefully at the rest home on the late evening of Thursday (May 16th), 1996. She was just a week shy of being 96 years old.

Irene was a lifelong member of Sacred Heart Church and had been active in the Altar Society. She served as a Hill County 4-H leader for many years and was very proud when she was awarded a diamond pin from the 4-H organization. In addition, she had been active in the Inverness P.T.A. during those early years.

Irene's hobbies were many. She enjoyed sewing, tatting, crocheting, gardening and fishing. She liked to play cards (especially pinochle). In her younger days she loved to go dancing (reportedly, she was exceptional at the "waltz"). She also enjoyed jigsaw and crossword puzzles. But probably her greatest love was babysitting! She would drop whatever she was doing for a chance to take care of her grandchildren.

Irene was a very happy lady with a good sense of humor. During her life she maintained a positive attitude and strong religious convictions. She was an inspiration to her family.

Survivors include two daughters, Alice Lakey of Chester and Margaret Bailey of Las Vegas, Nevada; four sons, Otto "Bud" Moog of Great Falls, Robert "Bob" Moog of Inverness, Vernon "Blackie" Moog of Inverness, and Leonard "Len" Moog of Littleton, Colorado; one sister, Violet Smith of Superior, Iowa; 44 grandchildren; 69 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Irene was preceded in death not only by her husband and parents, but also by three brothers (Anthony, William and Herbert White), by two sisters (Helen Seidlitz and Margaret White), and by two grandchildren (John Moog and Paul Lakey).

Rosary prayers were led by Irene's son, Vernon, at 7:30 p.m. Monday (May 20th) at Sacred Heart Church in Inverness. The funeral mass was celebrated by Father Joseph Marmion at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday at the church. Special music was provided by Iris White, Marcus Jochim, and members of the church choir. Songs included "Ave Maria", "To Jesus Heart All Burning", "Here I Am, Lord", "Tis the Month of Our Mother", and "Holy God We Praise Thy Name".

Readers were Mary Jane Moog and Christy Lakey. Eulogist was Angela Moog and Eucharistic minister was Vernon Moog. Altar servers were Anthony and Nicholas Moog. The communion gifts were presented by Shila Peters, Rosanne Wasson, Colleen Overcast and Carole Schile. Ushers were Rob and Darn Moog. Pallbearers included Mark Lakey and Joe, Rich, Grady, Ken, Bruce and Michael Moog. Interment was in the Inverness Cemetery with arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester. A luncheon followed at the church.

EUGENE HARRISON MOORE

Born: August 7, 1957 - Died: April 24, 1996

Liberty County Times

May 1, 1996

Eugene Moore

Eugene Harrison Moore, 38, of Joplin, formerly of Shelby passed away Wednesday due to a gun shot wound.

He was born August 7, 1957 at Shelby to Harrison and Margaret (Hanes) Moore. He graduated from Shelby High School in 1976. That same year on July 10th he married Tammy Luckenbill at Sunburst. He then joined the U.S. Marine Corp. and was stationed in Germany for a time. After the service he attended Montana State University at Bozeman for two years. He then returned to Shelby and worked in the oil fields. In 1984 he purchased the old Husky Oil Station in Shelby and renamed it Moore Truck Stop. In 1990 he bought the Joplin Farm Store which he had operated until his death.

Survivors include his wife Tammy, son Thomas and daughter Jennifer, all at home in Joplin; his mother and step-father, Margaret and Herb Silberman of Shelby; sisters, Penny Horner and Grace Cullen, both of Helena; brothers, Duane and Bradford Moore, both of Whitefish. He was preceded in death by his father, Harrison.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 30, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Shelby with the Rev. Darrell Cousino officiating. Burial with Military Honors will be in the Mountain View Cemetery in Shelby. Whitted Funeral Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

ALLEN N. NELSON
Born: July 11, 1941 - Died: March 15, 1996
Liberty County Times
March 20, 1996



Times 20 March 1996

Allen Nelson

Allen N. Nelson, 54, of Shelby, a longtime Shelby Promoter pressman, died of cancer on Friday, March 15 at the Toole County Hospital.

Funeral services were Tuesday,

March 19 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church with burial in the Mountain View Cemetery. Whitted Funeral Chapel was in charge of the arrangements.

Nelson was born July 11, 1941 at Billings to Norman and Mabel Crogan Nelson. He was raised in Richey where he graduated from high school in 1960. He married Gloria Frank on October 16, 1969 in Glendive. She died March 9, 1995.

Nelson learned the trade of a pressman. Over the years he enjoyed compiling and printing many regional area history books. He moved to Shelby in 1973 where he was employed at the Shelby Promoter until the present time.

Nelson was a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church. He enjoyed bingo, bowling, fishing, camping and spending time with his grandchildren.

Survivors include a son, Todd Nelson of Butte; daughters: Vickie Nelson and friend Robert Wahl of Chester and Penny and husband Mal Zuroff of Richey; sisters: Dee Hesser of Idaho

Falls, Idaho and Barbara Eggebrecht of Richey; seven grandchildren: Sarah and Rebecca McDonald, Shane Keller, Matthew, Tyler and Lindsey Zuroff and Troy Nelson.

DEWEY RAY NICKOLEY
Born: Feb. 20, 1933 -- died: Apr. 8, 1996
Liberty County Times
Apr. 17 - 1996



Dewey Nickoley

Dewey Ray Nickoley was born on February 20th, 1933 at Alta Vista, Morris County, Kansas. He was one of two children born to Karl and Nellie (Swartz) Nickoley. His mother died in childbirth with her third child, so Dewey and brother Lloyd lived with their grandparents in those early years. They eventually moved to Indio, California where Dewey's father served as deputy marshal. His father met and married his second wife, Neldora. To this union two siblings were born (Charles and Karlene), and Neldora became mother to the four Nickoley children.

Dewey received his education in California. He attended M.A.D. High School (Monrovia/Arcadia/Duarte consolidation). In 1951 before graduating Dewey joined the U.S. Navy. He served four years during the Korean Conflict and was stationed aboard the U.S.S. LST-1146. Dewey was "honorably discharged" in 1955 and returned to Monrovia, California.

He began working as an auto service technician. Dewey and his best friend, Bill Hicks, lived together for several years. Dewey met Iona Dicken VanVleet (formerly of Chester, Montana) and they were married on July 2nd, 1966 at Monrovia. He became the father to Iona's three daughters and to his only son, Johnnie Joe. (Coincidentally, Iona's good friend, Ervene, married Dewey's good friend, Bill.)

Dewey worked at Mission Chevrolet in San Gabriel for 20+ years. They lived in Glendora from 1967-1992. After Dewey retired in 1992, they moved to Magalia (California) to be close to their good friends, the Hicks'. In 1993 Dewey suffered a severe heart attack with poor prognosis. The following year his buddy, Bill, died.

Dewey and Iona moved to Havre, Montana in July of 1995 to be closer to family and friends and to enjoy their retirement years. On the late afternoon of Monday (April 8th, 1996), Dewey laid down on his recliner for a nap before supper. He died peacefully in his sleep. He was 63 years old.

Dewey's friends and co-workers in California gave him the nickname, "Whitey", which has stuck with him throughout the years. Whitey loved the game of golf, and played a lot of it during his healthy years in California. He had a small collection of old and foreign coins. Several years ago he enjoyed playing cards (especially "canasta") and working crossword puzzles. More recently he enjoyed reading mysteries, Reader's Digest, or National Geographic. Whitey was an avid sports fan and liked to watch sporting events on television. He was best described as a simple, quiet, unassuming man...

Dewey is survived by his wife, Iona of Havre; son, Johnnie Joe Nickoley of Pomona, California; three daughters, Patricia Lynn Stengel of Missoula, Diane Iona Johnson of Missoula, and Barbara Jean Evans of Azusa, California; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; his mother, Neldora Nickoley of Monrovia, California; two brothers, Lloyd Nickoley of Ventura, California and Charles Nickoley of Monrovia, California; one sister, Karlene Chase of Pasadena, California; numerous nephews and nieces; and a pet dog, "Tiffy". He was preceded in death by his mother, father, and a niece (Julie Nickoley).

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday (April 13th) at the Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester with Reverend Lyndon Kacick officiating. Iris White served as organist and the congregation sang "Amazing Grace". Special vocal music by Jerome Lincoln included "On Eagle's Wings" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic".

Pallbearers were Donald, Donovan and Conrad Heimbigner and Irvin, Brett and Blake Borst. Interment was at the Chester Cemetery where a tape-recording of "Anchors Aweigh" was played, followed by military taps and presentation of the flag by Conrad Heimbigner. A coffee hour was held at the mortuary.

PAUL BENJAMIN ODEGARD
born: Aug. 9, 1911 -- died: Aug. 12, 1996
Liberty County Times
Aug. 21, 1996



Ben Odegard

Paul Benjamin Odegard, beloved husband, father, grandpa and great-grandpa, went to be with the Lord on August 12th, 1996. He had just celebrated his 85th birthday a few days before.

Ben was born at Lohmand, Alberta, Canada on August 9th, 1911. He was one of 11 children born to Anton and Bertha (Burtson) Odegard. His parents had immigrated from Norway to Minnesota, then homesteaded in Alberta. Ben grew up at Lohmand and received his education there, then began working as a ranchhand. He came to Montana at age 18 and worked for numerous ranches in the Sweetgrass Hills area. In addition to breaking and selling horses, Ben worked for private oil drillers and Montana/Dakota Utilities.

Ben married a Whitlash area school teacher, Bessie Peterson Batzer, on April 15th, 1942. They lived in Whitlash until 1950, then moved to Chester and

have lived here since.

Ben worked as a rural mail carrier to the north Chester community for 26 years (from 1950 to 1976). He operated the first contract school bus into Chester from 1954-56. In addition, he purchased some acreage at the original Whitlash townsite that contained a nice artesian well, so he supplemented his income by hauling fresh water to local farmers for several years. And last but not least, Ben rented farmland until he was able to purchase his own place south of Chester. He did all of his own work until age 84, when his health began to fail.

Ben had a lot of interesting experiences during his life, and his family is certain he had a "Guardian Angel" who helped him get through his many perils and adventures! Although he wasn't a socialite, he enjoyed people and touched many lives over the years. Worthy of note was the fact that Ben was an environmentalist before its time; he loved animals and wildlife, and has always been a steward of the land and natural resources.

Ben's hobbies were simple. He enjoyed playing cards (especially pinochle and poker) and checkers. He collected anything and everything.

He loved children and served as a good role-model to those he befriended. Ben's greatest joy was his "40-acre Paradise" at Whitlash where he busied himself with sheep, cattle, horses, ducks, geese, dogs, and countless other animals he raised there over the years!

Ben loved his family and enjoyed their happiness. They are thankful that he retained a sharp mind and good sense of humor to the end.

Ben is survived by his wife, Bessie

of Chester; two sons and their wives, Dick and Myrna Batzer of Galesburg, Illinois and Terry and Susan Odegard of Billings; one daughter and her husband, Susie and Dean Wollan of Colstrip; seven grandchildren, including Randy, Steve, Scott, Jim, T.J., Chad and Twink; five great-grandchildren; two sisters, Alma Bender of Tacoma, Washington and Ruth Dundell of Soap Lake, Washington; and numerous nephews and nieces. Ben was preceded in death by his parents, by four brothers (Henry, Harry, Hans and Tony), and by four sisters (Annie, Hannah, Alvina and Helen).

Special note from Ben's daughter: "We love you, Dad, with all our hearts and will always miss you, until we are together again in Heaven."

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday (Aug. 17th) at the Chester United Methodist Church with Reverend Lyndon Kacick officiating. Dr. Richard Buker served as eulogist. Gary Wollan shared a special message that had been written by a family friend, Lois Olmstead. Jan Christofferson was organist and the congregation sang "How Great Thou Art". Vocal tributes by Wayne Wardell included "In the Sweet By-&-By", "The Old Rugged Cross", and "Sweet Hour of Prayer". A video that depicted Ben's life was shown. Pallbearers were Spike Unterseher, Mark Zerbe, Tom Wood, Cliff Wickum, Jim Carter and Warren Wickum. A luncheon followed the services.

It was Ben's wishes to be buried at the Trinity Cemetery north of Lothair. Pastor Kacick lead graveside prayers there at 2:00 p.m. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

OSCAR ORAW
born: Feb. 19, 1911 — died: Jun. 10, 1996
Liberty County Times
June 19, 1996

Oscar Oraw

Oscar Oraw, age 85, died Monday (June 10th) at the Northern Nevada Medical Center in Sparks, Nevada.

A native of Chester, Montana, Oscar was born on February 19th, 1911. He was one of three children born to Joseph and Wilhelmina (Erjbe) Oraw, Estonian immigrants who homesteaded in Montana in 1910. Oscar grew up on the family farm northwest of Chester and received his formal education at a country school near Tiber. He spent the majority of his life farming in the Chester area before retiring in 1979. A few years later Oscar moved to Sparks, Nevada where he has lived since.

He never married. His survivors include his sister, Theresa Rudvedt of Sparks; His brother, Ben Oraw of Chester; three nieces, Arlene Larson of Phoenix, Arizona, Leda Nugent of Butte, Montana, and Brenda Schweitzer of Sparks; three nephews, Calvin Oraw of Sidney, Montana, and Steve and Rod Oraw, both of Chester; four great-nieces, Nicole Smith, Holly Oraw, Melissa Oraw and Lynsey Oraw; and five great-nephews, Travis and Tyson Schweitzer, Joel Oraw, Brad Oraw and Jordan Oraw. Oscar was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation was done by the Walton Funeral Home in Sparks, Nevada. A memorial service is scheduled for Friday (June 21st) at the Community First Church of God in Sparks.

Graveside services with burial of ashes will be held at 4:00 p.m. Friday (June 28th) at the Chester Cemetery. Reverend Thomas Dunham will officiate. Local arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

RICHARD KENNETH OVERLIE
born: Jan 14, 1938 -- died: May 12, 1996
Liberty County Times
May 22, 1996



Dick Overlie

Richard Kenneth Overlie was born at Terry on January 14, 1938. He was the eldest son of six children born to Olav and Elaine (Graw) Overlie. Dick received his early education at Terry, then moved to Bozeman with his family at age 13. He continued his education at Gallatin High School. At age 17 Dick enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He served during peacetime and was stationed in Japan. While in the military, he received his G.E.D. Following his honorable discharge, Dick returned to Bozeman.

He married Bonnie J. Kelley at Bozeman on June 21, 1959. During their married life they lived in various Montana communities including Bozeman, Wolf Point, Kremlin, Havre and Great Falls. In 1968 they settled in Chester where they lived and raised their family of four from that time on.

Dick worked a variety of jobs during his life. He was a general laborer, car salesman, custom-cutter, insurance salesman, grocer, bartender and more. Locally he had worked at the Havre Safeway, the Chester County Fair the Chester Trading Company, the Shelby Elks Club, the Dunkirk Inn and at one time or another had served as bartender in every saloon in Chester. For the past seven years Dick was employed at the Vets Club in Chester.

Dick's health began failing about three years ago. Although his abdominal problems became severe this past year, he refused surgery. Even through his pain and discomfort, he continued working until 2 1/2 weeks before his death. Dick was recently admitted to the Chester Hospital for treatment of abdominal tumors and peritonitis. He developed blood clots, so was transferred to the Deaconess Hospital in Great Falls. He died there on Sunday evening, May 12. He was 58 years old.

Dick was a member of the Shelby Elks Club, the Chester Jaycees, and the Chester American Legion. He was one of the local veterans who was always willing to serve at burial details and Memorial Day ceremonies. In past years he was a member of the Chester/Rudyard bowling leagues and had participated as a player and umpire in the local softball program. Dick had very strong political and philosophical beliefs and at least one-a-year he wrote a "thought-provoking" letter to the editor to the Great Falls Tribune.

Dick had many hobbies. He enjoyed photography, classical music (and some modern "rock-and-roll" music, too), camping, fishing, gardening and yardwork. He liked guns and explosives (specifically, fireworks), but he was not a hunter. Dick was an excellent cook; some of his specialties included sweet and sour chicken and pork roast. He enjoyed picking berries from which he made delicious jams, toppings and wines. Dick loved all

animals. He secretly fed all of the stray cats in the neighborhood and recently had been nurturing a pet gartersnake (affectionately called "Jake-the-Snake".) Dick was a practical joker and funster. He loved to play and frolic with the grandkids and the oldest grandson called him "Pet Monster". He was a kind-hearted, sentimental man who will be missed by his family and friends.

Survivors include his wife, Bonnie of Chester; four children, Richard Overlie of Taunton, Mass., Ronald Overlie of Tigard, Oregon, Kaloni Taylor of Great Falls and Laura Overlie of Chester; nine grandchildren; his father, Olav Overlie of Chester; two brothers, Paul Overlie of Chester and Eric Overlie of Bozeman; three sisters, Donna Lingle of Shelby, Mary Hendrickson of Arnhem, Holland, and Deborah White of Bozeman; and numerous nephews and nieces. Dick was preceded in death by his mother and a grandson, Eric.

Memorial services were held at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 16 at Our Savior's Lutheran church in Chester with Reverend Tom Dunham officiating. Special readings were by Dick's brother-in-law, Shelby Joel Kelley. Ruth Maatta accompanied her daughter, Lissa who sang "Amazing Grace" and "Prayer".

Honorary bearers were friends in the Chester American Legion and V.F.W. Memorial bearers were special friends including Clay Stephens, Dennis Hanson, Bud Swank, Jim Johnson, Howard Nicholson, Duane Gjesdal, Jim Teske and George Brodeur. A luncheon followed at the church.

Private interment of ashes was completed at the Chester Cemetery prior to services. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. Undesignated memorials will be used by the family for Dick's medical expenses.

ANNA MARY (THEIS) PETERS
born: July 17, 1891 -- died: Dec.22, 1996
age: 105
Liberty County Times
Jan. 1, 1997

Anna Peters

Anna Mary (Theis) Peters, 105, a homesteader and retired homemaker died Sunday, December 22, 1996, in a Shelby Nursing Home of natural causes.

Funeral Mass was held Friday, December 27, 1996 at St. Michael Catholic Church in Conrad. Interment followed in the Mount Olivet Cemetery in Conrad. The Pondera Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Anna was born July 17, 1891 in Western Minnesota near Tintah to Nick and Catherine Thies. She was the sixth of eight children. Her mother died when she was five, killed by a lightning strike. She moved to

Montana in 1911 and proved her homestead in 1912. In June of 1916 she married Charles Peters of Conrad. Anna loved to crochet, embroider, quilt and play cards.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Charles Peters in 1976; two infant children, Mayette and Irene; and three grandsons, Allen Frank, Donald and Gerald Schaefer.

Surviving are six children: Helen Frank of Kalispell; Amelia Schaefer of Chester; Lester "Bud" Peters of Ledger; Agnes Schaefer of Livingston; Rose Pester of Stanford; and Donald Peters of Conrad; 35 grandchildren; 57 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

MERLE WARREN PETERSEN

Born: February 10, 1926 - Died: July 17, 1996

Liberty County Times

July 24, 1996



Merle Petersen

Merle Warren Petersen, age 70, former of the Kremlin-Fresno community collapsed and died while on vacation in Whitelish on Wednesday, July 17.

Merle was born at Conrad on February 10, 1926 to Gust and Winifred Kertscher Petersen. He grew up on the family farm in the East Brady community, received his early education at the South Faris School and attended Brady High School.

He married Pauline Hammermeister on October 22, 1950 at the Presbyterian Church in Conrad. They had four children and farmed in partnership with his younger brother and sister-in-law, Roland and Lucille at the family farm. In 1961, Merle and Pauline purchased a farm in the South Fresno area and continued to live there since that time.

Merle loved his wife, his children and their spouses, and his grandchildren. He loved his farm and the yard, especially the roses in the

flower beds. He loved people; never met a stranger, never met a person he didn't like. He loved telling jokes and making people happy.

Merle worked hard at his farming and his carpentry. After retiring from farming, he built many fine crafted wood cabinets and other furniture. He loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, camping and especially traveling with friends. He enjoyed square dancing as well as the waltz and polka.

Merle was an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Havre, and one of the major organizers of a project to install an elevator for the handicapped.

He was a member of the Cottonwood Farmers Union and Past President of both the Havre and the East Community Locals. He was a past director of the Mustard Board at Conrad and the Farmers Union Oil Station Board at Kremlin. He was instrumental in the formation of the East Kremlin Water Users Association and served as its President for several years.

Merle was a Precinct Committeeman at East Community precinct in Pondera County, and Kremlin Precinct in Hill County. He was a member of the Eagles and the Sons of Norway.

Merle is survived by his wife, Pauline at their family home in the Fresno area, two sons-Rick and his wife Theresa of Havre and Brad of Kalispell and two daughters - Merlene and Roger Zentzis of Inverness and Kara and Willard Vaughn of the Cottonwood Community. Also mourning the loss of their grandfather are Joe and Eric Petersen; Nick Herrig and Melissa, Desiree and Jamee Vaughn. He is

also survived by three sisters-Bernice Nash of Essex, Maxine Perrix of Everett, Washington and Marjorie Baumann of Conrad and brother Bruce of Brady. Preceding him in death were his parents and brothers Russel Stanley and Roland.

A family commitment service was held at the family farm on July 20. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, July 31 at 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 701 4th Avenue in Havre.

The family has requested memorials to be directed to the Montana Heart Association and the Presbyterian Church Elevator Fund.

DELLA MAE (COLE) PIMLEY
born: Jan. 16, 1927 -- died: Oct. 14, 1996
Liberty County Times
Oct. 23, 1996



Della Mae Pimley

Della Mae (Cole) Pimley was born in Havre, Montana on January 16th, 1927. She was the fourth of ten children born to Wilford and Marie (Shinners) Cole. Della grew up in Havre and received her elementary education at St. Jude's Parochial School. After graduating from Havre High School in 1945, she went on to attend Northern Montana College. That same year she worked as a clerk at Clack's Hardware Store in Havre.

Della met her future husband, Orville L. Pimley, and they were married in Havre on November 4th, 1947. After spending their first year of marriage in Mill Valley, California, Orville and Della returned to the Pimley farm north of Joplin where they raised ten children. Orville died on September 6th, 1980. Della remained in the Joplin community until 1985, when she moved to Havre. She lived in Havre from that time on.

In July of 1996 Della was diagnosed with colon cancer. Della's family had been caring for her at her Havre home, where she died peacefully on Monday evening (October 14th, 1996). She was 69 years old.

Della had a strong Christian faith and was active in her church. She had currently been a member of St.

Jude's Catholic Church in Havre and was active in the "Catholic Daughters". While living in Joplin, she was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Inverness.

Della enjoyed traveling, and especially enjoyed the many trips she took with her brothers and sisters to Las Vegas. She loved her family and she spent a lot of time with them, be it shopping, walking, or visiting. Della also enjoyed reading. She was a loving mother who was totally devoted to her family...

Her survivors include four daughters, Linda Fossen of Eugene, Oregon, Mary Ann Moog (and husband, Daren) of Havre, Connie Anderson (and husband Delbert) of Joplin, and Lois Evans (and husband, Larry) of Chester; six sons, Joseph of Joplin, William (and wife, Maureen) of Wichita Falls, Texas, Robert (and wife, Hilda) of Camarillo, California, Dale (and wife, Cindy) of Joplin, Richard of Kent, Washington, and Jerry (and wife, Sharon) of Billings; 28 grandchildren; one great-grandson; five sisters, Thelma McLain of Havre, Dorothy Solomon of Havre, Jean Stengem of Whitefish, Lois Waller of Yakima, Washington, and Ann LaCroix of Billings; four brothers, William Cole of Havre, Richard Cole of Havre, James Cole of Havre and Thomas Cole of Whitefish; and numerous nephews and nieces. Della was preceded in death by her husband and her parents.

A family Rosary service was held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday (Oct. 17th) at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Havre. The Funeral Mass was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Friday at St. Jude's by Father Joseph Marmion of Chester. Iris White served as organist and special vocal music by Marcus Jochim included "Just a Closer Walk with Thee", "Whatsoever You Do", "Be Like the Sun", "The Lord's Prayer", "Be Not Afraid", "On Eagle's Wings", "Song of Farewell", "Amazing Grace", and

"When Irish Eyes are Smiling". There was a piano solo by Jesse Anderson. Pallbearers were Della's sons and honorary bearers were her brothers. Ushers were Lance and Ryan Evans. Mass participants included Della's sister, who placed the Pall; Austin Evans and Eric Moog, who were altar servers; Rikki Evans and Debbie Yocum, who served as readers; Della's daughters and grandchildren presented the Communion Gifts and floral tributes; Mike McLain was Eucharistic Minister; and daughter Linda Fossen was the eulogist. Following the Mass there was a memorial dinner at the Eagles Club in Havre. Graveside services were held at the Joplin Cemetery at 3:00 p.m. Friday. A coffee hour followed at Kjos hall in Joplin. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

ESTELLA JESSE (SKONORD) PIMLEY

Born: March 26, 1900 - Died: December 27, 1996

Liberty County Times

January 8, 1997



Estella J. Pimley

Estella Jesse Pimley was born on March 26th, 1900 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her parents were Lars and Gustava (Johnson) Skonord, and she was one of eight children in the family.

In April of 1914 Estella came to Montana on an emigrant car with her mother and siblings to join her father, who had homesteaded 22 miles north of Joplin.

On March 14th, 1917 Estella married Percy F. Pimley and they lived on a homestead 28 1/2 miles north of town. They later moved to the homestead of Percy's folks (Henry and Lorena Pimley), which was located just a few miles south.

Percy and Estella had 11 children, two of whom died in infancy. They raised seven boys and two girls on their homestead.

They retired in the early 1950's. They spent their winters in Placentia, California. Their summers were spent in Glacier Park and on the farm.

In 1972 they moved to a new home in Joplin built by their sons. Percy died in July of 1976. Estella remained in her Joplin home with her pet dog, "Muffie", her faithful companion and best friend for 15 years. In October of 1996, ill-health took Estella to the

Liberty County Hospital and Nursing Home. She loved her "new home" in Chester with all of the attention and care she received from the special nurses there. On December 26th, 1996 Estella became seriously ill and was transferred to the Benefis East Hospital (Deaconess) in Great Falls, where she passed away late the following evening. She was 96 years old.

Estella was a "homesteading pioneer" who loved God and always read her Daily Christian Devotions before going to bed each night. A game she never grew tired of was "pinochle", and she played it with family and friends whenever she could. In her later years she enjoyed painting pictures and making decorative yarn-covered coat hangers for her family.

Estella loved the farm. She spent a lot of time riding bareback on her horse. She finally had to switch to a buggy, as there were just too many children to ride on the horse with her! And she loved milking cows because it was a special time for her to just sit and relax for a while.

Estella's greatest joy in life was her children, grandchildren, and extended family; a lot of friends and neighbors affectionately called her "Grandma". At her home the coffee pot was always on for the many visitors who stopped to see her. It was impossible for her to find "bad" in anyone, as she always looked at the positive side of people. She was a very gracious lady who always accepted the world changes with a smile and a good word for everyone.

Estella is survived by seven children and their spouses, including five sons, Anson of Joplin, Vern (and Loreene) of Joplin, Francis "Ike" (and Maddy) of Manchester, New Hampshire, Percy "Tiny" (and Helen) of Minden, Nevada, and Donald "Gumbo" (and Priscilla) of Joplin; and two daughters, Viola (and Ron) Ness of Hingham and Joyce (and Ernest) Easton of Conrad. She's also survived by 44

grandchildren, 99 great-grandchildren (with two more on the way!), and seven great-great-grandchildren; two brothers, Hjalmar (and Pat) Skonord of Mt. Vernon, Washington and Palmer (and Beth) Skonord of Chester; one sister, Alma (and Lloyd) Hadford of Joplin; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Estella was preceded in death not only by her husband and parents, but also by several children (including Orville and Della Pimley, Jesse and Joan Pimley, and Ike's first wife, Gerie Pimley), two grandchildren, and four siblings (including Trygg Skonord, Ellen Zorn and an infant brother and sister).

Funeral services were 2:00 p.m. Thursday (Jan. 2nd) at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin with Reverend Bart Coleman officiating. A special message was sent by Pastor Cousino, who was out-of-town at the time. Granddaughter, Linda Fossen, shared a eulogy. Iris White served as pianist. Judy Lake sang "We Have This Moment Today". Jerome Lincoln sang "Beyond the Sunset" and "The Old Rugged Cross". A taped song by Cristi Lane, "One Day At A Time", was played. Grandsons serving as pallbearers included Russ, Jim, Dale, Richard and Jeff Pimley and Loren Carlson. Ushers were great-grandsons, Adam Pimley and Phil Hochberger. Burial was at the Joplin Cemetery. A coffee hour followed at Kjos Hall. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

CECELIA JOANNE (DOLEZAL) ROCKMAN

Born: July 21, 1917 - Died: October 21, 1996

Liberty County Times

October 30, 1996



Cecilia Rockman

Cecilia J. Rockman, age 79 passed away on Monday (October 21st, 1996) at the Deaconess Medical Center in Billings.

Cecilia Joanne Dolezal was born north of Chester on July 21st, 1917. She was one of nine children born to Frank and Mary (Kodot) Dolezal. She grew up in the Chester area and attended high school at Sacred Heart Academy in Missoula.

On October 9th, 1934 Celia married Harry D. Rockman at Shelby. They farmed northwest of Chester for several years, then moved to Bainbridge Island, Washington where Harry worked as an electrician in the shipyards during World War II. After the war, they returned to Montana. Harry established himself in the electrical and construction trades, and they operated the Telephone exchange in Rudyard for several years.

After living in Superior, they made their home in the Flathead Valley from 1965 to 1977, where Harry retired from Plum Creek Mills. At that time they moved to Three Forks. After 45 years of married life, her husband passed away in 1979. Celia remained in Three Forks until 1992, then moved to Billings to live with a daughter, Bernadette.

Celia had a heart condition, so she became active in the Deaconess Rehabilitation Program. The rehab program became an important part of her life. She dearly looked forward to seeing her friends there and sharing that time together.

Cecelia, a true homemaker, enjoyed staying at home with her family. She loved to bake, was an avid reader, and was an expert needleworker. Her greatest asset was the love she had for her family and friends. She will always be remembered for the way she loved life, her wonderful sense of humor, her gracious ways, and her unforgettable laugh and everlasting smile. Celia was a true gift from God; unforgettable laugh and everlasting smile. Celia was a true gift from God; she touched the lives and hearts of many and her memories will live forever.

God saw she was getting tired - And a cure was not to be,

So He put His arms around her and whispered, "Come with Me".

With tearful eyes we watched her suffer, and saw her fade away.

Although we loved her dearly, We could not make her stay.

A golden heart stopped beating; Hard working hands at rest.

God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best...

God did take the best, our hearts are broken, and we truly loved our mother and grandma.

Celia is survived by three daughters, Jeannette Janicke (and husband Wayne) of Libby, Claudette Klein (and husband Norman) of Centralla, Washington, and Bernadette Rockman of Billings; on son, Eugene Rockman (and wife Sheila) of Billings; ten grandchildren, including Cary Janicke, Rory Janicke, Justin Janicke, Kelly Lascano, Kimberly Linegren, Cheryl Pipper, Shelly Watson, Shane Klein, Jocelyn Rockman and Chad Rockman; 18 great-grandchildren; one brother, Ben Dolezal of Billings; and numerous

nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, by four sisters (Mary Miller, Sister Mary Francine, Beatrice Oswood and Lillian Serbus), and by three brothers (Frank, Henry and Johnny Dolezal).

Vigil Prayers were recited by Father Nathaniel Bourke at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Billings.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated by Father Joseph Marmion at 2:30 p.m. Friday (Oct. 25th) at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester. Iris White served as organist. Vocalist, Sharon Jensen, performed "Father of Peace", "The Lord's Prayer", "On Eagle's Wings", and "The Green, Green Grass of Home". Readings were one by granddaughters. Pallbearers included Chad Rockman, Norman Klein, David Sauvegeau, Rlynn Rockman, B.J. Oswood and Tyrone Rockman. Burial was in the family plot at the Chester Cemetery. A coffee hour followed at the church. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral chapel.

Memorials will be given to the Cardiac Rehab program at Deaconess Medical Center in Billings.

MAYNIE M. RODEBERG
born: Mar. 26, 1905 -- died: Jun. 1, 1996
Liberty County Times
June 19, 1996

Maynie Rodeberg

Maynie M. Rodeberg, 91, of Mesa, Arizona formerly of Bozeman, died June 1, 1996 of natural causes.

She was born March 26, 1905 in West Lima, Wisconsin. She came to Montana and taught school in Chester.

Maynie married Hubert E. "Rody" Rodeberg in 1933 and moved to Bozeman where she worked for AT&T Co. until her retirement. She was active in Eastern Star and D.A.K. organizations. They moved to Mesa, Arizona in 1970. She is survived by a niece, Sharen Robertson.

LEO J. SCHAEFER
Born: November 26, 1921 - Died: January 13, 1996
Liberty County Times
January 24, 1996

Leo J. Schaefer

Leo J. Schaefer, 74, of Livingston died early Saturday afternoon, January 13, 1996 at Livingston Memorial Hospital. Vigil was at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 16, and Mass of Christian Burial was at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 17, both at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Rev. Dale Yurkovic acted as celebrant. Vocalist was Bill Lane and accompanist was Jody Albrecht. Casket bearers included sons Michel, Vincent, Roman, Leo, Raymond, Stanley and Neal Schaefer. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery at Livingston with military honors by members of Park Post #23, American Legion and Sergeant Tommy Ray Post #2154, V.F.W. at graveside. Franzen-Davis-Beebe Mortuary was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Schaefer was born November 26, 1921 in Nicollet, Minnesota, the son of Leo N. and Amelia Schaefer. He attended schools in Nicollet and in 1942 he entered the U.S. Army and served with the 42nd Rainbow Division in Europe during WWII. While in the army, he was decorated with the Bronze Star. He moved to Montana, following his discharge in 1946. On March 26, 1947 he married Agnes M. Peters in Hingham. Mr. Schaefer owned and operated the Gambles Store in Rudyard for 15 years. In 1964 they moved to Livingston, where he opened and operated Western Auto Store. The store closed in 1983. A short time later, he opened Western Cycle and handled bicycle sales, maintenance and repair until the time of his death.

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and was a Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus. He also was a member of the American Legion and V.F.W. Mr. Schaefer always enjoyed a lively conversation about religion or politics.

Survivors include his wife Agnes of Livingston; seven sons, Michel of Newport Beach, California, Raymond of Plano, Texas, Neal of Kent, Washington, Leo of Portland, Oregon, Stanley of Columbia Falls and Roman and Vince, both of Livingston; four daughters, Rose Mary Jones of Brunswick, Georgia, Leona Hovan of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Beverly DiRe of Spokane, Washington and Margaret Schaefer of Eugene, Oregon; four brothers, Fr. Roman Schaefer of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Henry Schaefer of New Ulm, Minnesota, James Schaefer of Nicollet, Minnesota and Lawrence Schaefer of Chester; four sisters, Sr. Sharon Schaefer of Cairo, Illinois, Esther Koss of Hopkins, Minnesota, Amelia Luepke and Aurelia Boettger, both of New Ulm, Minnesota; 13 grandchildren; one great-grandchild and numerous nieces and nephews.

RUTH E. SEIDLITZ
born: May 10, 1900 — died: Mar. 28, 1996
Liberty County Times
Apr. 17, 1996

Ruth E. Seidlitz

Ruth Seidlitz, a homemaker most of her life and a resident of Portland, Oregon for eight years, died March 28, 1996, at the age of 95.

A funeral was held Tuesday, April 2, in Lincoln Memorial Park Funeral Home in Portland.

Mrs. Seidlitz was born May 10, 1900, in Chicago. Her maiden name was Brownlee. As a young girl, she moved with her family to California. She attended school in King City, California.

Survivors include her sons, Edward of Salinas, California, and John of Mariposa, California; daughter, Laura Melius, Portland; brothers, Edgar Brownlee, Sacramento and Harry Brownlee, South Africa; sister, Barbara Hazelaar Salinas and Elsie Quentel Lacey, Washington; ten grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Burial was in Lincoln Memorial Park in Portland.

Friends and family are reminded of the memorial service for Ruth Seidlitz, formerly of Chester, at the R.N.A. Hall Friday, April 19 at 1:30.

VIOLET (WHITE) SMITH
born: July 24, 1906 -- died: Oct.3, 1996
Liberty County Times
Oct. 9, 1996

Violet Smith

Violet Smith, age 90 of Superior, Iowa died October 3 at Rosewood Manor Care Center, Estherville, Iowa.

Funeral services were held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church on Monday, October 7 at 10:30 a.m. Father Tom Nash presided and burial was at St. Patrick's Cemetery at Estherville. Visitation was from 4-8 p.m. Sunday at the Henry-Olson-Fuhrman Funeral Home in Estherville. Special Services were at 4:30 p.m. Rosary and 7 p.m. Parish Vigil Service on Sunday, October 6 at the Henry-Olson-Fuhrman Funeral Home-Estherville.

Smith was born July 24, 1906 in Flaxton, North Dakota to Alphonse J. White and Rose Agnes Mader.

She married George E. Smith on May 23, 1946 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church at Inverness. Smith received

her education in Inverness where she graduated from high school. She then attended Teacher's College in Dillon, Montana.

She taught in several schools in Montana. After her marriage the couple moved to the Superior, Iowa area. The couple farmed until retirement. Mr. Smith died November 1, 1981. Vi has been a resident of Rosewood Manor Care Center since July of 1996. She was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church since 1946, Altar and Rosary Society, Catholic Daughters of America, St. Monica's Circle, Superior Farm Womens Study Club, Superior Happy Hour Club, Superior 500 Card Club and Superior Senior Citizens.

She enjoyed handywork, knitting, crocheting and reading.

She was preceded in death by parents, husband, two brothers, William and Herbert White, and three sisters, Irene Moog, Helen Seidlitz and Margaret Whitee.

Survivors include son Art Smith (wife Vicki of rural Estherville, Iowa), granddaughter Kasey Smith,

Estherville; Special nephew, Robert White, Superior, Iowa, also by many nieces, nephews and several cousins.

JANELLE R. SOLLE

Born: April 8, 1966 - Died: January 22, 1996

Liberty County Times & Billings Gazette

January 24, 1996 & January 23, 1996

Janelle R. Solle

DEER LODGE — Janelle R. Solle, 29, died at her home in Deer Lodge, Monday, Jan. 22, 1996.

She was born April 8, 1966, in Terry to Bert and Diana Solle. At an early age the family moved to Deer Lodge where she graduated from Powell County High School. She attended Montana State University in Bozeman for two years and graduated from the University of New Haven, Conn., with a B.S. in general nutrition. She held internships at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., and Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas, where she became a registered dietitian.

Ms. Solle returned to Deer Lodge and was the administrative dietitian for the Montana State Hospitals.

Through her company, "The Only Weigh," she was able to provide dietetic counseling to many people.

She also owned and operated Incredible Edibles, a catering business.

Due to ill health she had to relinquish her career and business.

She was the founder of the Diabetic Gastroparesis Communication Network. She was a member of the American Diabetes Association, American Dietitians Association, Order of the Eastern Star, Floral Chapter 46 and the Deer Lodge Golf Club.

Survivors include her parents, Bert and Diana Solle of Deer Lodge; her great-grandmother, Frances Brown, grandparents Max and Sue Brown, all of Chester, Mont., and one sister, Tanya Campbell of Kalispell.

Cremation has taken place.

Memorial services will be Thursday 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Deva Tetrault officiating.

Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church or Powell County Memorial Hospital.

Jewell Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Janelle Solle

Janelle Renee Solle, 29, a registered dietitian, died at her home in Deer Lodge, January 22 of complications from diabetes.

Janelle was born April 8, 1966 in Terry and moved with her family in 1970 to Deer Lodge, where she graduated from Powell County High School in 1984. She attended Montana State University in Bozeman for two years and graduated from the University of New Haven in Connecticut in 1989 with a B.S. in General Nutrition. She held internships at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, the University of Missouri in Columbia and Baylor Hospital in Dallas, where she became a registered dietitian.

She returned to Deer Lodge and was the Administrative Dietitian for the Montana State Hospitals. Through her company "The Only Weigh", she was able to provide dietetic counseling to many people. She also owned and operated "Incredible Edibles", a catering business. Due to health complications, she had to relinquish her career and business.

Janelle was the founder of the Diabetic Gastroparesis Communication

Network, and a member of the American Diabetes Association, the American Dietetic Association, the Order of Eastern Star (Floral Chapter #46) and the Deer Lodge Golf Club.

Survivors include Janelle's parents, Bert and Diana Solle, Deer Lodge; sister and brother-in-law Chris and Tanya Campbell, niece Dakota Maree, nephew Ryley Christopher, Kalispell; great-grandmother Frances Brown of Chester; her grandparents, Max and Sue Brown of Chester; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial services will be held Thursday, January 25 at 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Deer Lodge, with the Reverend Deva Tetrault officiating.

Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, Powell County Memorial Hospital or any charity of choice.

Jewell Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

MABEL (EDMISTER) STANDIFORD
born: 1909 -- died: Nov. 21, 1996
Liberty County Times
Nov. 27, 1996

Mabel Standiford

Mabel (Edmister) Standiford, age 87, died Thursday evening (Nov. 21st, 1996) at the Deaconess Medical Center in Great Falls following surgery.

It was her request to be cremated with no services. Arrangements are by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

Mabel's survivors are four daughters and spouses, including Alta and One

Tucker, Donna and Carl Nelson, Muriel and Lyle Steever, and Marion and Frank Wanken; one sister, Dorothy Violett; 13 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

RUTH GUY STEINBACHER
born: Feb. 11, 1930 -- died: Nov. 8, 1996
Liberty County Times
Nov. 13, 1996

**Ruth G.
Steinbacher**

Ruth Guy Steinbacher, 66, of Fort Benton died Friday, November 8, 1996 at Benefis (formerly Columbus) Hospital in Great Falls after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Ruth was born to Fred and Katherine Guy on February 11, 1930 in Big Horn, MT. She began school in Joplin and graduated from Fort Benton High School, thereafter working for the H.F. Miller Law Office in Fort Benton and Dunn and Bradstreet in Billings.

On April 7, 1951 Ruth married Leonard Steinbacher in Columbus, MT. The couple moved to Montague in 1953 and lived there until the time of her death. This year Leonard and Ruth celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary.

Ruth's greatest joy was her family, which includes her husband, two sons, six daughters and 18 grandchildren. She was an avid collector of cookbooks, and enjoyed working puzzles, crocheting, reading and motorhome traveling. Ruth was a life member of both the Ex-Prisoner Of War Organization and the VFW Auxiliary.

Ruth is survived by her husband,

Leonard Steinbacher, of Montague, their daughters, Diane Gowin of Billings, Patricia Donovan of Superior, Rita Kreuger of Billings, Cristine Steinbacher of Shelby, Shirley Hemmer of Federal Way, WA and Tracy Steinbacher of Fort Benton, and their sons, Fred Steinbacher of Billings, and Richard Steinbacher of Galata. She is also survived by her brothers, Ralph Guy of Joliet and Al Guy of Billings and sisters, Shirlee Sweeney of Spokane, WA and Andrea Braun of Huntley. She was preceded in death by her parents.

The Rosary was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 10th at The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Fort Benton. Mass of the Resurrection was at 11:00 am on Monday, November 11th, with the interment of ashes at Riverview Cemetery immediately following. Benton Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Leonard and Ruth were grateful for the use of the Gift of Life facilities at the Columbus Hospital during Ruth's long illness. Therefore, the family requests that memorials in Ruth's name be sent to the Montana Gift of Life Foundation, P.O. Box 5013, Great Falls, MT 59403, to benefit the Gift of Life Housing Complex.

CHARLES DALLAS (BUD) SWANK
born: Aug. 2, 1922 -- died: Oct. 21, 1996
Liberty County Times
Oct. 30, 1996



Bud Swank

Charles Dallas ("Bud") Swank was born at a family homestead near Chester, Montana on August 2nd, 1922. He was the 10th of 15 children born to Charles and Rose (Wyman) Swank. Bud grew up and spent all of his life in Chester. He attended grade school here, then helped at the family farm and dairy. He was a hard worker and was always willing to lend a helping hand whenever he could.

Bud began riding bike in the 1960's. Every day, no matter the weather conditions, Bud rode his bike around town. He always stopped at his favorite businesses and restaurants to visit friends and to find out what was happening. He always had gum and candy for the local kids and his special "girlfriends" around Chester.

In 1983 and 1984 Bud participated in the Special Olympics and was very proud of several medals he won.

Bud was an honorary member of the Chester Lions Club and the Liberty Leaners Horseshoe Club. He was a considerate, law-abiding citizen and was proud to be an honorary sheriff's deputy. He also attended monthly meetings and functions of the local volunteer ambulance and fire department. He enjoyed fishing trips with the guys and he seldom missed any school ballgames. In later years he enjoyed being with the boys at the Vets Club and the Grand

Bud attended most every funeral in Chester. He would sit in the back of the church so he could get out early, then hurry to the railroad crossing to stand watch for trains so that the funeral procession could pass safely.

Bud loved to dance and he loved to tell stories. Highlights of his life included a trip to the Seattle World's Fair and another trip to Alaska and Washington.

Bud didn't have a bad bone in his body. He wasn't a drinker or a smoker, but he did enjoy his "skoal" and also enjoyed good food. His personal trademark was a cowboy hat with a lot of souvenir pins on it. And he always had a small American flag attached to his bicycle. He was a unique personality in Chester. He wasn't known as a farmer or a mechanic or a carpenter; he was known simply and affectionately as "Bud".

Bud has been a resident of the Sweetgrass Lodge since 1985. He died peacefully in his sleep at his apartment on the early morning of Monday (October 21st, 1996). He was 74 years old.

Bud is survived by two brothers, John and Edward Swank, both of Chester; one sister, Grace Anderson of Vancouver, Washington, and

Chester; one sister, Grace Anderson of Vancouver, Washington; and numerous nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents, by six brothers (Leon, DeVoe, Donald "Casey", Russell, Irvin and Emanuel "Tuffy"), and by five sisters (Mildred, Maude, Ruth, Edith and Lorene).

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday (Oct. 24th) at the Chester United Methodist Church with Reverend Lyndon Kacick officiating. Scripture readings were by Sue Sargent. Iris White played the organ and the congregation sang "The Old Rugged Cross" and "On Eagle's Wings". Ty Rockman served as usher and the pallbearers were Dennis Hanson, Glen Peterson, Charley Frey, Jim Sargent, Ray Zorn and Bob Aitken. Memorial bearers were listed as "all of Bud's many friends". Following graveside services at the Chester Cemetery, a coffee hour was held at the church. As the funeral procession crossed the tracks en route to the cemetery, Bud's beloved bike was there as sole sentry. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel.



RUTH MELODY TAYLOR
Born: December 14, 1954 - Died: April 3, 1996
Liberty County Times
April 10, 1996

Former Chester resident murdered in Eugene, Oregon

The victim in a fatal shooting Wednesday night in east Eugene, Oregon has been identified as Ruth Melody (Haag) Taylor, 41, who worked half-time as a management assistant in academic affairs at the University of Oregon.

Taylor, who graduated with a master's degree in marriage and family counseling in June 1995, had worked at the UO for 16 years in jobs ranging from biology department secretary to administrative assistant in the president's office.

In the early 70s, she lived at Lothair,

Montana with her parents and family.

Eugene police said the victim's husband, Michael Ray Taylor, 43, phoned them at 9:13 p.m. Wednesday to report that he had found his wife's body in the couple's home at 1840 August St., in the Laurel Hill neighborhood.

No suspects had been identified in the shooting as of Thursday night, police spokesman Brian Terrett said.

Terrett said Michael Taylor was not in custody and was not being named as a suspect in the shooting.

Investigators were not releasing any further information about the crime or about statements given to them by Michael Taylor.

On Thursday, red and yellow police tape encircled the couple's home as police investigators meticulously searched the house, swept the yard with metal detectors and scoured the neighborhood looking for evidence.

Meanwhile, Ruth Taylor's death shocked those who knew her.

Shannon Pool, who met Taylor in 1993 when the two entered a graduate counseling program at Northwest Christian College in Eugene, recalled Taylor as being "calm, centered, not a type-A personality," who loved cats and crafted detailed miniature objects from bread dough and gave them to her friends as gifts.

"She did counseling work with all kinds of people," Pool said. "She was interested in people from different cultures and how they handle their relationships. She wanted that to be her speciality.

Her death has been ruled a homicide.

Ruth Taylor

Ruth Melody Taylor of Eugene, Oregon died on April 3 at her east Eugene residence at the age of 41. Ruth was born on December 14, 1954 at Conrad to parents Marvin and Bertha Haag. She graduated from West Yellowstone High School in the class of 1973 in Montana.

She attended Fresno Pacific College and then attended Northwest Christian College and obtained her masters degree in Marriage and Family counseling. Ruth was united in marriage to Michael Taylor on September 21, 1991 in Eugene and they have made their home in Eugene. She enjoyed singing, sewing and sculpturing. She loved cats and people. She was active in her church, Harvest Community Church. Ruth had worked for the University of Oregon in the Provost office at Johnson Hall for the past 12 years.

She is survived by her husband, Michael; her mother, Bertha Haag of Longview, Washington; brothers, Steven Haag and his wife, Susan of Whitewater, Montana; Samuel Haag of Longview, Washington and Dan Haag and his wife Cathy of Helena; sisters, Katherine Haag of Watertown, Massachusetts; Mary Haag of Phnom Penh, Cambodia as well as numerous nieces and nephew and cousins. She was preceded in death by her father Marvin in 1976. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, April 9 at 2 p.m. at Emerald Bible Fellowship with concluding rites and interment at Oak Hill Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Overseas Missionary Fellowship International. Major Frederickson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

THOMAS E. (BUD) TONER
born: Sept. 13, 1920 -- died: Sept 27, 1996
Liberty County Times
Oct. 2, 1996



Thomas Toner

Thomas E. "Bud" Toner was born on September 13th, 1920 at Graceville, Minnesota. He was one of three sons born to James and Christine (Luken) Toner. Bud received his formal education in Minnesota.

At age 17 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Following his honorable discharge, he came to Montana to live and work for his uncle (Hank Luken) on a farm south of Rudyard.

At the outbreak of World War II, Bud was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Corps. He received a medical discharge and returned to Rudyard. In addition to farming, he managed the V.F.W. club in Rudyard.

On June 22nd, 1948 Bud married Virginia A. (Ludwig) Fried in Hingham. They made their home in Gildford where Bud farmed and operated "Toner's Garage" until his retirement in the mid-1980's.

Bud's health had been relatively good over the years. On this past Thursday evening he became ill at home and was admitted to the Liberty County Hospital in Chester. He died there on the early morning of Friday (September 27th, 1996). He was 76 years old.

Bud had been active in the Hi-line community over the years. He had served in various organizations, most notably the Gildford Fire Department, Hill County Water Board, Gildford School Board, and the American Legion and V.F.W. groups. He was a member of Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Hingham.

He was essentially a self-educated man. He loved to read, and what he read he retained. He was musically inclined; he played the harmonica and enjoyed singing. In his earlier years he sang at many local weddings and funerals.

Bud's hobbies throughout the years included boating, skiing, hunting, and fishing. He enjoyed playing cards (especially poker and cribbage). Probably his greatest enjoyment was tinkering in his repair shop or helping his son, Dave, with the farming operations.

Bud is survived by his wife, Virginia of Gildford; 3 sons, Jerry and wife Anna of Gildford, Dave and wife Angie of Gildford, and Tom of Victor; 1 daughter, Mary Lou Dees and husband Chuck of Kremlin; 3 step-children, Lynn Heydon and husband Jim of Missoula, Jack Fried and wife Mary Neil of Denver, and Janice Funk and husband Gene of Seattle; 1 brother, Robert "Bob" Toner and wife

June of Rudyard; 19 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces. Bud was preceded in death by his parents, a son (William) and a brother (James).

Vigil Prayers were recited by Father Joseph Marmion at 7:00 p.m. Sunday at Our Lady of Ransom Church in Hingham.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated by Father Joe at 10:30 a.m. Monday (Sept. 30th) at the church. His White served as organist and Bud's son, Jerry, sang "The Lord's Prayer" and "Ave Maria". A vocal trio of Lynn Heydon, Scott Dees, and Jerry Toner performed "On Eagle's Wings". Servers were Kayla Matkin and Dan

Mikulecky. Lectors were Christopher Klobofski and Ashley Toner. The communion gifts were presented by grandkids Abbie, Casie, Jordan and Shane Toner. Dan Hybner served as Eucharistic Minister and Pat Ludwig was eulogist. Pallbearers included Bob Toner, Jr., Robin Toner, Richard Little, Joe Little, Pat Carr, and Jim Carr. Ushers were Brian May and Kent Matkin. A luncheon followed the Mass.

Graveside services were 1:30 p.m. Monday at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. Military rites were provided by members of the Havre V.F.W. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

GORDON RAYMOND TWEDT
born: Aug. 18, 1918 -- died: Mar. 31, 1996
Liberty County Times
Apr. 17, 1996

Gordon Twedt

Gordon Raymond Twedt was born August 18, 1918 at his mother's homestead on Black Coulee south of Rudyard. He started school in Hingham where his folks farmed, but they moved that year to the Cloverleaf Farm, south of Rudyard so he finished grade school in the country school known as the Een School. He attended High School in Hingham, working part time for his room and board at the Hingham Hotel, graduating in 1936.

Gordon completed a short course in agriculture at Montana State University and continued to farm with his father. He worked for National Youth Association and helped clean Fort Assiniboine, near Havre, to make it usable for Farmers Union Camps, etc. He attended Farmers Union Institutes and worked as handyman at many camps. In 1940 he worked as an organizer for Farmers Union, mostly in the Yellowstone Valley.

In 1942 he enlisted in the Coast Guard and served on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. He lowered the flag at the ceremony when President Roosevelt commissioned a ship to the Norwegian government.

Lorine Johnson and Gordon were married on July 16, 1944 in Belt, Montana. They lived in Anacortes, Washington until WWII ended and he was discharged in 1945. He worked a short time at the Smelter in Great Falls until they bought the farm at Rudyard in 1946. That fall and early spring of 1947 they went back and worked in Mount Vernon, Washington.

While on the farm he was active in all community activities. He guided

Farmers Union bus tours in Washington, DC, and was able to attend the inauguration of President Truman. Gordon represented Hill County in the Montana Legislature for four terms serving as speaker pro-tem for one term and minority floor leader for one term.

They moved to Great Falls in 1968 when Gordon became president of the Montana Farmers Union. He worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Peru in 1963 and served on the Rural Area Development Committee and Rudyard School Board. He served on the MSU Advisory Council since 1947. While his sons were growing up, he coached and promoted Little League baseball on the Hi-Line.

He bought the Mid-Town Motel and Smitty's Pancake House in Great Falls in 1970. He was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church and the Great Falls Elks Lodge.

Gordon and Lorine have spent winters in Arizona since retiring in 1983.

Gordon died Sunday, March 31, 1996 at Great Falls, Montana. Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 3 at 2:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Great Falls. The Rev. Jerry Ebbinga officiated. Organist was Carol Fitzpatrick and soloist, Beth Nicholls, sang "How Great Thou Art" and "Swing Low Sweet Chariot". Pallbearers included John Carlson, Lowell Twedt, Randy Twedt, Ken Twedt, Ralph Sylte and William Bandel. Burial was in the Highland Cemetery in Great Falls. Following interment, refreshments were served at Lunde Hall where a video covering Gordon's life was shown.

Survivors include his wife of Great Falls; sons James and William, Great Falls and Russell, Rudyard; brothers Harold and Allen, Rudyard; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Donald.

TED L. UNDERDAL
Born: April 24, 1924 - Died: July 3, 1996
Liberty County Times
July 10, 1996

Ted Underdal

Ted L. Underdal, 72, long time Ledger area farmer, passed away Wednesday (July 3rd) due to a farming accident.

He was born April 24th, 1924, in Portland, Oregon. He came to Montana as a child, and graduated from Shelby High School in 1942. He farmed with his father and brother for many years. He married Donna Gaarder on June 10th, 1961 in Great Falls.

He was a past president of the St. Olaf Lutheran Church board, a master electrician, and director on the Tiber Water Board for 22 years. He was also the Toole County Committee man for the Republican Party, the precinct committee man, and a member of the Elk's Club. He served on the agriculture advisory committee for the department of revenue, was the county committee man for the ASCS office, served on the Toole County Soil and Water Conservation District, and was a Toole County Sportmans Committee Assoc. member.

His hobbies were woodworking and his grandchildren.

Ted lived his life as a generous helper to others. He was admired by

all who knew him.

Survivors include his wife Donna of Ledger; a son, Mark Underdal of Sherwood, Oregon; daughters Jan Fisher of Great Falls; and Renee Ramirez of Salt Lake City; his sisters Jeannette Underdal of Great Falls, Inez Gaarder of Fairfield and Thelma Johnson of Tacoma, Washington; and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by an infant son, his parents, brother Selmer Underdal, and sister Borghild Underdal.

A memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. Monday (July 8th) at the Pondera Valley Lutheran Church in Conrad with burial in the St. Olaf Cemetery. Whitted Funeral Chapel of Shelby was in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of material remembrances, the family requests memorials go to KXET Christian Radio Station in Havre, the Billy Graham Crusade, or the food pantry of the donor's choice.

WILLIS H. VIOLETT
Born: December 23, 1908 - Died: September 6, 1996
Liberty County Times
September 11, 1996

Willis Violet

Willis H. Violet was born at New Rockford, North Dakota on December 23, 1908. He was one of four children born to Lee and Leone (Marson) Violet.

In 1910 the Violet family came to Montana and homesteaded near Lothair. Willis grew up there and farmed on the family homestead all of his adult years. He married Dorothy Edmister on February 4, 1938 at San Jose, California. They retired in 1968.

For the past 10 years they have lived at the Townhouse Apartments in Shelby. Willis' health failed recently, so he transferred to the Toole County Nursing Home. He died peacefully there on the evening of Friday, September 6, 1996. Willis was 87 years old.

Survivors include his wife Dorothy of Shelby; three children, Billie Lee Violette of San Francisco, Richard H. Violet of San Francisco, and David H. Violet of Dallas, Texas; one brother, Archie Violet of Lothair; two sisters, Jessie Lee Lasich of Dillon and Nellie Dornbos of Sheridan; and

numerous nephews and nieces. Willis was preceded in death by his parents.

Private family graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday September 10 at the Lothair Cemetery. Graveside prayers were by Pastor Lyndon Kacick of Chester. A luncheon followed at the Chester United Methodist Church. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

ROBERT HENRY VOISE
born: Oct. 14, 1929 -- died: Apr. 3, 1996
Liberty County Times
Apr. 10, 1996

Robert Voise

Robert Henry Voise was born at Havre on October 14, 1929. He was the only child born to Henry and Elizabeth (Peppersack) Voise. Bob grew up in Havre and received his formal education at St. Jude's Catholic School. At age 16 he began working in the grocery business; he worked at several good stores in Havre.

In 1951 Robert married Marjorie Gardipee. They spent most of their 15 years of married life in the Chinook area, where Bob worked for various farmers. The marriage ended in divorce.

Robert married Mary E. Aldrich in Lewistown on November 9, 1966. They lived in several Hi-Line communities where Bob continued working as a farm laborer. They came to Chester in 1975 and he began working as a mechanic at Chester Implement. In 1983 he aggravated a back injury that he had received in Poplar years before, so he began receiving disability. Bob, Mary and their two daughters have been Chester residents since.

In October of 1995 Bob's health began to fail, so he moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home. He had several bouts of pneumonia with complications, so he transferred to the Liberty County Hospital on March 29th. Bob died there on the evening of Wednesday, April 3, 1996 at the age of 66 years.

Bob's hobbies included vegetable gardening, yardwork, fishing and tinkering with small engines. He loved to cook and his favorite meal was "cheese dumplings". In his younger years he enjoyed dancing and playing cards (especially pinochle). He loved to read and had a large collection of Louis L'Amour westerns. Bob enjoyed family shows on television, like "The Waltons" and "Little House on the Prairie". He was fond of animals and enjoyed playing practical jokes on his family and friends.

Robert is survived by his wife, Mary of Chester; three sons, Robert of

Dodson, Duane of Pablo, and Richard of Cut Bank; seven daughters, Beverly Brown of Harlem, Janet Voise of St. Ignatius, Kathy Krsul of Lincoln, Nebraska, Cheryl Hitchcock of Cut Bank, Sandy Whitacre of Reid Springs, Missouri, Tracy Voise of Conrad and Jody Ross of Chester; 19 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild (a second great-grandchild is due in May). Bob was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter Diane and a granddaughter Angel.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Monday, April 8 at the Rockman Funeral Chapel with Reverend Edroy "Curt" Curtis officiating. Iris White played the organ and the congregation sang "In the Garden" and "The Old Rugged Cross". Pallbearers were Duane and Richard Voise, Mark and Scott Ross, Roy Young and Bob Aitken. Honorary bearers were Ben Hofer, Boomer Hofer and John Kleinsasser. Interment was in the Chester Cemetery. A luncheon for family and friends was held at the Assembly of God Church. Memorials can be directed to the Voise family in Chester.

LORRAINE DORIS (JACOBSEN) WALLER
Born: June 25, 1924 - Died: June 30, 1996
Liberty County Times
July 3, 1996

Lorraine Waller

Lorraine Doris (Jacobsen) Waller was born on the family farm near Homestead, Montana on June 25th, 1924. She was one of three children born to Albert and Mabel (Johnson) Jacobsen. Lorraine received her elementary education at Homestead and graduated from Medicine Lake High School in 1942. In the few years that followed, she worked in the general store and post office at Homestead.

On November 10th, 1946 she married Alton W. Waller at Homestead. They farmed in the community. Lorraine worked as a homemaker and mother. When her three children started school, she took a job at the Farmer's Co-op Store in Medicine Lake.

After her children grew up, Lorraine began commuting to Plentywood, where she and her mother worked together at the Pioneer Manor nursing home. Her mother eventually became a resident at the manor, and Lorraine was happy to continue her work there and assist with her mother's care.

In 1984, Alton's health began to fail, so they moved to Livingston to be near their daughter's family. Alton died in 1985.

Lorraine came to Chester in 1989 with her daughter, whose husband served as postmaster here. Lorraine moved into the Sweetgrass lodge, and has lived there since. When her daughter moved to Arizona a few years ago, Lorraine decided to stay in Chester because of the close friendships she had made at the lodge.

Her health had been relatively good over the years, although she did have emphysema. She was recently admitted to the Chester hospital, then transferred to the Northern Montana Hospital in Havre for additional tests. She died there on the early morning of Sunday, June 30th, 1996. She had just celebrated her 72nd birthday the previous week.

Lorraine had been a long time member of the VFW Auxiliary in Medicine Lake. She had been active a long time in the Lutheran Churches at Homestead, Medicine Lake, and Chester. In addition, she served as a Cub Scout den mother for many years.

She enjoyed canning, cooking and baking. Her children have fond memories of her delicious homemade buns and cinnamon rolls. In her younger years, Lorraine was an avid bowler. She and Alton loved to go square-dancing. In her quiet hours, she enjoyed crocheting, and made many crocheted dolls.

Lorraine's hobbies at the Sweetgrass Lodge included playing cards and Bingo. She had been a member of the Kitchen Band and recently worked on the bulletin board at the lodge.

Lorraine is survived by her three children, including her son Alan Waller and his wife, Marilyn, of Minot, North Dakota and her twins, son Ray Waller and his wife, Johnnie of Shelby, and daughter Kay Hodge and her husband, Glenn of Gilbert, Arizona, her eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two brothers, Roy Jacobsen of Great Falls and Everett Jacobsen of Shelby, and numerous nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and granddaughter, Shilo Rae.

FRANKLIN DEE WARNES
Age: 63 -- died: April 4, 1996
Liberty County Times
May 15 - 1996

Franklin Warnes

Franklin Dee Warnes died April 4 in Eureka, California following surgery at age 63. He was a resident of Eureka.

Dee was born in Chester, Montana, one of nine children and served in the U.S. Air Force in England during the Korean War. He called Eureka his home for the past 22 years, serving as manager for Muri Johnson Machine Shop.

He was the beloved husband and best friend of Jean Warnes and will be sorely missed by his children: William F. Carson and wife, Lori; Dee Warnes and wife, Lora; Deborah A. Carson and Neil Pinkerton; Katerine M. Weaver and husband, Clint and adopted daughter, Susie; and by his

grandchildren, Jack, Marybeth, Beckyjean, Zak, Leo and Sam. He is also survived by his brother, Chris Warnes; and his sisters, Ester Meldrum and Ellen Violet and Ellen's husband, Archie.

Dee never met a person he didn't like and the family believes the feeling was mutual.

Funeral services were held at Pierce Chapel of Eureka on April 8. Chaplain Ken Meece officiated. Casket Bearers were Jon Baker, John Zech, Con Daly, Harold Doktor, Everett Linthicum and Buck Owens.

Interment was at the Trinidad cemetery, Trinidad.

Arrangements were under the direction of Pierce Mortuary Chapels, Eureka.

MELVA J. WELLEN
born: June 26, 1926 -- died: Apr. 10, 1996
Liberty County Times
May 22, 1996

Melva Wellen

Melva J. Wellen, 69, of Helena died April 10 at St. Peter's Hospital.

She was born June 26, 1926, the daughter of Charles and Bernice (Hill) Curfman.

Melva was a senior companion and enjoyed bowling and her flower garden. She also enjoyed crocheting and playing cards. But most of all she enjoyed her grandkids.

She is survived by her husband Rodney Wellen of Helena; daughters and sons-in-law Melody and Eric Sutter of Kalispell, Taunya and Hal Goodsell of Helena, Ronette and Wade Goodsell of Columbia Falls; grandchildren Monti and Nikki Arneson of Columbia Falls, Dawn Dee and Brian O'Connell of Helena; Casey Howery of Kalispell, John Goodsell of Helena, Ron, Palanda and Kyle Goodsell of Columbia Falls; and great-grandkids, Cody and Suni O'Connell and Bryce Arneson.

Melva was a courageous woman who was loved and cared for by many and will be dearly missed.

Funeral services were conducted April 15 at the Retz Chapel with burial at Forestvale Cemetery.

ROSE MARIE WILKINS
Born: November 12, 1903 - Died: January 1, 1996
Great Falls Tribune
January 3, 1996

Rose Marie Wilkins

CONRAD — Rose Marie (Silberman) Wilkins, 92, died of natural causes Monday at a local nursing home.

Memorial services are 2 p.m. Thursday at the Pondera Funeral Home, with burial in Hillside Cemetery.

She was born Nov. 12, 1903, in Motley Township, Minn., and moved north of Chester at age 10. After graduating from Chester High School in 1926, she moved to Brady and worked at the Brady Mercantile for many years.

In 1927 she married John Wilkins in Havre. They lived in East Helena and farmed near Brady until moving into town in 1952. He died in 1965.

She lived in Brady and in Great Falls for three years before moving to the Horizon Lodge in 1978. She moved to the Pondera Medical Center in 1989.

She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and Eastern Star.

Surviving are a sister, Martha Crane of Conrad; and a brother, Alfred Silberman of Shelby.

AARON J. WILSON
born: Aug. 8, 1903 -- died: May 21, 1996
Liberty County Times
May 29, 1996



Aaron Wilson

Aaron J. Wilson was born at Spokane, Washington on August 8, 1903. He was the youngest of eight children born to Thina and Martin Wilson. The Wilson family came to Montana in 1915; they traveled here in an immigrant car with all of their possessions including four horses and six milk cows. They settled on a homestead nine miles east of Big Sandy. While growing up there, Aaron worked on neighboring ranches.

He married Ellen Farrell in Fort Benton on May 31, 1924. They made their home in the Bear Paws where Aaron worked on the McNamara Ranch until 1929. They moved to a farm south of Rudyard and eventually purchased this place from Billie Woods. They lived and worked on this farm for the next 40 years. In 1972 they moved into Rudyard. Aaron's wife Ellen died in 1974.

Aaron and Ellen had been best friends over the years with their neighbors, Herb and Marie Boehm. Herb had died a year earlier than Ellen. Aaron and Marie continued a close relationship for several years before deciding on marriage. They were wed on November 18, 1978 at Hingham. They made their home in Rudyard from that time on.

Aaron's health began to fail in early 1995. He entered the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester and has lived there since. Following a hip fracture and complications, he died at the Chester hospital on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 21. Aaron was 92 year old.

He loved to play the fiddle and he took it with him wherever he went. In those early years he played at dances throughout northcentral Montana. In his later years, Aaron was active at the Rudyard Senior Center. He helped with the remodeling project at the center. He enjoyed being there, whether playing pool or just visiting with his friends.

Aaron had been a real-life Montana "cowboy"; he loved breaking horses and working with cattle. He was an all around handyman and carpenter; he could fix anything and had helped many neighbors with remodeling jobs and assorted projects. In his retirement years Aaron enjoyed fishing. Although he never had any kids of his own, he loved children and had become very attached to many of the neighbor kids. Last, but not least, he was a loyal master to his pet dog, "Dolly".

Aaron and Marie did a lot of traveling together. They were members of the Blue Horizon Chapter of the Good Sam Club and they never missed a campout until Aaron's health began to fail. They made several memorable trips, including a Caribbean Cruise, a Fall Foliage Tour of the eastern states and a trip to Hawaii. They loved to go dancing and play cards, especially pinochle and whist. The past 17 years have been happy ones.

Aaron is survived by his wife Marie of Rudyard; three step children, Elsie Hassa of Rudyard, Aaron Boehm (and wife, Linda) of Rudyard and Frances Mosely (and husband Bruce) of Bozeman; 8 grandchildren including Colleen Diemert (and husband Mark) David Hassa (and wife, Julie), Darrell Hassa, Bret Kraft (and wife Marie), Karman Young, Dani Jo Kline (and

husband Chris), Tiffany Rettig (and husband, Shawn), and Brian Boehm; ten great-grandchildren, including Whitney and Connor Kline; Amber, Jessica, Trisha and Maryse Diemert; Robyn and Parker Kraft; Devon Hassa; and Kasara Young. Aaron is also survived by several nieces; a nephew, Phil Maxwell of Ronan; and a very special friend and former neighbor Lynne Horel Thueson of Columbia Falls. Aaron was preceded in death by his first wife, his parents and all of his siblings.

Memorial services were held Friday, May 24 at 2 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard with Reverend Bart Coleman officiating. Sharon Spicher accompanied Terry Stevenson, who sang "In the Garden", "Whispering Hope" and "When the Role is Called Up Yonder". Ushers were Joe Horel and Bob Toner Jr. Memorial bearers included old friends Morris Smith, Albert Budeau, Shy Horel, Bill Kulbeck, Bob Toner Sr., Albert Hansen, Vic Gatzemeier, and Gene Schrouder. Honorary bearers were friends in the Good Sam Club. A coffee hour followed at the church.

Graveside services with burial of ashes were held at 4:30 p.m. that same afternoon at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester. Memorials are suggested to the "Gift of Life" in Great Falls.

REBECCA P. WIPF
Born: April 18, 1903 - Died: March 5, 1996
Great Falls Tribune
March 10, 1996

Rebecca P. Wipf

CHESTER - Rebecca P. (Hofer) Wipf, 92, died Tuesday at Riverview Colony of complications from cancer.

Services are noon Friday at Riverview Colony, with burial in the colony cemetery. Rockman Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

She was born April 18, 1903, at the Rockport Colony in Alexandria, S.D., and grew up there. In 1923 she married Paul P. Wipf; he died in 1931. She lived in several other colonies before moving to Riverview Colony in 1980.

An avid gardener, she was also well-known for teaching Scriptures and telling Bible stories to colony children.

Survivors include three sons, Paul and John Wipf of Riverview Colony and Jacob Wipf of Miller Colony in Choteau; a daughter, Rebecca Kleinsasser of Riverview Colony; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two daughters, Mary Wipf and Susie Entz.

Rebecca Wipf

Rebecca P. (Hofer) Wipf was born at the Rockport Colony at Alexandria, South Dakota on April 18th, 1903. Her parents were Jacob and Susanna Hofer. Rebecca grew up and received her formal education at the Rockport Colony. On May 3rd, 1923 she married Paul P. Wipf. Her husband died in 1931. Rebecca remained at Rockport until 1934, then moved to the D.K. Colony at Raymond, Alberta. In 1949 she moved to the Miller Colony at Choteau, Montana, then came to the Sage Creek Colony north of Chester in 1960. She transferred to the Riverview Colony south of Chester in 1980, and has lived there since.

Rebecca died at Riverview on the late afternoon of Tuesday (March 12th),

1996) from complications of cancer. She was 92 years old.

Rebecca was a "green thumb" who enjoyed flower gardening and planting trees. A widow for 64 years, she enjoyed her role as mother and homemaker. Rebecca loved to teach the scriptures and will probably be best remembered for the countless hours she spent telling Bible stories to the colony kids.

She is survived by three sons, Paul and John Wipf of Riverview and Jacob Wipf of Miller Colony at Choteau; one daughter, Rebecca Kleinsasser of Riverview; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death not only by her parents and all of her siblings, but also by two daughters (Mary Wipf and Susie Entz).

Funeral services were held at noon on Friday (March 15th) at the Riverview Colony. Burial will follow in the Riverview Colony Cemetery. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

LAWRENCE J.(LARRY) WURZ
born: Jan. 23, 1974 -- died: Oct. 20, 1996
Liberty County Times
Oct.23, 1996

Lawrence J. Wurz

Lawrence J. "Larry" Wurz, age 22, died at his home at Eagle Creek Colony northwest of Chester on Sunday evening (October 20th, 1996).

His funeral will be 1:00 p.m. Wednesday (Oct. 23rd) at the Eagle Creek Colony Church and burial will follow in the colony cemetery. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

Larry was born at Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada on January 23rd, 1974. He was one of eight children born to Jacob J. Wurz and Rebecca J. Wipf. Larry lived at the Rimrock Colony near Sunburst through age 8, when his family moved to Eagle Creek Colony near Chester. Larry was educated at Eagle Creek and has worked as a farmhand on the colony. He loved sports and enjoyed carpenter work.

About five years ago Larry was diagnosed with heart disease. He suffered a serious stroke two years ago and his health has slowly deteriorated. He was recently treated at the Toole County Hospital in Shelby for pneumonia and other complications.

Larry never married. His survivors include his parents, Jacob and Rebecca Wurz; three brothers, Ben, Jacob and Leonard Wurz; four sisters, Rebecca, Elizabeth and Mary Wurz

and Rachel Hofer, all of Eagle Creek Colony; and numerous aunts and uncles.