Charles Daniel "Charlie" Adams
Birth: December 14, 1955 - Death: June 27, 2004
Liberty County Times
July 7, 2004

Charles D.
Adams

Charles Daniel ("Charlie") Adams was born December 14, 1955 at Havre, Montana. He was the eldest of five children born to Charles and Virginia (Richter) Adams. Charlie grew up in the Inverness community and received his formal education there. After graduating from Inverness High School in 1974 he began working in construction with Warhank's of Rudyard.

In 1975 Charlie enlisted into the U.S. Air Force. He was stationed in the Azores to fulfill his overseas duty. During his two enlistments he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-5) and specialized in liquid fuels maintenance. Following eight years of military service, Charlie received his honorable discharge in 1983 and returned to Montana.

He took a job as custodian at Blue Sky Schools in Rudyard. In 1987 he moved to Texas to be near his brother, Mike. While living at Amarillo Charlie met his wife-to-be, Gaylon Widener, and they were married in 1991. During those seven years in Texas, Charlie worked at the Plains Creamery and at the Owens-Corning fiberglass plant in Amarillo.

Charlie and his family came back to Montana in 1995. He began working at J-I Schools where he eventually became the head custodian. In October of 2003 he resigned his position at J-I and moved to Great Falls. While there he took a job with Dick Anderson Construction. In May of 2004 Charlie was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma. During this past month he had been cared for by his family at their Great Falls home, where he died peacefully on Sunday morning June 27, 2004. He was 48 years old.

As an infant Charlie was baptized in the Catholic faith at Sacred Heart Church in Inverness. During his high school years Charlie enjoyed athletics and he participated in all sports. As an adult Charlie spent most of his leisure time either hunting or fishing. He was a "cowboy at heart" with a lifelong love of horses, old western movies, and country music.

Charlie was a hard worker who was never afraid to "get his hands dirty" and always took great pride in his work. His good work ethic, attitude and integrity were some of the reasons he was so well-liked in the community. He was loved by the old and young alike! After Charlie was diagnosed with cancer, the J-I students dedicated the State Track Meet to him.

Charlie and Gaylon were presently raising Gaylon's two stepsons, whom Charlie loved as his own. He beamed with pride as he taught them his personal hunting and fishing skills, and offered fatherly advice directing them towards manhood.

Friends and family used several nicknames for Charlie, including "Herk" (short for Hercules), "Little Charlie," and "Young Charlie."

Charlie is survived by his wife, Gaylon Adams of Great Falls; two sons: Charles and Jacob Adams of Bossier City, Louisiana; four stepchildren: Carrie Davis of Berger, Texas, Brad Rice of Dumas, Texas, Jake Rice of Great Falls, and Jolene Warnke of Great Falls; two grandsons: Michael and Justin Baze of Great Falls; his parents, Charles and Virginia Adams of Inverness; three siblings: Mike Adams of Sand Coulee, Todd Adams of Helena, and Shelly VanWechel of Joplin; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Charlie was preceded in death by an infant brother.

Graveside services were conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday July 1st at the Inverness Cemetery by Father Joe Diekhans. Scripture readings were by Larry Horinek and the eulogy was shared by Aubrey Miller. Taped musical selections included "Calling All Angels" and "Wind Beneath My Wings." The congregation sang "Amazing Grace." Military rites by the Havre V.F.W. group included firing squad, Taps, and flag presentation. A reception followed at the Inverness Steak House. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
VIRGINIA LEONA (RICHTER) ADAMS
Birth: October 18, 1936 - Death: October 27, 2004
Liberty County Times
November 3, 2004

Virginia was born October 18, 1936 at Havre, Montana. She was the youngest of 15 children born to George and Margaret (Schwan) Richter. Virginia grew up in the Inverness community where she received her education at Inverness and Joplin, graduating from Inverness High School in 1954.

She married Charles W. Adams on June 3, 1955 at Hingham. They made their home at Inverness throughout their married life, where Virginia worked as a homemaker and mother of four. In those early years she assisted Charles with the custodial details at the Inverness School and worked part-time as a waitress at the Inverness Steakhouse. In the mid-1970's Virginia began working as a postal clerk at Inverness for Iris White, then later transferred to the Chester Post Office where she worked for Helen Aaberg.

After 22 years of public service, she retired from her postal job in 1998. She continued to stay active in the community, where she cooked occasionally at the Inverness Bar and Restaurant.

During this past year Virginia's general vitality began to decline, presumably due to the normal aging process. In addition she suffered a serious emotional blow when her eldest child, "Little Charlie," was diagnosed with terminal cancer early this spring. During her son's last illness and death on June 27th, it was apparent that Virginia's physical health had failed, too. A subsequent check-up in July confirmed that she also had cancer. She received appropriate treatments, but never responded well. This past week she developed complications and was admitted to a Great Falls hospital. She was transferred to the Peace Hospice facility where she died peacefully Wednesday afternoon October 27, 2004, four months to the day that "Little Charlie" died. She was 68 years old.

Virginia was baptized and confirmed at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Inverness and remained a lifetime member.

She enjoyed many hobbies associated with her home, like sewing, quilting, cooking, and baking. Her family will always remember her delicious homemade caramel cinnamon rolls!

In her younger years she always looked forward to the weekend camping expeditions with her family. She loved all children, so the neighborhood kids and other "strays" were always welcome in her home. Virginia was an avid fan of the Dallas Cowboys and also enjoyed watching figure-skating events on television. During her social time away from home, she loved to play darts, the poker machines, and cards. Her family noted that she was "a tough 5-card Stud Poker player!" And just for the fun of it, she collected chicken memorabilia and stained-glass angels.

Virginia was preceded in death not only by her son Charlie, but also by an infant son Kip, by her parents, by six brothers: George, Joseph, Jake, Edwin, Raymond, and John, by three sisters: Lena, Mary, and Agnes, and by two infant siblings.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Charles Adams of Inverness; one daughter, Shelly VanWechel of Joplin; two sons, Michael Adams of Sand Coulee, and Todd Adams of Helena; six grandchildren: Joshua, Jade, Michelle, Christie, Charlie, and Jake; three great-grandchildren, one sister, Francy Fraser of Joplin; two brothers, Chris Richter of Ferndale, and Frank Richter of Joplin; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral Mass was celebrated 11:00 a.m. Monday November 1st at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Inverness by Father Joseph Diekhans. Scripture readings and a poem were shared by Kip Lybeck. Iris White served as organist. Eulogist was Sam Richter. Granddaughters, Christie and Michelle, presented the communion gifts. Ushers were Bruce and Bob Richter. Nephews serving as pallbearers included Kelly Adams, Craig Fraser, and Greg, Brad, Rick, Dennis, and Richard Richter. Virginia's remaining nephews and nieces were honorary bearers. Selected taped music included "Amazing Grace" sung by Elvis Presley, "Wind Beneath My Wings" sung by Bette Midler, and "I Will Remember You" sung by Sarah McLachlan. Burial followed at the Inverness Cemetery. A luncheon was held at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
Phoebe Alex

Phoebe Kathleen Alex, 89, died Friday June 5, 2004 at a Havre Care Center of natural causes. Her funeral service was at 11:00 am Thursday June 10, 2004 at the Fifth Avenue Christian Church with Pastor Rowlie Hutton officiating. Burial followed at the Highland Cemetery. A fellowship luncheon was held at the V.F.W. immediately after the services at the graveside. Memorials in Phoebe’s honor may be made to the First Responders of Hingham, Montana. Services and arrangements were under the direction of Holland & Bonine Funeral Home.

Phoebe was born June 9, 1914 south of Hingham, Montana to Daniel and Nancy Emily (Mullin) Dolph. She was raised and educated in Hingham graduating from Hingham High School in 1932. She attended Northern Montana College and graduated from there with a B.A. degree in English and French. Phoebe taught at various country schools in Hill County and finished her teaching career at Rudyard High School. She met John Alex in Hingham and they were married May 27, 1939 in Havre, Montana. They farmed north of Hingham and later they purchased land south of Hingham where they farmed and ranched. They also ran sheep and cattle for thirty years.

Phoebe was very active in her community. She was a member of the Royal Neighbors of America, the Home Demonstration Club of Hingham, and was a member of the Elks. Phoebe enjoyed bowling, golfing and playing bridge.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother Russell and her husband John N. Alex in 2001.

Phoebe is survived by her sons: J.R. (Mavis) Alex of Havre, MT; Nick (Dani) Alex of Hingham, MT; Gene Alex of Hingham, MT; brothers Elbert Dolph and Howard Dolph both of Havre, MT; sister Jackie Macy of Polson, MT; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.
ESTHER AMOR obituary

Esther Harriet Amor, 84, died Wednesday, March 10, 2004, at a Havre hospital of natural causes.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the First Lutheran Church in Havre with the Rev. Catherine Card officiating. There will be a private family burial at Kuper Memorial Cemetery at a later time.

Esther was born April 11, 1919 in Zahl, N.D., to Iver and Mary (Eidsvag) Robley. She was raised and educated in North Dakota.

She married Harlen Amor June 12, 1936, in Williston, N.D. Esther was employed at the Montgomery Ward store in Williston. Esther and Harlen moved to Montana in 1953. After arriving in Havre, she was employed at the Butter Department Store as a salesperson.

Esther was active in her faith and in ministering to others and was known for her love and compassion. Her hobby was buying, restoring and selling antiques. She even had an antique store in one of her apartments.

She was a member of the First Lutheran Church in Havre.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Harlen Amor; son, Jerald Amor in 2004; sister, Olga Minetti; and grandson, Jeffery C. Wood.

Survivors include her daughter, Lorraine (Clarence) Wood of Great Falls; son, Dwane Amor of Havre; brother, George Robley of Upland, Calif.

Memorials in Esther’s honor may be made to The Northern Montana Care Center P.O. Box 1231 Havre, MT 59501, The First Lutheran Church 303 4th Avenue Havre, MT 59501, The Salvation Army 605 2nd Street Havre, MT 59501 or to a memorial of one’s choice.

Services and arrangements are under the direction of Holland and Bonine Funeral Home.
Coreen M. Anderson

Birth: N/A - Death: June 15, 2004
Liberty County Times
June 23, 2004

Coreen Anderson

Coreen was born on the family farm north of Harlem to Donald and Laura (Brekke) Malley, where she was raised and educated.

In 1956 she married Doyle Ashcraft at Butte; he died in 1960. In 1964 she married Donald Anderson, they later divorced. Coreen went on to graduate from Shelby High School in 1973. She then attended college and received her LPN license in 1978.

She moved to Choteau and worked as a secretary for a plumbing company for a few years before poor health forced her to retire and she then moved back to Shelby.

She enjoyed camping, fishing and crafts.

Coreen M Anderson, age 64, a retired secretary from Shelby, passed away suddenly Tuesday at her home due to heart failure.

Survivors include her mother Laura Malley of Havre; daughters: Diana (Doug) Habets of Shelby, Valerie (Clay) Stratton of Whitlash, and Jeanne (David) Parker of Phoenix; son, Donald (Janet) Anderson of Tatonka, Washington; sisters: Helen (Jerry) Shettel of Chester, and Donna Keaster of Havre; brothers: Doug (Marcia) Malley of Sarasota, Florida, Swede (Linda) Malley, and John (Lyn) Malley both of Havre; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father Donald Malley, husband Doyle Ashcraft, and a grandson Doyle Habets.

Funeral service was 11:00 am, Saturday, June 19, 2004 at the Whitted Funeral Chapel.
Visitation was Friday from Noon until 8:00 pm, and on Saturday from 8:00 am till service time at the Whitted Chapel.
LEXI BRIANNE ANDERSON


Liberty County Times
May 5, 2004

Lexi Brianne Anderson was born October 30, 1995 at Havre, Montana. She was the youngest of two children born to Craig and Twyla (Spicher) Anderson. She grew up in the Rudyard community and began her formal education at Blue Sky Elementary School, where she was currently in the 2nd grade. She was a good student who loved school and enjoyed reading and math.

Lexi had had a special personality, always full of energy, determination, and imagination. She was just like a monkey in the fact that she would climb on just about anything and hang upside-down in precarious places! She loved kittens, puppies, and little kids, and would mother them to death if given the chance! She declared herself the official family taste-tester of all cookie dough and baked goods, and she loved corn-on-the-cob!

She enjoyed working in the shop with the guys and wasn’t afraid to get her hands dirty. Each spring she would prematurely pick flowers from Mom’s garden, then produce a beautiful bouquet for the house. She had a large collection of stuffed animals and she affectionately called them her lovelies. She also had an affinity for leopard-patterned blankets and clothing items. Lexi was a pretty 8-year-old girl who always looked good and took pride in her appearance. She always smelled good, too, as she loved her bath oils, body glitters, and lip glosses. She enjoyed her family and friends; her favorite adjective to describe those special happenings in her life was stupendous!

Endearing nicknames by her family included Lex, Lexer, and Lexi-B. They all adored her and will miss her dearly.

Lexi is survived by her parents, Craig and Twyla Anderson of Rudyard; her brother, Zachary Anderson of Rudyard; paternal grandparents, Dennis and Shirley Anderson of Rudyard; paternal aunts/uncles, Janet and Brian Kluss and Stacy Anderson; maternal aunts/uncles, Ardisth and Bob Lingle, Sharon and Roger Borlaug, Karen Spicher, Wayne and Rochelle Spicher, Ronald & Patty Spicher, Douglas & Kathy Spicher, and Darlene Spicher; and numerous cousins. Lexi was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Marlin and Eva Spicher, and an uncle, Sonny Spicher.

Funeral services were conducted at 11:00 a.m. Saturday (May 1st) at the Blue Sky High School Gymnasium by Pastor Brian Pederson of Rudyard and Pastor Peter Erickson of Chester. Scripture readings were shared by Lexi’s aunt, Stacy; pianist, Lauri Chvilicek, accompanied the congregation, who sang Jesus Loves Me & What A Friend We Have In Jesus. The Blue Sky Elementary Choir, under the direction of Elizabeth Campbell, sang a special memorial tribute.
RICHARD SIMON "BUD" ANDERSON
Birth: March 17, 1925 – Death: July 17, 2004
Liberty County Times
July 21, 2004

Richard (Bud) Anderson

Richard Simon "Bud" Anderson was born March 17th, 1925 at Havre, Montana. He was one of four children born to Simon and Ida (Bilden) Anderson. Bud grew up at Joplin and received his formal education there, graduating from J.H.S. in 1943. He was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1944 and served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre during World War II. He worked as a medic and attained the rank of P.F.C. When Bud received his honorable discharge in 1946, he returned to Montana.

He married Phyllis Lorraine VanWechel on April 13th, 1947 at Kalispell, Mt. During their married life they lived predominantly in the Joplin community where they farmed and raised five sons. Bud also commuted to Eastend, Saskatchewan to run a farming operation. He sold his farms in 1972 and soon after bought the "Palace Bar" in Joplin, which he ran for several years. The Anderson's were married 42 years when Phyllis died in 1989. Bud remained in their Joplin home until 2000, when he moved to the Sweetgrass Lodge in Chester. He suffered from arthritis and heart problems, but did relatively well until three months ago when his health deteriorated.

Bud transferred to the Pondera Medical Center on June 25th for extended care. He died at this Conrad nursing facility on July 17th, 2004 at the age of 79. Bud was baptized and confirmed at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin, where he has maintained a lifelong membership. He was also a member of the V.F.W. Post in Chester.

His hobbies included fishing, camping, and vegetable gardening.

Over the years he collected silver coins, Indian artifacts, and other interesting memorabilia. At family functions he enjoyed playing cards. In his quiet time at home he liked to read or watch television.

Bud was a very sociable man who loved to be with people.

He will be remembered for his quick wit, good sense of humor, love of a funny joke or story, and his excellent memory of people, places, and events.

Survivors include his five sons and spouses, Richard and Karen of Conrad, Randy and Susan of Miles City, Robert and Peggy of Fargo, North Dakota, Roger and Christy of Ionia, Michigan, and Rodney and Kathy of Belding, Michigan; 15 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces. Bud was preceded in death not only by his wife & parents, but also by his three siblings (Enoch Anderson, Marie Wilmes, and Hazel Meldrum Freeman).

Memorial services will be 11:00 a.m. Wednesday (July 21st) at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin. The services will be officiated by Pastor Dale Wolery. Iris White will serve as organist and the congregation will sing "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art." Burial of ashes with military rites will be held at Kjos Hall.

Cremation & arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
ROBERT ODELL ANDERSON

Born: January 19, 1928 - Died: July 11, 2004

Great Falls Tribune
July 15, 2004

Robert Odell Anderson

SWAN LAKE — Robert Odell Anderson, 76, a longtime Minnesota resident and Navy veteran, died Sunday at his home in Swan Lake.

A memorial service is 3 p.m. Friday at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bigfork. A second service is 1:30 p.m. July 24 at Nordland Lutheran Church in Paynesville, Minn.

Grogan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Bob is survived by his wife, Joan; children Debra (Greg) Bork of Bigfork, Mont., Michael (Rita) Anderson of Maple Grove, Minn., Tammy (Ron) Wienke of St. Cloud, Minn., and Karen Wisted of Paynesville, Minn.; stepchildren Martia (Darrell) of Seattle, Wash., Jan (Dana) Phillips and Rhonda (Ross) Ritter of Rudyard, Mont., and Dana Eliason and Kane Phillips of Yakima, Wash.; 21 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; brothers Raymond, John and Ken; sisters Alice, Glennis, Francis and Phyllis; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and in-laws who all loved him very much.

Bob was born Jan. 19, 1928, in Kensington, Minn., to Fred and Gina (Everson) Anderson. He lived with his family and attended school through the eighth grade in Finley, N.D. He attended high school in Havre, Mont., and during his junior year, he enlisted in the US Navy.

After his discharge from the Navy, Bob returned to Havre and began working as a salesman for the grocery chain Gamble-Robinson. During a visit to Minnesota, he met Margaret Pederson at Nordland Lutheran Church and they were married on Sept. 22, 1951. Bob learned to plaster and stucco in Paynesville and continued this trade while living in St. Cloud and New Hope, Minn., and in Havre through 1956, as well as off and on through much of his working life. Bob and Margaret lived on a farm near Nordland Church from 1957-1960. They sold the farm and moved to a house on the south shore of Lake Koronis in 1960. In the following years through 1968, Bob owned various businesses in Paynesville, including the Jack and Jill grocery store, the Paynesville Hotel, a Montgomery Ward catalog store, and the Hilltop Truckstop service station. He then worked in the Post Office in Paynesville until 1971. Bob also served as president of the Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Lions Club, Jaycees and several other organizations during this period.

In 1972, he bought a cherry orchard near Bigfork, Mont., where he began spending springs and summers. He also owned the Tastee Freeze in Polson, Mont., and the Burgertown restaurant near Bigfork. During this period, Bob built and remodeled several homes in Paynesville during the fall and winter. In 1978, Bob and Margaret sold their property in Montana and returned to year-round residence in Paynesville. Bob began selling real estate and worked locally for Chuck Olson Realty in Kalispell until 1985. After Margaret's death in 1979, Bob sold the home on Lake Koronis and moved to Paynesville. In 1987, Bob became reacquainted with Joan Phillips at their 40th class reunion in Havre. They were married in 1989 and moved to Swan Lake, Mont. Bob enjoyed hunting, fishing and especially visiting with his many friends and relatives.

In addition to his first wife, Margaret, he was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Melvin, Marvin and Fred.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contribution be sent to the charity of your choice.
Sanford "Spike" Anderson

Sanford (Spike) Lewis Anderson, age 91, a retired Joplin area farmer, died peacefully Wednesday, April 21, 2004 at his home in Helena surrounded by his family and friends. His funeral was held Monday, April 26, 2004 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin with burial in Joplin Cemetery. Stanleigh Barbie accompanied the congregation who sang "The Old Rugged Cross." Vocalist Sarah Wolery performed "In the Garden," and "It Is Well With My Soul." Ushers were Dean Lyle and Larry Olson. His grandchildren served as pallbearers: Jami Lynch, Brian Olson, Kerry Davis, Kevin Olson, Kelly Elder and Michael Anderson. A Luncheon was held at Kjos Hall.

Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester was in charge of arrangements. Memorials will be given to Bethel Church in Joplin, or Hospice of St. Peter in Helena.

Sanford was born in Joplin, Montana, on May 1, 1912. He was one of eight children born to A.B. and Mayme (LaValley) Anderson. He grew up in Joplin and graduated from Joplin High School in 1930.

Spike married Thelma Marguerite Freeland, on July 29, 1933 at Chinook Montana. They made their home on the Anderson farm north of Joplin, where they farmed and raised their three daughters.

The Andersons retired from farming in 1982. They continued to make their home in Joplin until the fall of 1996, when they moved "south" to Helena to spend their winters near family.

Thelma, Spike's wife of 65 years, died in 1998. He continued to summer in Joplin until 2001, when he made Helena his permanent home. He continued to enjoy gardening, reading Westerns, and following current events via Fox News Network. He adored his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and loved the week each summer that he spent with his entire family in Apgar.

Spike was a life-long member of Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin, and attended services at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church while residing in Helena.

Spike is survived by his daughters: Sandra (Lou) McKee of Tucson, Arizona, Jan (Jim) Anderson of Helena, and Gail (Larry Vogl) Olson of Lewistown; eight grandchildren: Susan McKee, Lynn Hodges, Kerry (Jay) Davis, Jami (Chris) Lynch, Kelly (Travis) Elder, Michael (DeAnna) Anderson, Brian (Becky) Olson, and Kevin (Tiffani) Olson; ten great-grandchildren: Aaron, Lauryn, Taylor, Ashleigh, Landon, Kellan, Olivia, Kayla, Andrew, and Kaiya; brother and sister-in-law Robert and Lil Anderson of Great Falls; sister-in-law Hazel Anderson of Chester; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is also survived by Brad Bonnie, Logan, and Hayley Anderson, and Dean and Darlene Lyle, all of whom were very special and were always there for him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Thelma; four brothers: Clifford, Prosper, Morris, and Donald; and two sisters: Lila and Mildred.
TERRY LEE “DUCK” ANDERSON
Born: N/A – Died: March 23, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
March 25, 2004

Terry Lee ‘Duck’ Anderson
MALTA — Terry Lee “Duck” Anderson, 51, a retired butcher who enjoyed cooking, music and art, died of liver failure Tuesday at a Malta nursing home.
Graveside services are 2 p.m. Friday at Malta Cemetery. Cremation has taken place. Adams Funeral Home and Hi-Line Cemetery of Malta are in charge of arrangements.
Survivors include sisters Colleen Kluck of Malta, Kim Johannsen of Havre and Cindy Simonson of Hingham; and his stepfather, Norris Severeide of Malta.
DORIS “POPPY” (BRANDVOLD) AUSTIN
Birth: August 17, 1929 - Death: October 16, 2004
Liberty County Times
October 27, 2004

Doris “Poppy” Austin

Mrs. Doris Austin, age 75, formerly of the Joplin & Chester communities, died of natural causes at her home in Forest, Mississippi on Saturday (Oct. 16th, 2004). She was being cared for by her family and hospice nurses at the time of her death.

Doris “Poppy” Brandvold was born at Joplin, Mt. on August 17th, 1929. She was one of eight children born to Julia Lintvet and Benhard “Ben” Brandvold. She grew up in Joplin and received her formal education there.

Poppy was working in Wolf Point when she met her husband-to-be, Charles Austin, a native of Mississippi who was working in the oil business in Montana. They were married on Nov. 13th, 1952. They traveled to various states in the ten years that followed, then settled permanently in Mississippi in the mid-1960's. They lived in Forest where they owned & operated a large chicken ranch.

Doris was a member of the Forest United Methodist Church. She had a great love for cooking. Her greatest enjoyment in life was spending time with her family & friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, 3 brothers (Leonard, Donald, & Benny Brandvold), and 3 sisters (Gladyce Roman, Betty Rockman Krejci, and Helen “Tudy” Henderson).

Survivors include her husband of 52 years, Charles Austin of Forest, Ms.; 2 sons, Grady (Melanie) Austin of Forest and Benny (Nancy) Austin of University Place, Wash.; 1 daughter, Sharlee (Dan) Swartzentruber of New Philadelphia, Ohio; 1 brother, Kenneth Brandvold of Great Falls; 7 grand-children, including Ronnie Austin, Meaghan Huseman, Jon Charles Austin, Julie Austin, Abby Austin, Dylan Swartzentruber, and Charlie Swartzentruber; and many nieces & nephews.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday (Oct. 19th) at the Ott & Lee F.H. in Forest. Reverend Mike Sehler officiated. Pallbearers were Benny Austin, Grady Austin, Dan Swartzentruber, Richard Austin, Robbie Doherty, James Rogers, & Bryce Rockman. Honorary pallbearer was Baxter Thompson.

Nancy Austin shared a eulogy written by Rlynn Rockman. Burial followed at the Eastern Cemetery in Forest.

Memorials may be made to the Hospice Ministries, 2069 Hwy. 35 South, Suite A, Forest, Ms. 39074.

Condolences can be sent to the Doris Austin Family, 1251 Old Hwy. 21, Forest, Ms. 39074.
Lewistown woman dies at 103 years old

LEWISTOWN — Clara H. (Thielmann) Didier Baxter, 103, of Lewistown, who homesteaded with her parents north of Chester in 1905, died of natural causes Sunday, one day short of her birthday.

Her funeral is 10 a.m. Friday at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lewistown, with burial in Hillcrest Mausoleum in Great Falls. Creel Funeral Home of Lewistown is handling arrangements.

Survivors include a daughter, Shirley Runyan of Bellevue, Wash.; a sister, Helen Goodan; a brother, Alfred Thielmann; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Nick Didier in 1938; her second husband, Phil Baxter in 1967; and a son, LeRoy Didier.
Charlene Rae Bibler

Charlene Rae (Spicher) Bibler, 67, of 202 Riverview Dr., a homemaker, died of lung cancer Monday at Peace Hospice in Great Falls.

A memorial service is noon Saturday at Hillcrest Lawn Memorial Chapel, with burial of ashes in Hingham at a later date. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Schnider Funeral Home.

Survivors include her husband, John Diaz of Great Falls; sons Ron (Julie) Bibler and Bruce (Kim) Bibler of Great Falls and Lt. Col Mark (Becky) Bibler of Anchorage, Alaska; a brother, Bill (Sharon) Spicher of Hingham; a sister, Gail Meyer of Great Falls; seven grandchildren and five step-grandchildren.

Char was born March 9, 1936, in Havre, to Charles Rodney and Hildegard Marie (Gehlen) Spicher. She graduated in 1954 from Hingham High School and then attended what was then known as Montana State University in Missoula, where she met Douglas Ronald Bibler. They married Sept. 10, 1955.

As a military wife, she traveled and raised her family in Monterey, Calif., Hawaii, and Virginia Beach, Va. Upon Doug's death in a military aircraft accident in 1966, she returned to Montana and settled in Great Falls.


Charlene loved gardening, bridge, bowling, conversation and their dog, DJ.

In addition to her first husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Daryl Spicher; and a sister, Lynne Spicher.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Falls Quilt Guild, P.O. Box 6992, Great Falls, MT, 59406; or to the donor's choice.
Grace Billings,
Grace was born April 7, 1909 in Chamberlain, S. Dakota.
She moved to Vermont with her parents in 1910. In 1924 her family moved to Chester, MT.
Grace graduated from Chester High School and Western Montana College in Dillon, MT. Her first teaching position was at Osler School, North of Chester. She then taught in Chester until 1940, when she accepted a job in Big Timber, MT. From Big Timber she proceeded to teach in Vancouver, Wash. until she retired in 1971.
She was a member of Bethel Lutheran Church, and a 75-year member of Eastern Star.
ROBERT JOSEPH "BOB" BLAKE
Birth: September 3, 1906 - Death: January 25, 2004
Liberty County Times
January 28, 2004

Robert Blake

Robert Joseph ("Bob") Blake, Sr. was born September 3rd, 1906 at Maybass, North Dakota. He was the youngest of five sons born to Frank & Mary (Diermer) Blake. Bob’s mother died when he was 8 years old, so he was raised by the Monroe family. He received his formal education at a country school near Fairfax, North Dakota, then began working as a laborer.

Bob came to Montana in 1929 to work on a threshing crew for Moonlight Wilson at Kremlin. He liked the area, so he took a job as a mechanic for Sorenson-Sedivy Ford Garage in Hingham. He married Louise Norenberg on January 16th, 1932. They made their home in Hingham and began raising their family of three. In the mid-1930’s Bob took a temporary job with the W.P.A. He eventually purchased a small farm 15 miles north of Hingham. Bob operated that place until his retirement in 1968, when he leased it to a son, Robert Jr.

Bob remained in the Hingham community until 1994, when his health began to fail. He moved to the personal care wing at the Liberty County Hospital, then later transferred to the nursing facility, the place he’s called “home” for the past ten years. Bob died at the Chester rest home on the early morning of Sunday (January 25th, 2004). He was 97 years old.

Bob was a longtime member of the Hingham Lutheran Church, where he assisted with many of the remodeling projects over the years. He was also a member of the Hingham Oddfellows Club.

In his retirement years Bob enjoyed socializing and playing pool with his friends at the Rudyard Senior Center. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, bowling, reading, and gardening. He also enjoyed traveling and camping with his wife and friends. Bob was described as a “handyman”, who was especially good in carpentry skills and cabinetry work.

His survivors include two sons, Donald Blake (and wife, Rachel) of Cascade and Roger Blake of Missoula; ten grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces. Bob was preceded in death not only by his wife and parents, but also by a son (Robert Jr.) and his four brothers (Lee, Martin, McKenzie, and George).

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service with burial of ashes is planned for later this spring at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
ARVID JOHN BLESSING

Birth: September 10, 1921 – Death: December 3, 2004
Liberty County Times
December 8, 2004

Arvid John Blessing was born September 10th, 1921 at Dawson, North Dakota to John & Dora (Joslyn) Blessing. He was one of eight children in the family. When Arvid was a child the Blessings moved to Montana and eventually settled in Havre, where Arvid received his formal education.

He was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1942. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre during World War II in the 1304th Army Air Force Battalion. Arvid attained the rank of Private 1st Class and received numerous service medals, including good conduct, distinguished unit, and victory awards. At the time of demobilization in 1946, he was given his honorable discharge.

Arvid married Arlene M. Bright on November 28, 1954 at Rudyard. They lived in Havre for two years, then moved to Rudyard where they raised their family of two. Arvid operated his house-moving business for 45 years and moved approximately 700 buildings throughout the Hi-Line community. During much of those years he supplemented his income by driving school bus working as a church janitor, and selling scrap iron. He retired in 1990.

Arvid and Arlene moved back to Havre in 1982 and lived there during their retirement years. Arvid remained an ardent fisherman and hunter, and he loved the "great outdoors." He also enjoyed gardening and woodworking. Together they enjoyed camping and traveling; they made many memorable bus tours in their later years.

Arvid was diagnosed with colon cancer in 1997 and received successful treatments. His health had been relatively good these past few years, although he had celiac refractory disease. In October Arvid was again diagnosed with abdominal cancer, so he spent the month of November in Benefis East. He was recently discharged to home care.

On Friday morning December 3, 2004 Arvid died peacefully at his Great Falls residence. He was 83 years old.

During their years in Rudyard the Blessing's attended church at the E.C.N.A. and Arvid served as church treasurer for a while. He was also a past member of the Havre V.F.W. Post. After moving to Havre, they became active at the Senior Center.

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During his quiet time at home Arvid enjoyed reading westerns and listening to country western music. He liked to watch game shows on television and was an avid fan of the Montana Grizzlies. He also enjoyed playing cards, dominoes, and dice.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Arlene Blessing of Great Falls; one daughter, Carol Benson of Great Falls; one son, Rodney Blessing of Missoula; two grandchildren, Jerry Benson and Jennifer Benson; two great-grandsons, Chase and Kaidge Benson; and several nephews and nieces. Arvid was preceded in death by his parents and his 7 siblings (Eva Cooke, Robert Brown, Ervin Blessing, Vera Raisanen, Florence Mimmaugh, Lucille Campbell, and Loraine Daulton).

Memorial services were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday December 7th at the Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester by Pastor Tim Buckheit of Great Falls. Personal remembrances were shared by his son, Rodney. Selected music included "How Great Thou Art," "The Old Rugged Cross," and "Amazing Grace." Honorary pallbearers were old friends: Clarence Een, Robert Rinehardt, Alvin Swanson, Robert Benson, Lloyd Olson, Robert Itto, and Walter Gerds. Graveside services with military rites and burial of ashes followed at 4:00 p.m. at the Highland Cemetery in Havre.

A reception was held at the Havre Senior Center. Memorials can be given to donor's choice.
Burnetta E. "Bunny" (Barber) Brady

Birthday: January 12, 1928 – Death: October 24, 2004

Burnetta "Bunny" Brady

Birth: January 12, 1928 – Death: October 24, 2004
Liberty County Times
November 3, 2004

She was preceded in death by her husband Bill Brady, and a son, Kenny Brady.

Her funeral was at 2 p.m. at St. Leo's Catholic Church in Lewistown, followed by burial at Calvary Catholic Cemetery at 3 p.m. Creel Funeral Home of Lewistown is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Catholic Charities USA via their website at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org. Any donations received by the family will be forwarded to Bunny's other charities.

Survivors include daughters, Colleen Stewart of Hopland, Calif., Jeannette Adams and her husband Victor of Roundup Mont., and Clara Bancroft of Great Falls; sons Mike Brady and his wife Darleen of Kent, Wash., Kevin Brady and his fiancée, Nancy of Fall City, Wash., John Brady and his wife Heidi of Spokane, Wash., Alan Brady and his wife Brenda of Gillette, Wy., and Marcus Brady of Chicago, Ill.; a brother, William Barber and wife Dora of Pocatello, Idaho, and a sister, Betty Omanson and husband Glen of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

She was deeply proud of her children and was the core of this large Irish Catholic family. Her smile, sharp wit, and contagious laughter brought much joy to everyone she touched. She will be deeply missed by many friends and family from all over the United States.
Irvin August Brandt was born November 6th, 1915 at Hingham, Montana. He was the second of four sons born to area homesteaders, Ernest C. and Hertha (Krueger) Brandt. Irvin grew up on the family farm and received his education in town, graduating from Hingham High School in 1934.

In the early years he worked for the C.C.C. (Civil Conservation Corps) in western Montana. In addition he farmed with his family in the Hingham/Rudyard communities throughout his life. He officially retired in 1982, but remained active in the farming operations until this past year.

Irvin made his home in Rudyard since 1957. In December of 2003 he transferred to the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre for rehabilitation of injuries from a fall. He was recovering well and was making plans to move from the nursing facility when he suffered a stroke. He died at the Havre hospital on the evening of Thursday (April 8th, 2004) at the age of 88 years.

Irvin never married, but considered his nieces & nephews as his family. He was preceded in death by his father in 1953, his mother in 1978, his 3 brothers (Loren in 1946, Wilmar in 1995, and Robert in 1996), and a niece (Kathleen). He is survived by 7 nephews, Loren Brandt of Missoula, Terry Brandt of Evanston, Illinois, Bob Brandt of Clinton, Clyde (Teni) Brandt of Havre, Darryn Brandt of Havre, Gary (Margaret) Brandt of Great Falls, and Jim (Theresa) Brandt of Great Falls; 4 nieces, Maureen Cicon of Chester, Sherry Phillips of Blandinsville, Illinois, Marilyn (Bill) Henry of Havre, and Karen (Dave) Watson of Rudyard; 2 sisters-in-law, Katherine Brandt of Rudyard and Florence Johnson of Chester; and numerous great-nephews & nieces and great-great-nephews & nieces.

Irvin loved all sports, especially baseball. He was a loyal fan of the New York Yankees and had traveled to many World Series games over the years. As a related hobby, he collected numerous baseball pennants.

Irvin also enjoyed local high school & college basketball. He traveled to many tournaments throughout the state and was an avid "Griz" fan. Watching his nephews/nieces participating in their sports brought him great joy! His radio became his constant companion when he was no longer able to travel to these special events.

In reference to travel, Irvin always looked forward to his trips to Illinois to visit his brother, Wilmar & family. He also made many trips to Glacier Park and other parts of the state on fishing expeditions.

Irvin was a longtime member of Our Savor's Lutheran Church in Rudyard. He often spoke of those fond memories of chaperoning a church youth group in his earlier years. He also had a unique ability of remembering people by "what year they graduated from high school".

In his quiet time at home Irvin loved to spend time in his yard; he grew beautiful flowers/roses. He also enjoyed to cook & bake for family gatherings. He liked to drive around the local countryside to look at the fields and "check things out". Irvin loved his life as a Montana farmer and talked about the wheat & crops (even in his last days). He will be missed by those of us who loved him!

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Monday (April 19th) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard. Pastor Rodney Mruk of Havre will officiate and niece, Marilyn Henry, will share the eulogy. Organist, Stanleigh Barber, will accompany the congregation, who will sing "Til We Meet Again" & "Beautiful Savior". There will be a closing piano rendition of "Take Me Out To The Ballgame".

Ushers will be Bill Henry & Dave Watson. Irvin's 7 nephews will serve as pallbearers. Burial will follow at the Rudyard Cemetery and a luncheon will be held at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
FERN J. (FRANK) BRUNN
Birth: February 17, 1913 – Death: March 27, 2004
Liberty County Times
March 31, 2004

Fern J. Brunn, 91, a retired homemaker from Conrad passed away Saturday, March 27, 2004 at the Pondera Medical Center due to a lengthy illness.

Fern was born Feb. 17, 1913 at Miami County, Kansas to George and Clara (Miller) Frank, where she was raised and attended beauty school. She moved with the family to a farm north of Chester and at the age of 18, Fern cooked for several ranches in the Galata area. She married Ben Slisk January 8, 1934 in Havre and they later divorced.

Fern married James R. Brunn September 2, 1962 at Great Falls. They lived in Shelby until 1969 when they moved to the Kalispell area. In 1977 they moved back to Shelby where over the years Fern worked at the Shelby Taylers Cleaners, ASD Office, Jack & Jill Food Store and Anthony's Department Store. In 1995 they moved to Conrad where they have resided ever since.

Fern enjoyed sewing, crocheting, bowling, playing cards, fishing and camping. She was a life member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

Visitation is Wednesday, March 31, from 1:00 to 8:00 pm at the Whitted Funeral Chapel. Funeral services will be Thursday, April 1, at 11:00 am at the Whitted Funeral Chapel with burial to follow in the Mountain View Cemetery.

Survivors include her husband of 41 years, James R. Brunn of Conrad; daughters, Georgia (Jim) Nelson of Shelby, and Sue Fritz of Chester; eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Her brothers, Weldon and Earl Frank, and a sister, Hazel Petchnick, precede her in death.
OLLIE B. (BLAKE) CALDWELL
Born: February 28, 1931 – Died: October 20, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
October 24, 2004

Ollie B. Caldwell

BIG SANDY — Ollie B. (Blake) Caldwell, 73, a native of Big Sandy, died of natural causes Wednesday at Big Sandy Medical Center.

Visitation is 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. today at Benton Funeral Home, and one hour prior to the service Monday. Her funeral is 2 p.m. Monday at Christ Lutheran Church in Big Sandy, with burial in Big Sandy Cemetery.

She was the mother of eight children, Patricia of Spokane, Bonnie of Wisconsin, Charlotte of Colorado Springs, Colo., Sherry of Rimrock, Ariz., Kelly of Hot Springs, S.D., Terry and Tracy, both of Plains and Tamie of Woodlake, Minn.; 26 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was born Feb. 28, 1931, to Francis "Frank" and Anna Blake. She grew up in Big Sandy on the Ranch, which she enjoyed. She was her dad's shadow.

Her goal in raising her children was to enable them to be independent and to love Jesus, and she raised her children to be proud and confident. She served the Lord most of her adult life. She loved animals and instilled that love in her children. Ollie enjoyed life. She was the only woman to chariot race in the 1960s.

She leaves behind many friends, some lifelong. In the words of her dear friend from Wisconsin, "I lost a very dear friend. She has been welcomed into Heaven."
NAYDA J. (SMALLWOOD) CHAMBERS
Born: Age-59 – Died: December 7, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
December 21, 2004

Nayda J. Chambers

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Great Falls native Nayda J. (Smallwood) Chambers, 59, of Bloomington, Ind., died Dec. 7 at her residence following a brief illness.
Funeral services have taken place in Indiana.

Survivors include her husband, Vernon Chambers, whom she married Oct. 22, 1965 in Great Falls; a son, Brett Chambers of Peru, Ind.; a daughter, Stephanie Stephens of Bloomington; one sister, Donna Martin of Kremlin, Mont.; two granddaughters, Elizabeth Chambers of Peru, Ind., and Caitlyn Stephens of Bloomington; and one step grandson, Jordan Stephens of Bloomington.

She was preceded in death by both parents and one granddaughter, Darienne Taylor.

Nayda was born in Great Falls, the daughter of Ernest and Ruth (Austin) Smallwood. She retired this year from Indiana University where she worked as a secretary.

She was a member of the Red Hatters Club in Bloomington and the Cincinnati Christian Church in Little Cincinnati, Ind. She enjoyed gardening, sewing and taking care of her grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.
CONRAD — Vivian L. (Aznoe) Cheek, 82, a homemaker and former teacher, died of natural causes Thursday at a Conrad hospital.

Visitation is today at Pondera Funeral Home. Services are 2 p.m. Saturday at Pondera Valley Lutheran Church, with burial in Hillside Cemetery.

Survivors include her husband, Marvin Cheek of Conrad; two daughters, Rita Cheek of Missoula and Arlene Harvey of Helena; a sister, Ruby Froebel of Conrad; two grandsons, Randall Kellogg of New York, N.Y., and Casey Kellogg of Helena; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Vivian was born March 5, 1921, in Great Falls, to Myron and Christina Aznoe, and was raised in the Knees Community. She graduated from Great Falls High School in 1939 and went on to receive her teaching certificate from Northern Montana College in Havre.

She married Marvin Cheek on Feb. 8, 1946, in Great Falls. She taught at both Dog Creek School near Big Sandy and Brady School, and worked as a bookkeeper at the Equity Elevator in Brady. In 1946, she and Marvin lived at the Cheek Ranch, 30 miles east of Conrad, where she raised two daughters. In 1987, they moved to Conrad, where she continued to be a gracious hostess for friends and family.

Vivian was a member of Pondera Valley Lutheran Church, Birthday Club, Bridge Club, Democratic Women's Club, Golden West Church and Golden West Ladies' Aid.

She enjoyed bridge, gardening, dancing, cooking pies, cakes, and best of all, fried chicken. She was famous for her cinnamon rolls.

Vivian loved spending time with her grandsons, entertaining friends and relatives, traveling and visiting people. She most of all loved spending time with Marvin, her husband of 58 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents.
EUGENE ALBERT DAHINDEN  
Birth: April 19, 1917 – Death: February 18, 2004  
Liberty County Times  
February 25, 2004

Eugene Dahinden  

Eugene Albert Dahinden was born April 19th, 1917 at Joplin, Montana. He was the second of three sons born to Anna Margaret Weber and Frank X. Dahinden. Eugene grew up on the family farm near Joplin and received his education at Inverness and Joplin. He graduated from Joplin High School in 1938, then began farming south of town.

Eugene enlisted into the US Army Air Corps in 1942 and served during World War II. He attained the rank of Tech Sergeant and served in the Asiatic-Pacific campaign, where he was an airplane and engine mechanic. As the war wound down, he received his honorable discharge. He met Gladys I. Sowder and they were married in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1945. They returned to Montana where Eugene continued to farm at Joplin.

In 1962 he sold his Joplin interests and bought a ranch at Hamilton. Eugene enjoyed working with cattle, so he began raising registered Herefords. He loved the ranch, which became his life for the next 42 years. He reluctantly sold his cattle herd in 1989.

His wife, Gladys, died in 1990. Eugene remained in Hamilton and continued to operate his farm. About two months ago his health suddenly deteriorated, so he was admitted to a Hamilton medical facility. Because he couldn't live alone, Eugene was transferred to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester to be closer to his only surviving brother and family. Eugene died at the Chester rest home on Wednesday afternoon February 18, 2004. He was 86 years old.

During his married years in Joplin, Eugene was active in the Rudyard and Havre bowling leagues. After moving to Hamilton, he continued to enjoy bowling, even into his senior years. During his quiet time at home, he was an avid television sports fan.

In addition to his wife, Eugene was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother William Dahinden. He had no children.

His survivors include his brother, Vern Dahinden and wife, Marjie of Chester; a step-daughter, Joy Sunderland of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and 7 nephews and nieces: Ken Dahinden of Superior, Montana, Anna Flynn of Houston, Texas, Virginia Edwards of Big Sandy, Steve Dahinden of Joplin, Greg Dahinden of Portland, Oregon, Joe Dahinden of Belgrade, and Tom Dahinden of Billings.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday (Feb. 21st) at the Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester. Father Pete Guthneck officiated. Scripture readings were by Anna Flynn & Greg Dahinden.

The obituary was read by Locky Edwards. In recognition of Eugene’s military service, "taps" were played

and a veteran's flag was presented to his family. A luncheon followed at the home of Vern & Marjie Dahinden in Chester. Private burial was Monday (Feb. 23rd) at the Highland Cemetery in Havre, where Eugene was interred with his wife & parents. Arr's by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
HAVRE — Former telephone operator and bookkeeper Dorothea W. (Watson) Dea, 86, who had lived in Great Falls, Harlem, Sand Coulee, Big Sandy and Chester, died of natural causes Wednesday at a Big Sandy nursing home.

Cremation will take place, and a memorial service is 1 p.m. Monday at Holland and Oea Bonine Funeral Home. Burial will be in Highland Cemetery, followed by a lunch at the Eagles Club.

Survivors include a daughter, Vicki Toth of Havre; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Dea.
Viola G. (Amundson) Dittrich

Birth: September 12, 1903 – Death: February 28, 2004

Liberty County Times
March 31, 2004

Viola Dittrich

Viola G. (Amundson) Dittrich was born in Wesby Wisconsin on Sept. 12, 1903 to Otto and Carrie Amundson. She passed away Feb. 28, 2004 at the age of 100.

She moved with her family to Joplin, MT. in 1910 at the age of 7. Her dad owned and operated a meat market in Joplin. She grew up on the family farm, now operated by her niece, Priscilla and Don Pimley. Viola went to Joplin Grade School and attended high school in Great Falls as there wasn't an accredited high school in Joplin. She went to Business College in Spokane and worked several years in Chester, Browning and Joplin doing bookkeeping.

In 1942 Viola married Otto Dittrich (from Rudyard) at the courthouse in Shelby, MT. They moved to Carnation, Washington where they ran a truck farm and organic vegetable farm and cannery for 16-years. Viola and Otto did a lot of commercial canning of vegetables, beef and fish.

They later moved to Seattle and built homes for a living. They were in Seattle for 49 years.

Viola lived for many years with her daughter Cleo Airick, after her husband Otto passed away.

Survivors include her daughter Cleo Airick of Kenmore, Washington; Granddaughters: Shelley and Cheryl; and two Great-granddaughters, Lindsay and Kaylan. Sister-in-law, Eva Amundson of Missoula, and many friends and relatives.

She was preceded in death by her husband Otto Dittrich in 1991; brothers Sigurd and Leif Amundson; and sisters Gerta Edwards and Lillie Jensen.
Ann M. Domire

Ann Domire, who taught at many Hi-Line country schools in the late 1920s and 1930s, then became a Rudyard farmwife and homemaker, died at the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester early Friday morning October 15, 2004, the day after her 97th birthday.

Ann Margaret Sohm was born October 14, 1907 at Danbury, Iowa to Joseph and Mary (Stork) Sohm. She was the youngest of six children. In 1914 the Sohm family came to Montana and settled at Kremlin. The following year they moved to Fresno, where they operated a small farm, tavern, restaurant, and hotel. Ann received her early schooling at Fresno, then finished her secondary education at Havre, graduating from Havre High School in 1926. She went on to attend Montana Normal College at Dillon where she earned her teaching credentials in 1930. In the few years that followed, Ann taught at numerous Hill County country schools, including South Fresno, Cottonwood, Miller, North Kremlin, and Brennan. In 1935 she was awarded a Montana Lifetime Teaching Certificate.

When Ann was teaching at the Brennan School north of Hingham, she met an area farmer, Bennie Domire, who would eventually become her husband. They were married on September 21, 1937 at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Hingham. They made their home on Bennie’s farm north of Rudyard, where Ann worked diligently as a farmwife and mother of four. After 40 years on the farm, the Domires retired in 1977 and moved into town. They were married 42 years when Bennie died in 1979. Ann remained in their Rudyard home until 1995, when she fell and broke her hip, then transferred to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester.

Ann was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith and remained loyal to her beliefs throughout her life. She was a dedicated member of Our Lady of Ransom, never missing Mass on Sundays and holy days, and was an ardent worker in the Ladies Altar Society. She prayed the “Rosary” on a regular basis for personal strength and hope.

Ann was also a charter member of the Rudyard Home Demonstration Club. She loved caring for her flowers and working in her garden. She was an excellent seamstress, a good cook, and an amateur pianist, harmonist, and singer. For the fun of it she loved to play Pinochle, collect stamps, and complete crossword games and jigsaw puzzles.

Ann was preceded in death by her parents and husband, her two sons: Joe in 1996, and Clarence in 2001; and her 5 siblings: Frank and Joe Sohm, Theresa Plenger, Mary Bailey, Dianne (George) Folk of Rudyard, and Kathleen (Rodney) Tibbetts of Hawley, Minnesota; two daughters-in-law: Barbara Domire of Rudyard, and Joanne Domire of Fairfax, Virginia; nine grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Her funeral mass was celebrated at 2 pm Monday October 18th at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church by Father Joseph Diekhans. Iris White was organist, and Terry Stevenson was vocalist. Musical tributes included “On This Day, Oh Beautiful Mother,” “Take Me To Thy Sacred Heart,” and “Ave Maria.”

Pallbearers were Kelly and Randy Domire, Bryan Folk, and Leonard Converse. Ushers were Stu Smith and Roger Zentzis; altar servers were Dan Hybner and Mike Wendland; and the Eucharistic Minister was Tim Gatzemeier. Burial followed at the Hingham Cemetery. A reception was held at the church.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
Mary Patricia Dostal

Geraldine — Mary Patricia (Carr) Dostal, 86, a homemaker, died of natural causes Saturday at Geraldine Medical Center.

A vigil is 7 p.m. Thursday and the funeral Mass is 11 a.m. Friday at St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Geraldine. Benton Funeral Home of Fort Benton is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include daughters Sister Mary Dostal of Billings, Patricia (Jay) Eklund of Geraldine, Margaret (Kevin Vaughn) Dostal of Austin, Texas, Elizabeth (William Thompson) Dostal of Bloomington, Minn., Veronica (Bart Adso) Dostal of Santa Clara, Calif.; sons Frank (Gay) of Whitehouse, Texas; Robert (Kathy) of Bryn Mawr, Pa., Paul of Geraldine; a daughter-in-law, Susan Peart of Billings; sisters Anna Tacke of Great Falls, and Margaret May of Havre; 18 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Elmer; son John, and brothers Harold, James, and Gordon.

Mary's life was devoted to her children and grandchildren. She was very involved in her church, active in Altar Society and teaching Sunday school for over 42 years. She participated and led many activities such as the American Legion Auxiliary, PTA, Tuesday Club and 4-H with her children. She loved to bake and cook. She enjoyed entertaining and giving food to anyone in need. She was proud of her Irish heritage.

Thanks to the Missouri River Medical Center and all their staff for the excellent care they provided our mother and grandmother.

Memorials can be given to Angela's Pizza; Women's Drop-In Center, 420 Grand Ave., Billings, MT 59101 or to Missouri River Medical Center Activity Dept., P.O. Box 249, Fort Benton, MT 59442.
HAVRE — Gilford native Faye Ruth Dudek, 82, of Havre, who enjoyed fishing, hunting crocheting and bowling, died of natural causes Friday at a Havre hospital.

Her funeral is 1 p.m. Wednesday at St. Jude Catholic Church in Havre with burial in Highland cemetery. A fellowship luncheon will follow at the St. Jude Parish Center. Holland and Bonine Funeral Home of Havre is handling arrangements.

Survivors include a son, Everett C. Converse of Hardin; daughters Julia L. Murdo of Alliance, Neb., and Debra J. Moad of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; a sister, Glenna F. Engdahl of Minneapolis; brothers Edwin A. Sapp of Great Falls, Henry E. Sapp and Larry J. Sapp, both of Havre; 14 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard L. Dudek; daughters Minta (Converse) Basket, Francis R. Converse and Rosella A. (Converse) Williams; and five great-grandchildren.
Adolph Eggen

Adolph Edward Eggen, age 86, longtime area farmer, died of natural causes Saturday January 24, 2004 at the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester.

Adolph is survived by his sisters Mayetta Olson of Havre, Violett Brandt of Kennewick, Washington, and Pearl Moore of Joplin. He was preceded in death by his brother Clifton Eggen.

Adolph was born March 12, 1917 at the family homestead south of Inverness to Harold and Nelsina (Otterness) Eggen. He graduated from Inverness High School in 1937. In his younger years he enjoyed playing in a local band on the hi-Line. His pride and joy was his Gibson Mastertone banjo.

Private family services are pending. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
PHYLLIS MARION (DAUGHTERS) ELLIOTT

Born: April 12, 1923 - Died: May 20, 2004

Great Falls Tribune
May 23, 2004

Phyllis Marion Elliott

LEWISTOWN — Phyllis Marion (Daughters) Elliott, 81, of Lewistown, a homemaker, died following a lengthy illness Thursday at a Lewistown care facility.

Her memorial service is 11 a.m. Wednesday at Lewistown United Methodist Church. Cremation has taken place and burial of ashes will be in Lewistown City Cemetery. Creel Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Survivors include her husband of 58 years, Walter Elliott of Lewistown; children Martha Jane (Richard) Thieltges of Helena, Thomas Allen Elliott of Missoula, Douglas Charles (Nancy) Elliott of Richland, Wash., Kenneth Marvin (Sandi MacFadden) Elliott and Mary Alice (Bart) Taylor, all of Boise, Idaho; 10 grandchildren: John and Katherine Thieltges, Geoffrey, Matthew and Christopher Elliott, David, Olivia and Dustin MacFadden-Elliott and Luke and Jacob Taylor; a cousin, Marjorie (Carl) Obenauf of Columbus, Ohio; nieces Barbara Foster, Sandra (Rolf Besencourt) Foster and Victoria (Nick) Scott; brothers-in-law John (Margaret) Elliott and Bruce Anderson; and sisters-in-law Alice Treat and Eva Carstensen.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Elizabeth Grace and Margaret Foster.

Phyllis was born April 12, 1923, in Columbus, Ohio, to Harry and Olive (Brown) Daughters. She was united in marriage to Walter Allen Elliott of Fort Benton, Mont. They lived in Washington, D.C., for a short time, moving to Montana in December of 1945.

On July 30, 1945, in Columbus, Ohio, she was united in marriage to Walter Allen Elliott of Fort Benton, Mont. They lived in Washington, D.C., for a short time, moving to Montana in December of 1945.

Phyllis was a member of the United Methodist Church, Deborah Circle, served one time as president of the United Methodist Women, was a former Sunday school teacher and also served at one time as superintendent of the Sunday school program. She was a past president of P.E.O. and AAUW, a member of Alpha Phi, Marie Chapter O.E.S., the Pink Ladies Auxiliary of Central Montana Medical Center and was named Soroptimist Club Woman of the Year in 1978.

She enjoyed golf, reading, traveling, flower gardening and visiting her family.
HAVRE — James Robert Flynn, 80, of Havre, a retired insurance agent, died of natural causes Saturday at his residence.

His memorial service is 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Van Orsdel United Methodist Church, with burial in Highland Cemetery, followed by a fellowship luncheon at the church.

Holland and Bonine Funeral Home of Havre is handling arrangements.

Jim is survived by a daughter, Holly Flynn Winter of Auburn, Wash.; a son, Mike Flynn of SeaTac, Wash.; a sister, Jean Watson of Havre; many nieces, nephews, cousins, great-nieces and great-nephews; and all of his many, many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Harriett in 1996; and brothers Roger, Raymond and Kenneth Flynn.

Jim was born May 13, 1924, in Gildford to John P. and Ruth Hazel (Baker) Flynn. He was raised in Gildford and graduated from Gildford High School in 1942. He then went to work for the state Highway Department for a few years and then operated the family business “Jack’s Bar” in Gildford. He married Harriett Duncan Sept. 10, 1946, in Havre. He started Flynn Insurance Co. in September of 1961. Jim and Harriett operated it until he sold the company to Koefod Insurance Agency in August of 1987. Jim went to work for Koefod Agency from 1987 until he retired in September 2004. His wife Harriett died in 1996 and he moved into the Eagles Manor in 1997.

Jim was involved in many organizations such as the Kiwanis, where he served as president from 1971 to 1972. He was also a member of the Eagles, Elks and the Van Orsel United Methodist Church. Jim and Harriett loved to travel and visit their children. Jim was a very optimistic and friendly person who was known and liked by many. He enjoyed taking pictures and sharing them with his family and friends.

Memorials in Jim's honor may be made to Van Orsel United Methodist Church 410 5th Ave., Havre, MT 59501 or to Havre Kiwanis c/o Chris Maristuen, 835 14th St., Havre, MT 59501.
ESTRID HELEN (SUNDGREN) FREELAND
Birth: November 15, 1920 - Death: May 12, 2004
Liberty County Times
May 19, 2004

Estrid Helen (Sundgren) Freeland was born November 15th, 1920 at Whitefish, Montana. Her parents, Arvid and Erica (Lund) Sundgren, were Swedish immigrants, and she was one of six children. Estrid was raised on the family farm north of Joplin and graduated from Joplin High School in 1939.

She married Charles M. Freeland in 1940. They made their home in Joplin and began raising their family of three. In 1951 they moved to Chester where Estrid worked part-time at the post office. In addition she cooked the weekly meals for the Chester Rotary Club, cooked for her brother ArL's harvest crew, and sold Avon products. During her last year in Chester, she operated the Grand Cafe. The Freelands were divorced in 1960.

Estrid moved to Billings in 1964 to be near her youngest daughter. During her 20+ years in Billings she continued to sell Avon, worked for an insurance company, and was employed as a clerk for a department and shoe store. In 1987 she retired and moved to Great Falls. She lived there until January of 2004, when progressive respiratory problems forced her transfer to the Marias Care Center in Shelby. Estrid died at the Shelby rest home on Wednesday morning May 12, 2004 at the age of 83 years.

During her early years in Joplin she was an active member of Bethel Lutheran Church. She served as a Sunday school teacher, worked as church treasurer for several years, and was a loyal member of the ladies aid group. Estrid enjoyed her 30 years as an Avon rep because she made many friends during that time. She loved to travel in her earlier years. After retiring to Great Falls, she enjoyed attending the horse racing events at the State Fairgrounds. She loved to work in her flower gardens and had a "green-thumb" for houseplants. Other hobbies included sewing and crafts, cooking and baking, and collecting decorative bottles.

Survivors include her son, Denis Freeland (and wife, Annette) of Galata; two daughters, Sylvia Anderson (and husband, Don) of Hillsboro, California, and Roberta Soare (and husband, Mal) of Billings; one sister, Carol Ness of Seattle, Washington; six grandchildren, Don Freeland, Debra Freeland, Dan (Julie) Freeland, Terrie Heikkila, Tracy (Ed) Reed, and Scott (Shannon) Heikkila; six great-grandchildren including: Carson, McKenzie, Dillon, Jack, Ben, and William; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Estrid was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Gladys Carlson and Margaret Thielman, and two brothers, Art and Swen Sundgren.

She was cremated per her request. A memorial service will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin at 11:00 a.m. Saturday May 29th. Burial of ashes will follow at the Joplin Cemetery. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

A Prayer for Mom & Grandma

Dear God
Please take the soul and spirit of our dear departed Mom & Grandma into the sweetest corner of your mind, the most tender place in your heart. That she, and we, might be comforted.

We surrender to you our grief.
We surrender to you our pain.
Though our memories we keep.
We hold for eternal to she may visit us.

Please take care of Mom & Grandma.
Our dear one who has passed.

Amen

We Love You Mom & Grandma.
Denis, Sylvia, Roberta & Family
RICHARD C. FREY
Birth: N/A – Death: May 10, 2004
Liberty County Times
May 26, 2004

Richard C. Frey, age 71, of Bloomington, Minnesota, passed away suddenly on May 10, 2004. He was preceded in death by his parents and four siblings. He is survived by his loving wife, Jaci (Dolezal) Frey, children, Ric (Loretta), Wanda (Dale) Pramanik, Lori (Don) Roiger, Roy (Sharon), Lisa (David) Bowdon, Ross (Brandi), Mama (Nick) Aguirre; 17 grandchildren; six siblings and many other relatives and friends.

Richard was employed by AT&T for 38 years. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandpa, and friend. His spirit lives on in the hearts of those who knew him.

Funeral services were held Friday, May 14 at Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Bloomington. Interment was at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Arrangements by Werness Brothers.

Words of comfort may be left at www.mem.com.
Sandra Jane (White) Friberg

Sandra Jane (White) Friberg was born November 12th, 1937 at Orange, California. She was the only child of Lytle “Whitie” White and Mary Kathryn “Kay” Weir. Sandy was raised at Chinook, Montana and received her formal education there. Following her graduation from Chinook High School in 1956, she continued her schooling for the next year at Northern Montana College in Havre, where she majored in Business.

Sandy married Allan Friberg on June 7th, 1957 at Chinook. They made their home at Inverness where Sandy became a farmwife, homemaker, & mother of three. In the late 1960’s Sandy was diagnosed with a pituitary tumor, then additional medical ailments followed. The Fribergs divorced in 1978.

Sandy moved to Chester and worked part-time as a nurse’s aide at the Liberty County Nursing Home. She met Eugene Bengtson; they became companions for the ten years prior to his death in 1992. Sandy moved to the Sweet Grass Lodge in 1993 and has lived there since.

This past Tuesday morning January 13th, 2004 Sandy was scheduled for some minor surgery at the local hospital. When she failed to arrive for her appointment, friends were called to check on her. She was found dead at her apartment. She died peacefully of apparent natural causes. She was 66 years old.

Sandy was baptized and confirmed in the Methodist faith. After coming to Chester she attended the Assembly of God Church with Gene. In recent years her attendance has been at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. Sandy was active at the Chester Senior Center and the Sweetgrass Lodge. In addition she has been a loyal member of Alcoholics Anonymous for the past 20+ years. During her early married years she was a member of the “Eastern Star” Lodge in Joplin.

Sandy’s hobbies included Bingo, cards, and other games associated with the Senior Center and Lodge. She also enjoyed music & dancing. In her private time at home she liked to read, especially Westerns. Sandy could best be described as a quiet, unpretentious woman who enjoyed the simple things in life.

She is survived by three children: Greg Friberg and wife Kathy of Vancouver, Washington, Debbie Lineweaver and husband Ron of Joplin, and Jon Friberg of Inverness; and three grandchildren; Kirsten Friberg, Whitni Friberg, & Curt Lineweaver. She was preceded in death by her parents, and grandson Kevin Lineweaver.

Memorial services conducted at 2:00 p.m. Saturday January 17, 2004 at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Chester by Pastor Pete Erickson. Scripture readings were shared by Sandy’s granddaughters Kirsten and Whitni. Grandson Curt read the obituary. Organist Stanleigh Barbie accompanied the congregation, who sang “Amazing Grace.” Vocalist Wayne Wardell performed “One Day at a Time.”

Dean Lyle served as usher. Memorial bearers were listed as Sandy’s friends at the Senior Center and Sweet Grass Lodge.

A reception followed at the church hall.

Sandy’s ashes will be interred later this spring in the family plot with her parents at the Absarokee Cemetery.

Cremation and arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

Undesignated memorials will be given to the Kevin Lineweaver Memorial Scholarship Fund.
JANICE MARIE (FRIED) FUNK
Born: August 26, 1939 - Died: August 20, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
August 25, 2004

Janice Marie Funk

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE, Wash. - Former Havre resident Janice Marie Funk, 64, a retired registered nurse, died of cancer Friday at her home in Brier, Wash.

Rosary is 7 this evening, with a memorial service 10:30 a.m. Thursday, both at St. Pius X Church in Mountlake Terrace, Wash.

Jan is survived by her husband of 15 years, Eugene Funk; children Treva (Dean) Eman of Minot, N.D., Christina (Larry) Parsons of Havre, Kelly Gales of Tacoma, Wash., Tricia Tahnuda of Tempe, Ariz., and Daniel (Shelly) Giliberto of Everett, Wash.; stepchildren Mike Funk of Bothell, Wash., Melissa (Jorge) Samoza of Okinawa, Japan, and Emily Funk of Poulsbo, Wash.; her mother, Virginia Toner of Gildford; brothers Jack (Mary Nell) Fried of Denver, Tom Toner of Victor, Dave Toner of Gildford and Jerry (Jody) Toner of Havre; sisters Lynn (Jim) Heydon of Missoula and Mary Lou (Chuck) Dees of Kremlin; 13 grandchildren; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Jay Fried; her stepfather, Bud Toner; and her brother, William.

Janice Marie Funk passed away Aug. 20, 2004, at her home, surrounded by her family after a long battle with cancer.

Janice was born Aug. 26, 1939, in Havre, to Jay and Virginia Fried. Jay died during World War II, and her mom then married Thomas "Bed" Toner, who raised Jan as his own. Jan attended school in Gildford, and graduated with a degree in nursing from Montana State University in Bozeman.


Jan loved her husband, children and grandchildren. If anyone had a problem, it was best solved at a restaurant over pie and coffee. Jan and Gene were members of the Lynnwood Eagles and liked camping and traveling in their RV. Her favorite hobbies were reading, going to the casino and baking.

Jan will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Providence Hospice of Snohomish County, 2731 Whitemere Avenue, Suite 500, Everett, WA 98201-9931.

"The Lord took you with His healing grace, but we will miss your smiling face."
DONALD V. FUSK
Birth: August 15, 1923 – Death: January 30, 2004
Liberty County Times
February 4, 2004

Donald V. Fusk was born August 15th, 1923 on the family homestead in the Alma community north of Joplin, Montana. He was one of five children born to Peter and Olianna (Gotsvosli) Fusk. Donald grew up on the farm and received his early education at the Tingdahl Country School. He finished his school years in Joplin, where he graduated from Joplin High School in 1942.

Donald enlisted into the U. S. Army and served during World War II. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to the family farm in Montana.

Donald met his wife-to-be, Audrey Jean Miller. They were married at Joplin on June 15, 1952. They made their home on the Fusk farm 27 miles north of Joplin from that time on and raised their family of four. They were married 43 years when Audrey died of cancer on June 16, 1995. Donald continued to live on the farm and stayed active in the farming operations. Recently he developed some serious health problems that required hospital care. Donald died at the Northern Montana Hospital in Havre on Friday afternoon January 30th, 2004. He was 80 years old.

Donald was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church north of Joplin. He was also a member of the Joplin Farmer's Union and the Chester V.F.W. Post #397.

Donald was a very creative person who spent countless hours tinkering in his shop. In the 1970's Donald and Audrey became interested in fossil hunting; in fact, they attended several hunts with well-known Montana paleontologist, Jack Horner. They collected and polished many of the special stones as keepsakes of these memorable hunts.

Donald loved the "great outdoors" and, consequently, was content with his role as a Montana farmer and rancher. Even into his senior years he still enjoyed working outside with his cattle or completing the farming tasks. Most of all, he loved his family and always looked forward to their visits. They will remember him as a giving and loving father, grandfather, and friend.

Survivors include one son, Leonard Fusk of Columbia Falls; three daughters and spouses: Christine and Steve Sapp of Havre, Debbie and Paul Dees of Havre, and Ellie and Bill Keeley of Havre; a daughter-in-law, Sarah Fusk of Chester; 13 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; two brothers, John Fusk of Joplin and Cliff Fusk of Post Angeles, Washington; one sister, Alice Bilden of Havre; a special close friend, Barney Bjornstad of Joplin; and many nephews and nieces. Donald was preceded in death not only by his wife and parents, but also by a brother Harold Fusk and a grandson Tanor Dees.

It was Donald's wish to be cremated. A private family memorial service was held at Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday Feb. 3, 2004. Reverend Dale Wolery officiated. Selected CD music included "Lara's Theme," "Somebody's Praying Me Through," and "Go Rest High On That Mountain." Honorary bearers were Kip Lybeck, Donald "Barney" Bjornstad, Gene Meldrum, Steve Sapp, Bill Keeley, and Paul Dees. Funeral arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel.
Earl Dale Gierke

POLSON — Earl Dale Gierke, 83, of Polson, a retired farmer and school bus driver, died of natural causes Tuesday at a Polson hospital.

Memorial service is 11 a.m. Tuesday at the IOOF Hall in Great Falls, 2509 15th St. N.E. (Havre Highway). Cremation arrangements are under the direction Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory of Polson.

Survivors include his wife, Elsie, of Polson; a son, David Gierke of Frenchtown, Mont.; a daughter, Patty Gierke of Polson; a brother, Darrell Gierke of Billings; and five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Fred Lewis Gierke.

Earl was born on Oct. 24, 1921, in Edmore, N.D., to Alfred Emelius Jorgen and Marthea (Danielson) Gierke. They moved to Fairview, Mont., when Earl was an infant. He attended schools in Fairview and worked on both the family farm and the neighbors’ farms. He moved to San Francisco and worked in the shipyards before joining the military.

Earl served in the U.S. Army Aircorp during World War II. He served in the European Theater and took part in the Normandy invasion. After WWII, Earl was discharged at Mountain Home, Idaho, and continued to live in Boise. He worked for Simplot and farmed near Grandview, Idaho.

In 1950, Earl moved to Sidney, Mont., and started working for LaLonde Construction, and helped build the road between Belt and Great Falls. He met Elsie Holmes and they married on Dec. 24, 1951, in Belt.

He drove the city bus in Great Falls for one year. Earl then farmed near Belt, Geraldine, Choteau and Fort Benton, where he eventually bought a farm. He retired from farming in 1979, and drove school bus until 1989.

He and Elsie operated the Tiber Marina near Chester, and owned and operated the concession trailer as Nick’s Funnel Cakes for several years. They started working at campgrounds in 1994 in Washington, Oregon and Montana. They eventually moved to Polson in Dec. 2001.

Earl was a member of the IOOF. He enjoyed woodworking, gardening and especially loved traveling and playing cards. He enjoyed his family and friends, loved to laugh and had a great sense of humor.

Memorials may be made to the Fred and Earl Gierke Scholarship Fund, c/o First State Bank, Fort Benton, MT 59442.
Charles H. Gilbert

HARLEM — Charles H. Gilbert, 95, a farmer and trapper, died of natural causes Tuesday at a Havre hospital.

His funeral is 2 p.m. Saturday at Edwards Funeral Home in Chinook, with burial in Kuper Memorial Cemetery.


A son, Roger Gilbert, died in 1970.
MARGARET FRANCES (HILER) GOLBERG
Birth: June 21, 1918 - Death: June 6, 2004
Liberty County Times
June 16, 2004

Margaret Golberg
Margaret Frances (Hiler) Golberg was born on June 21, 1918. She was the only child of Floyd and Marie (Olson) Hiler. She came to Montana as a child and grew up in the Havre community. Margaret received her education in Havre and graduated from H.H.S. in 1936. She continued her schooling at Spokane, Washington where she earned a degree from Kinman Business School.

Margaret returned to Montana and began working at the Buttrey's Store in Havre. She met her husband-to-be, Arnold C. Golberg, and they were married in Havre on June 2, 1940. They made their home at Vancouver, Washington where Arnold worked in the shipyards during World War II. Margaret stayed busy as a homemaker and mother to their only child, a daughter, Sandy.

Following the war the Golbergs returned to Montana and began farming north of Rudyard. Margaret continued to live in Rudyard and she worked at the school until her retirement in 1988.

In February of 2003 Margaret suffered a broken hip. She transferred to the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre for extended care. She died peacefully of natural causes at the Havre rest home on this past Sunday morning (June 6, 2004). She was 85 years old.

Margaret was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1978 and received appropriate treatment. She was proud to have been a "cancer survivor" for the past 25 years!

Margaret was baptized as an infant at Minneapolis in 1918. She received her confirmation as an adult at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in 1940. She had been an active member of the church since, serving on the church council, volunteering as church organist for many years, and participating in the ladies' aide. Margaret had also been active in the Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls, and Rudyard Historical Society.

Margaret and Arnold enjoyed brook fishing and golfing together. Margaret's personal interests included gardening, crocheting, quilting, bowling, and scrapbooking. She enjoyed baking, especially Norwegian foods like lefse, breads, raisin bars, etc. Of interest was the fact that she learned to swim when she was in her 70's with special instructions by her granddaughter, Marcia.

In 1975. Margaret continued to live in Rudyard and she worked at the school until her retirement in 1988.

Last, but not least, Margaret was a big sports fan and supporter of all school activities. She loved every single student during her tenure as clerk of the school!

She is survived by her daughter, Sandra Copenhaver and husband, Jerry of Rudyard; two grandchildren: Marcia and husband Dale Welliever of Billings, and Mark and wife Tammy Copenhaver of Helena; five great-grandchildren including: Tom, Kelei, and Steven Welliever, and Jacklyn and Jerilyn Copenhaver; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

Funeral services were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Thursday June 10, 2004 by Pastor Brian Pederson at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard. Scripture readings were by Leslie Smith, and the eulogy was shared by grandson, Mark. The organist was Stanleigh Barbie and the congregation sang "This is My Father's World." Vocal music by Terry Stevenson included "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Seek Ye First." Taped music was provided by Scott Spicher, who sang "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "How Great Thou Art," and "In the Garden." Ushers were Joe DeMartin and Larry Peebler. Pallbearers included Dennis Anderson, Scott Patrick, Rod Spicher, Howard Conquer-good, Stu Smith, and Bonni Fiaudger. Memorial bearers were Mark Widdis, Albert Budeau, Carl Knudsen, Jim Smith, Stan Smith, Bill Spicher, Dick Golberg, and Ken Boucher.

Following burial at the Rudyard Cemetery, a luncheon was held at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
DONNA MILDRED (SIVERTSEN) GOLDBERG

Birth: November 21, 1931 – Death: December 29, 2004

Liberty County Times

January 12, 2005

She was a lifelong member of the Lutheran church and was active in Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin, and at the First Lutheran Church in Havre. She was a member of Anna's Circle at Bethel Lutheran. She did volunteer work at the Liberty County Nursing Home, visiting with residents, playing piano, and fixing hair. She did volunteer work with the Literacy Volunteers of America in Havre.

She worked several years as a postal clerk in Inverness. She also worked as a clerk for a law firm and also with the Havre Daily News.

She is survived by her daughter, Julie Trees and her husband Wayne of Las Cruces, New Mexico, and daughter, Jennifer Winters of Havre Montana; former son-in-law Greg Winters of Havre, Montana; her granddaughters Kristen and Kira Trees of Las Cruces, New Mexico; her niece Valerie Hickman of Havre, Montana, and nephew Tim Van Wechel of Inverness.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Selmer and Lillie Sivertsen, her husband Harold, her daughter Jill, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Services were held on Saturday, January 1, 2005 at the First Lutheran Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her name to

Kitty Keepers, c/o PJ's Restaurant, Havre MT. 59501 (406)265-3211 or
The Havre Animal Shelter, W of Havre (406)265-2959.
ALICE ROSE (LEE) GREEN
Birth: September 8, 1906 – Death: May 7, 2004

Liberty County Times
May 12, 2004

Alice Rose Green was born at Hillsboro, North Dakota on September 8, 1906. She was the only daughter of four children born to Adolph and Tena (Olson) Lee, who were of Norwegian descent. Alice grew up in Montana and received her formal education at Chester, Carter, and Big Sandy, where she earned her high school diploma.

Alice married Robert William Green at Great Falls in 1924. They made their home in the Big Sandy community where she worked diligently as a homemaker and mother of two. The Greens had been married 56 years when Robert died in 1980. Alice remained in her Big Sandy home until her health began to fail in 2000, when she transferred to the Big Sandy Nursing Home. She recently developed pneumonia and died from complications at the Big Sandy Medical Center on Friday afternoon, May 7, 2004. She was 97 years old.

Alice was raised in the Catholic faith and had been a lifelong member of St. Margaret Mary’s Church in Big Sandy. She served as church organist for many years and was president of the Altar Society. She was also very active in the American Legion Auxiliary, having served as past president, and will be remembered for writing letters to many local servicemen over the years.

Alice loved music; she was a self-taught piano player who had an exceptional singing voice. She performed for many occasions, including weddings, funerals, dances, and other special events.

Family and community ties were important to her. She supported school activities, especially band concerts and related trips. In the 1990’s she was honored to be chosen as Big Sandy’s “Homecoming Queen” at a local celebration.

Other interests included bowling, ice-skating, and playing Bridge. She was also an avid crossword enthusiast. In addition she kept a daily diary of those interesting events in her life.

Alice was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend who always “looked for the silver lining” in things. She was forever optimistic about life and often said “things will get better”!

Survivors include her son, Robert L. Green Sr. and wife Elizabeth of Henderson, Nevada; daughter, Betty Jean Allison of Riverside, California; seven grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and three brothers: Ruben Lee, Halvor Lee, and Elwin Cady.

Funeral Mass will be 11:00 a.m. Wednesday May 12th at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Big Sandy. Burial will follow at the Big Sandy Cemetery.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
Longtime Havre farmer dies at 101

HAVRE — Albert Frances Greytak, 101, died of natural causes Thursday at his Havre home.

A prayer vigil service is 7 p.m. Monday at St. Jude Catholic Church. Funeral Mass is 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Jude Catholic Church with burial in Calvary Cemetery, followed by a fellowship luncheon at the church. Holland and Bonine Funeral Home in Havre is handling arrangements.

Albert was born Sept. 2, 1902, to Jacob and Elizabeth (Grajcar) Greytak in Stockton and attended school in Great Falls and Belt. He moved to the Simpson Community and the family homestead in 1916 and later proved up on his own homesteadi. He farmed until the age of 94.

He married Gladys I. Thompson, a schoolteacher, on Jan. 6, 1930, in Havre at the St. Jude Catholic Church. The couple lived north of Havre, where they farmed and raised their 12 children. They spent their married life on the farm until 1996, when they moved into Havre. Gladys passed away Aug. 28, 1997.

Albert was a member of St. John’s Catholic Church at Cottonwood and St. Jude Church in Havre.

When he was not involved with the farming or his cattle, he enjoyed working in his shop where he was quite inventive and creative. He had a complete shop with many of the machines being of his own making. He loved to travel and enjoyed family picnics in the Bear Paws.

Memorials in Albert’s honor may be made to the Havre Hill County Library, 403 3rd Street, Havre, MT 59501, or to the St. Jude School, 524 4th Street, Havre, MT 59501.
CHESTER HARVEY "CHET" GUITH
Born: December 14, 1912 - Died: December 25, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
December 28, 2004

Chester Harvey Guith

CUT BANK — Chester Harvey "Chet" Guith, 92, of Cut Bank, a retired farmer and rancher, died of natural causes Saturday at a Cut Bank hospital.

Services are 2 p.m. Thursday at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cut Bank, with burial in Crown Hill Cemetery. Day Funeral Home of Cut Bank is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include sisters Marion DeGroat of Opportunity, Wash., and Virginia Beale of Lewiston, Idaho; a brother, Cliff Guith of Cut Bank; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lillian, on May 1, 1997; and a daughter, Linda Billsborough.

Chet was born Dec. 14, 1912, in Devon, Mont., and was raised in Devon and Cut Bank. He attended school in Cut Bank until the 11th grade, and worked many jobs. In his early years, he broke horses and worked as a ditch rider for Seville Irrigation. He then bought his farm and ranch on Seville and raised cattle and sheep.

He married Lillian Mildred Nordstrom on Nov. 16, 1941, in Cut Bank.

The family lived on the farm until 1975, when Chet retired. They moved into Cut Bank, where they enjoyed retirement.

Chet was a member and officer of the Moose Lodge and a member of the Sons of Norway, where he was treasurer for many years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling, and spending time with his family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also enjoyed going down to the local cafe for coffee and meals and visiting with his friends.

In addition to his wife and daughter, he was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Meta Guith; and a sister, Mildred Guith.

Memorials are suggested to the Senior Citizens Center of Cut Bank.
Leonard Francis Haas was born February 18th, 1926 at Bingham, Montana. He was one of five children born to John & Barbara (Duerr) Haas. He grew up on the family farm south of Hingham and attended a country school near there.

In 1944 at age 18 Leonard enlisted into the U. S. Navy. He attained the rank of Machinist's Mate 3rd class and served in the Asiatic-Pacific theaters during World War II. Following his honorable discharge in 1946, he returned to Montana and remained in the Naval Reserves until 1947.

During those first few years back, he farmed in Montana during the summer months, then traveled to Vancouver, Washington where he worked in the shipyards during the winter months.

Leonard married Constance Wilson in 1957. They made their home in the Hingham community where they farmed and raised three sons. Their marriage ended in divorce in 1976.

Leonard remained in Hingham the rest of his life. He was diagnosed with lung cancer in June of 2004. He transferred to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester approximately a week ago. Leonard died at the rest home on Friday evening (November 19th, 2004) at the age of 78.

Leonard was raised in the Catholic faith and was a long-time member of the Havre Eagles Club. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, vegetable gardening, and playing cards. During his quiet time at home he enjoyed watching television. In his retirement years he loved his winter trips to Las Vegas.

He is survived by 3 sons, Roger (and Cathie) Haas, Steve Haas, and Randy Haas, all of Hingham; 5 grandchildren (inc. Holly, Heather, Kevin, Mitchell, & Anthony); 1 brother, John Haas of Royal Palm Beach, Florida; 1 sister, Ann Fallon of Superior, Mt.; and numerous nephews & nieces. Leonard was preceded in death by his parents, a brother (Mike Haas), and a sister (Louise Villett).

Public visitation was Tuesday (Nov. 23rd) at the Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester. Only graveside services were planned per Leonard's wishes. These services were conducted at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday (Nov. 24th) at the Hingham Cemetery by Father Domenico Pizzonia of Havre. Leonard’s obituary was read by a grandson, Mitchell Haas. Pallbearers included his 3 sons and Rynn Rockman. Military rites were provided by the Havre V.F.W. Bear Paw Post #497.
ELEANOR B. (FRIEL) HAGEN  

Liberty County Times  
March 3, 2004

Eleanor B Friel · Hansell Hagen, 83, who made her home in Shelby, passed away on February 28, 2004 at the Marias Medical Center due to natural causes. Visitation will be at Whitted Funeral Chapel on Thursday, March 4, from 1-5:30 pm with Vigil Service to follow at St William Catholic Church at 7:00 pm. Funeral Mass is set for Friday, March 5, at 11:00 am at St William Catholic Church in Shelby with burial to follow in Mountain View Cemetery.

Eleanor was born October 5, 1920 to John and Kathryn (Oliver) Friel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she was raised and received her early education. She worked various jobs, including the post office during the war, a jewelry store, the railroad, but she especially loved being a farmer's wife.

She married Harry B Hansell Jr on November 18, 1939. They first lived in the Philadelphia area but moved to Montana in 1949 where they raised their five children. They later divorced.

Eleanor married Orlin C Hagen on June 28, 1977. They lived on the farm and enjoyed the life and memories they built together sharing these memories with their children and grandchildren. Orlin died on April 29, 1996.

Eleanor was involved in many clubs and organizations including the St William Catholic Church, VFW Ladies' Auxiliary, Royal Neighbors, The Moose, TOPS, Altar Society, American Legion, Eastern Star, and Home Extension. She enjoyed playing cards, especially UNO, Scrabble, UPS and pinochle, crossword puzzles, and dancing, The Lawrence Welk Show, Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, but most of all, she enjoyed the time she spent with her children and grandchildren. She spent a lot of time with her friends and family and would do anything for anyone.

She is survived by her daughter Eleanor (Dean) Heydon of Joplin, sons, John (Elizabeth) Hansell of Las Vegas, Nevada, William (Becky) Hansell of Shelby, Wayne (Shannon) Hansell of Trenton, North Dakota, and Lance (Margaret Ann) of Anchorage, Alaska as well as 18 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Her sisters, Catherine Rogers, and brothers, George (Florance) Friel, Jack (Norma) Friel, and Edward (Judy) Friel also survive Eleanor. Her parents, husband, son Harry III, granddaughter Christine, and three sisters preceded her in death.
Albert Fredrick Hansen was born April 6, 1914 on the family farm at Brinkman, Montana. He was the only child of Fred and Lean (McDonald) Hansen, who had homesteaded 20 miles south of Rudyard. Albert attended the Black Coulee Country School. After finishing his formal education in Big Sandy, he began working on the farm.

He married Lydia Brandt on February 12, 1944 at Shelby, Montana. They lived and worked on the Hansen farm and raised their family of three. In 1958 they built a home in Rudyard where they wintered during their children's school years. After Albert retired from farming in 1974, they moved permanently to their home in town. When Albert's health began to fail in 1998 he transferred to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester. He died at the rest home on the early morning of Wednesday January 21, 2004. He was 89 years old.

Albert enjoyed his life as a farmer/rancher. He was a good farmer who always stayed informed in new ideas and techniques, and was always progressive and innovative in his farming operations. In addition to farming Albert stayed busy in other enterprises. He sold Miller rodweeder attachments and parts for over 20 years. He also sold hail insurance, tires, batteries for the Farm Bureau for many years. And for a short while back in the early 1960s Albert and his friend Bud Ean operated A&C Motors, a Renault and Citroen auto dealership in Rudyard.

In addition to being active in the Farm Bureau, Albert had also served on the Prairie City Country School Board. He was happy to receive his Lutheran baptism as an adult. After the Hansens retired, they became active in the Good Dam RV Club and enjoyed numerous camping trips to the South.

Of interest was the fact that the Hansens owned one of the first televisions in the south Rudyard community, so a lot of friends and neighbors came over in the evenings to watch a show or two. Albert enjoyed all this company!

In his younger years Albert liked to hunt. In later years he enjoyed fishing. He always looked forward to a good game of Cribbage with old friends or his grandkids. After his retirement, he spent countless hours just "tinkering in his shop."

He is survived by his wife of almost 60 years Lydia, of Rudyard; two daughters and spouses: Sandra and Joe Lincoln of Rudyard, and Linda and Jack Plovanich of Anchorage, Alaska; one son and spouse, Donald and Leota Hansen of Rudyard; six grandchildren: Janet and Steve Griffin, Jeff and Barbie Lincoln, Scott and Sheila Plovanich, Kristi and Scott Rader, Jody and Tracey Hansen, and Kari Hansen; and five great-grandchildren. Albert was preceded in death by his parents.
**OPAL CLAIRE (WOLERY) HARRISON**

*Birth: March 13, 1920 – Death: October 14, 2004*

*Liberty County Times*

*October 20, 2004*

Opal Harrison, born at home on a farm near Hill, Montana on March 13, 1920, was the only daughter of six children born to Guy Clarence Wolery and Blanche Lulu Wilson. The Wolery family moved to Deer Park, Washington when Opal was a child, so she received her early schooling there. They came back to Montana in 1932, so she finished her formal education at the Grassy Butte School north of Inverness. In the few years that followed she worked as a housekeeper for the Hughes family.


After 50 years of marriage, Norris died in 1989. Opal continued to live in the Rudyard community. During the past four years she developed various health problems, so she received extended care at the medical facility in Chester. In December of 2003 Opal became a permanent resident of the Liberty County Nursing Home, where she died peacefully on the evening of Thursday, October 14, 2004. She was 84 years old.

Opal had been active at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard. She loved her life as a homemaker and mother. In addition to raising six children of her own, the Harrisons also cared for 13 foster-children over the years.

Her hobbies included crocheting, quilting, and knitting. She also enjoyed canning and baking; she will be remembered for her fresh breads and cinnamon rolls. In her earlier years she enjoyed gardening, camping, and playing Pinochle with family and friends.

In more recent years she liked to play Cribbage with her son, Robert. During her quiet time at home she loved to listen to the radio or play her favorite musical tapes.

Opal is survived by three sons, Donald (Jean) Harrison of Great Falls, and Robert and Lyle Harrison, both of Rudyard; three daughters, Shirley (Donald) Rudolph of Chester, Elaine (Willis) Hodges of Cordes Lakes, Arizona, and Jean Stone of Chester; a special foster-child, Frank First-Raised of Fort Belknap; three brothers, Elvyn (Eileen) Wolery of Chester, Wayne (Betty) Wolery of Inverness, Lloyd (Fern) Wolery of Joplin; a sister-in-law, Mary Packard of Chester; 15 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, two brothers Royal and Olyn Wolery, a granddaughter, and a great-grandson.

Funeral services were conducted by her nephew, Pastor Dale Wolery, at 3:00 p.m. Sunday October 17, 2004 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard. Stanleigh Barbie served as organist and the congregation sang "Because He Lives." Vocalist, Sarah Wolery, performed "One Day At A Time." Selected scriptures were read by Mariana Hodges. Ushers were Bruce Duncan and Merlin Wolery. Opal's grandsons and great-grandsons served as pallbearers. Honorary bearers were all of her loving grandchildren and spouses and her great grandchildren.

Family graveside services were 10:00 a.m. Monday October 18th at the Rudyard Cemetery. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.
Inga Haugen was born January 27, 1899 on a farm near Kindred, North Dakota (south of Fargo). She was the ninth of twelve children of Iver Skari and Marie (Anderson) Skari. She was baptized and confirmed in the Norwegian language at the Norman Lutheran Church located near the banks of the Cheyenne River. She attended the local Dahlen grade school through the eighth grade and had remained bilingual throughout her life.

In June of 1995, after a short stay in the Liberty County Hospital, Inga moved into the Nursing Home where she resided until her death. She and John had no children; however Inga considered her nieces and nephews as part of her family and took a great interest in their lives.

Inga is survived by her nieces and nephews, Don Skari of San Dimas, CA; Betty Smith of Warner Robbins, GA; Severt Spoonheim of Cartwright, ND; Anne Lund of Yakima, WA; Selma Engen of Ray, ND; Verna Iverson and Grace Johnson of Williston, ND; Esther Kundert of Lodi, CA; Julitte Lundquist of Gresham, OR; Mildred Vernon of Bismarck, ND; Margaret Mai of Encino, CA; Vernon Skari of Denver, CO; Arlo and Morton Skari of Chester, MT and her husband’s nieces and nephews, the Haugen family of Mayville, ND.

She was preceded in death by her husband and parents; 7 brothers, Peder, Albert, Edwin, Ole, Oliver, Luther, and John; 2 sisters, Anna and Martha; nephews, Morton Spoonheim, Iner, Duane, Carman & George Albert Skari, and Einar & Lawrence Vangerud.

Inga had a tremendous loyalty to her extended family and was very generous with her time. The coffee pot was always on at Inga’s house.

Memorials are suggested to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester. Funeral arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester (406) 759-5550.
CHRIS HEGGEN, JR.
Born: April 22, 1928 - Died: December 3, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
December 6, 2004

CHRIS HEGGEN, JR.
Born: April 22, 1928 - Died: December 3, 2004

KREMLIN - Chris Heggen, Jr., 76, a longtime resident of Kremlin, died of natural causes Friday at a Great Falls hospital.

Cremation has taken place. His memorial service is 10 a.m. Friday at Holland and Bonine Funeral Home in Havre, with burial in Highland Cemetery, followed by a fellowship luncheon at the Eagles.

Chris is survived by his children, Tim (Debbie) Heggen of Helena, Dale (Julie) Heggen and Lynn (Bonnie) Heggen, both of Havre; Phyllis (Jim) Lyons of Valier and Ellis (Nelsa) Heggen of Great Falls; a brother, Clifford "(Carol) Heggen of Kremlin; a sister, Borghil Heggen Thomas of Portland, Ore.; grandchildren Nick, Cassie, Crystal, Cory, Tina, Travis, Dale and Kaloni; great-grandchildren Kadeon, Carson, Courtney, Stephanie, Logan and Aki; and several nephews and nieces.

Chris was born April 22, 1928, south of Kremlin to Chris L. and Olivia (Reum) Heggen Sr. He attended country school at Halfway Coulee and worked on the family farm and ranch in Kremlin. Chris went to work for the railroad during the winter of 1946 in Great Falls. He worked that winter and then returned to the family farm. He also worked for General Mills in Gildford from 1961 to 1984.

Chris enjoyed farming, dancing and eating good food. His family was very important to him and he dearly loved his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Vicky Heggen; four sisters, Othilla Heggen Kincaid, Clara Heggen Johnson, Josephine Heggen Engleking and Florence Heggen Johns; and two brothers, Lloyd Heggen and Lawrence Heggen.

Memorials in Chris's honor may be made to the St. Jude Children's Hospital, 301 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1905 or to a memorial of one's choice.
Ronald Heikkila was born May 25, 1947 in Dillon, Montana. He passed away February 22, 2004 in Sacramento, California at the age of 56.

He will be remembered by children: Wendi Reinl and husband Steve of Sacramento, Kelly Pokluda and husband Michal of Prague, Czech Republic, Heath Heikkila and wife Erika of Washington, DC, and Holly Heikkila of Washington. Four grandchildren, two nieces, one nephew, and a number of extended family members and friends also survive him.

Ron graduated from Chester High School in Chester, MT in 1965 and from Western Montana College in 1969. He was a resident of California for 33 years where he practiced optometry for 25 of those years. A family and friends get-together was held on Saturday, February 28th at 1:00 pm.

Ron was cremated. His cremains will be brought back to Dillon, MT.
CANDY JAI (GOLL) HIATT
Birth: N/A - Death: January 5, 2004
Liberty County Times
January 14, 2004

Candy Hiatt

Candy Jai (Goll) Hiatt, age 50, of Inverness died Monday at a VA hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah of a staph infection (pneumothorax).

Survivors include her husband Trent Hiatt of Inverness; mother Anna Goll of Great Falls; sister Mindi Jackson of Marksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana; brothers Matthew Goll of LaCross, Washington, Kristian Goll of Billings, Henry Goll of Vicksburg, Michigan, and Perry Goll of Plymouth, Michigan.

Graveside services were at 1:00 pm Wednesday January 14, 2004 at the Turner Cemetery in Turner. Edwards Funeral Home of Chinook in charge of arrangements.
Elizabeth Hofer passed away December 9, 2004 at her home in Helena; she was 92 years old.

Elizabeth was born September 1, 1912 to John and Katherina in Freeman, South Dakota. She attended school in Hitchcock, South Dakota.

She married Jacob Hofer on March 15, 1930 in Raley, Canada and they had nine children. They moved to Chester in 1952.

Elizabeth accepted Jesus as her personal Savior at the age of 15, and was baptized by the Rev. David R. Hofer. She remained steadfast in the Lord all of her life.

She enjoyed sewing, knitting, and cooking. Elizabeth was a loving mother, and a Christian to all who knew her.

She is survived by six sons: Herb (Laura) of Fort Calhoun, NB, Jack of California, Peter (Fanny) of Three Forks, Joe (Ruth) of Helena, Marvin, and John of Helena. She had 14 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years Jacob; two daughters Katherine and Elizabeth; and a son Ed.

Visitation was held December 11, 2004 from 12:00-5:00 and Sunday from 5:00-8:00 with the family present. Funeral services were held Monday December 13th at Helena Funeral Chapel at 2:00, with graveside services to follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Funeral arrangements by Helena Funeral Chapel.
ROBERT EDWARD “BOB” HORINEK
Birth: June 2, 1921 - Death: November 13, 2004
Liberty County Times
November 17, 2004

Robert Horinek
Robert Edward (“Bob”) Horinek, age 83, long time Hingham area farmer, died peacefully at his home on Saturday evening from complications of aplastic anemia. Robert is survived by his wife of 55 years, Kathleen Horinek, of Hingham; four children: Barbara Brunelle of Great Falls, Ken Horinek (and wife, Debra) of Kalispell, James Horinek of Missoula, and Ron Horinek of Hingham; five grandchildren, including Heidi (Mark) Ventling, Shawn (Samantha) Horinek, Shanda (Todd) Divil, Jennifer (Isaac) Allred, and Jessica Horinek; seven great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

Bob was born June 2, 1921 to William and Mary (Malone) Horinek at the family homestead south of Rudyard. The family moved to a farm north of Hingham in the early 1920’s, so he received his education in Hingham, graduating from Hingham High School in 1940. He then attended the School of Aeronautics in Helena where he graduated with an Aircraft & Engine Mechanics License and a student pilot’s permit.

During World War II, Robert worked for Lynch Flying Service in Belgrade where he received his private pilot’s license. The company contracted with the government to maintain civilian aircraft for primary and secondary flight training of military pilots. Many of these pilots later flew advanced civilian acrobatic airplanes.

At the conclusion of the war, Bob returned to the family farm and engaged in farming for the remainder of his life. During this time he also worked for Hensley Flying Service in Havre. He was the first pilot to fly his own airplane in the Hingham area and he gave many residents their first airplane ride. He owned numerous airplanes over the years, including a Taylor Craft, Aero Coupe, and Piper Cruiser. He was a past member of the Montana Pilot’s Association.

Robert and his wife, Kathleen, were married in Hingham on October 22, 1949. He operated Horinek Aero Repair at his farm south of town where he maintained and rebuilt private aircraft and aerial spray planes. For the past 27 years Robert and his son, Ron, worked together in the farming operations. He was first generation farmer after the homestead era, and the last member of his generation of the two Horinek families that homesteaded near Hingham.

Robert was a life-long member of Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church and had been active in the Knights of Columbus.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents; sisters (Margaret Powelson and Lenora Gregoire); and brother (Richard Horinek).

Funeral Mass was celebrated by Father Joseph Diekhans at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday November 16th Sharon Spicher served as organist and Terry Stevenson performed “Morning Has Broken,” “Just As I Am,” “Amazing Grace,” and “How Great Thou Art.” The eulogy and scripture readings were shared by Tom Sluiter. Greeters were Mike and Jerry Lipp. Pallbearers were Larry and Ed Horinek, Greg Gregoire, Ralph Burkhardt, Craig Patrick, and Robert Spicher. Altar server was Dan Hybner; the communion gifts were presented by Mary Lois Hybner, and the Eucharistic minister was Jerry Hybner.

Following burial at the Hingham Cemetery, a luncheon was held at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.
EDWARD VICTOR "EDDIE" JENSEN
Birth: March 18, 1922 - Death: January 8, 2004
Liberty County Times
January 14, 2004

Edward Jensen
Edward Victor "Eddie" Jensen, age 81, was surrounded by his loving family when he passed away on this past Thursday evening January 8, 2004 at the Brendan House in Kalispell. He fought a courageous battle with cancer.

Ed was born March 18, 1922 at Browning, Montana. He was the only child of Harold & Julia (Cain) Jensen. He grew up on the family farm east of Chester. Ed received his formal education at Joplin and Chester, graduating from Chester High School in 1940. In the few years that followed, he worked on the farm with his father.

On November 18, 1942 Ed enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served 3 years in the South Pacific during World War II. He was active in battles at Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa. During the Battle of Saipan, Ed was awarded the "Silver Star" medal for gallantry in action. He was part of the Occupation Forces stationed in Nagasaki, Japan when the war was declared over. Ed returned to the United States and received his honorable discharge on December 7, 1945, then transferred to the Marine Corps Reserves.

Ed married Beth Arlene Hanson on January 10, 1946 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester. They made their home in Chester where Ed continued to farm with his parents. In addition, he was attached to the I & I staff of the Marine Corps Reserves. In 1950 Ed was faced with the probability of leaving his family for active duty in the then brewing Korean Conflict, so he chose to end his career in his beloved Corps. He was granted his final discharge on February 3, 1951 after attaining the rank of Sergeant.

After living in Shelby for a few years, the Jensens returned to the Chester community to raise their three daughters: Arlene, Christine, and Twyla. Ed farmed until 1962, when they moved to Kalispell. He worked in the Flathead Valley as a press operator for C & C Plywood, then later as a meter reader for Montana Power. Following his retirement, the Jensens continued to live in Kalispell, although they enjoyed trips to the Hi-Line to visit family & friends.

During his cancer treatments Ed was fortunate to remain at home until this past December 19, when he transferred to the Brendan House. Ed was baptized & confirmed in the Catholic faith and was a longtime member of St. Mary’s Church and the Knights of Columbus in Chester. He was also a member of the Farmers' Union and the V.F.W. Post #3997 of Chester. In addition he had served as a police magistrate and a volunteer firefighter in the Chester community.

During his school years Eddie played four years of basketball at Chester High School, in fact, he made the first-five as a freshman. He also played the trumpet in the school band. His hobbies as an adult included hunting, fishing, camping, and dancing.

Ed was a proud veteran and was happy to know that his name is listed in the book of Registry at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Beth Jensen of Kalispell; his daughters and their spouses: Arlene and Jay McFarland of Kalispell, Christine and John Hale of Hurricane, Utah, and Twyla and Rockney Stoddard of Kennewick, Washington; eight grandchildren including: Jayme, Jason, Jarod, Michael, Mark, Matt, Mason, and Shawn; 18 great-grandchildren; brother-in-law. Albert Hanson of Chester: brother-and-sister-in-law, Jim & Beverly Bergh of Longview, Washington; his extended family, Bob & Cheri Hooper and Bob and Carrie Hooper of Kalispell; and several nieces and nephews.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents.

Rosary prayers were 7:00 p.m. Monday January 12, 2004 at the Risen Christ Church in Kalispell. Ed’s Funeral Mass was celebrated by Father Rudy Bullman at Risen Christ at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday January 13. His son-in-law, Rockney Stoddard, shared the eulogy. His grand-children served as pallbearers.

A luncheon followed at the church.

After this traditional funeral, Ed's body was cremated. His ashes will be buried at the Chester Cemetery later this spring. Funeral arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

Undesignated memorials will be given to the Veterans Pantry at 1527 Highway 35, Kalispell, Mt. 59901.
ISABEL M. (HOWE) SWANSON JENSEN
Born: June 20, 1939 – Died: July 27, 2004

Great Falls Tribune
July 30, 2004

Isabel M. Jensen

WOLF POINT — Isabel M. (Howe) Swanson Jensen, 74, a homemaker who was active in the community, died Tuesday at a Wolf Point hospital.

Visitation is 1 to 8 p.m. today, with a public Eastern Star service at 7 p.m., all at Clayton Stevenson Memorial Chapel. Her funeral is 2 p.m. Saturday at Clayton Stevenson, with burial in Greenwood Cemetery.

Surviving are three daughters, Sharon (Eldon) Dschaak of Wolf Point, Linda (Calvin) Hanson of Cut Bank and Deanna (Darryl) Keen of Azle, Texas; two sons, Charles (Valarie) Swanson of Huntley, Mont., and Richard (Lori) Swanson of Belt, Mont.; five stepdaughters, Deanne (Jim) Stone of Hope, Ark., Jennifer (Darrell) Zimmerman and Mary Ellen (Alan) Hoversland, all of Wolf Point, and Colleen (Mark) Halsey and Cathleen Jensen of McCook, Neb.; two stepsons, Dennis (Gail) Jensen of Troy, Idaho, and Danny Jensen of Rapid City, S.D.; a sister, Thelma (Les) Hudiburgh of Billings; 14 grandchildren, 13 step-grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, 13 step-great-grandchildren; a niece and a nephew.

Isabel was born June 20, 1939, in Wolf Point, to Charles E. and Deana Howe. She graduated from Wolf Point High School in 1948 and then traveled to Minot, N.D., where she was employed at the Murphy Finance Co. There she met Eugene P. "Gene" Swanson, and they were married Oct. 16, 1949. To this union, five children were born. Gene passed away Sept. 10, 1990.

Isabel liked to travel, read, play bridge and be with her family and friends.

Isabel was a past Worthy Matron of Riverside Chapter No. 84, Order of Eastern Star, and a Past Mother advisor for Rainbow for Girls Assembly 53, receiving the Grand Cross of Color. She was also an active member of the Daughters of the Nile and was active in the community by serving as a Brownie Scout leader.

She was a lifetime member of the First Presbyterian Church in Wolf Point, serving as elder, deacon and choir member. She also had worked for the state Highway Department in Wolf Point.

On April 22, 1965, she married her longtime friend, Donald "Felix" Jensen in Wolf Point. To her pleasure, she acquired an extended family of five stepdaughters, two stepsons, 13 step-grandchildren and 13 step-great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be sent to the family at esmc@nemontel.net or www.stevensonandsons.com.
Robert L. Johnson

Robert "Bob" Johnson, 80, 1306 20th St. So., Apt 204, died Friday, November 26, 2004 at Park Place Nursing Home of complications from Alzheimer's.

A memorial service will be held 2 pm, Tuesday, November 30, 2004, at Hillcrest Lawn Chapel. Burial of ashes will be at Highland Cemetery with military honors. Schnider Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Bob was born Feb. 7, 1924 in Joplin, MT, son of Annius and Anna (Svengin) Johnson. He received his education in Joplin graduating from Joplin High School. He then entered the US Army in 1945. He served in the Philippines in the medic corps before his discharge in 1946. He farmed for a short time at Joplin and then married Velma Jeane Cross in Missoula in 1947. After their marriage they made their home in Rudyard and moved to Great Falls in 1959. Bob worked as a carpenter with the Kessner Family on the Riverview Project. In the late 1960's he operated the Westgate Exxon Service Station until 1981 when he sold the station and then retired.

He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Joplin and was a past member of the Rudyard VFW Post. He loved fishing, hunting, camping, football, and baseball and enjoyed playing cards.

He is survived by his wife Velma, Great Falls, two sons, Kendall (Linda) Johnson of Rapid City, SD, Brian (Pat) Johnson of Chester, SD, two sisters, Mildred Aaberg, Great Falls, Helen McKay, Creston, WA, four grandchildren Brett, Kimberly, Michael, Grace and a great grandson, Skyler and numerous nieces and nephews.

A son, Kelly, three sisters Lorene Webster, Julia Olson, Loretta McKay, two brothers, Alfred and Paul and two half sisters, Olva Biallus and Clara Wilson preceded him in death.
IRA MAE (ANEZ) KENFIELD
Birth: August 5, 1920 – Death: February 13, 2004
Liberty County Times
February 25, 2004

Ira Mae Kenfield

Ira Mae (Anez) Kenfield was born August 5, 1920 at Enid, Montana. She was one of six children born to Ira Clarence Anez and Anna Marie McGoldrick. Her father was employed by the Great Northern Railroad, so the Anez family moved where the job took them. Ira Mae was a teenager when they settled in Havre. She graduated from Havre High School in 1938 and was extremely proud to be a “Blue Pony.” Following graduation, she began working as a telephone operator for the Havre Telephone Company.

In 1945 Ira Mae married Lester Kenfield of Inverness, where they made their home. In addition to Lester’s son, Dennis, the Kenfields raised two more sons, Barry and Dirk. They owned and operated “Les’ Cash Store” in Inverness and Ira Mae worked as a clerk at the Inverness School. Their lives were busy and full, still they enjoyed that quality time to follow and support the three boys in their many activities.

From 1952 until her retirement in 1989, Ira Mae served as clerk and secretary of the Inverness School District and later at the J-J School system. During those 36 years, she guided and supported many students, parents, teachers, principals, and board members with her advice and counsel. She took this responsibility seriously, but thoroughly enjoyed it as well.

Ira Mae found great pleasure in reading and you could always find her with a “book in progress.” She also took great pride in following the activities of her grandchildren and was always willing to provide advice to them.

Ira Mae’s husband, Lester, died in 1982. She remained in Inverness throughout her retirement years. She enjoyed volunteer work at the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester, visiting friends and relatives, and taking trips to Missoula and Kentucky. When her health began to fail in 1998, Ira Mae moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester. In 2000 she transferred to Missoula to be closer to Barry and Dirk. She lived at the Missoula Village Health Care Center when she died on Friday evening February 13, 2004. She was 83 years old.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two sisters: Adelle Bakken and Lorraine Prevost; and two brothers: Lyle Anez and Francis “Guy” Anez.

Survivors include her three sons and spouses: Dennis and Charlotte Kenfield of Chester, Barry and Janis Kenfield of Missoula, and Dirk and Beverly Kenfield of Missoula; six grandchildren including: Tim, Bret, Davy, Kal, Mikal, and Keegan; five great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; one sister, Shirley Burkeff of Fancy Farm, Kentucky; one sister-in-law, Barbara Anez of Havre; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ira Mae was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother to her family and a great friend to those who knew her. We will all miss her!

Memorials may be given to the Liberty County Nursing Home or to the charity of donor’s choice.

Funeral services were 1:00 p.m. Thursday (Feb. 19th) at the United Methodist Church in Chester. Reverend Waveland King officiated. Scripture readings were by grandchildren, Mikal Laabs and Keegan Kenfield. Organist, Sharon Woods, and pianist, Shirley Boley, accompanied the congregation, who sang “Because He Lives”. Vocalist, Marcus Jochim, performed “Be Still My Soul” and “You Are Mine”. Ushers were Bob and Una Moog. Ira Mae’s sons and grandsons served as pallbearers. A reception was held at the church. Graveside services followed at 4:00 p.m. at the Highland Cemetery in Havre.

Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester. Memorials will be given to the L.C.N.H. or donor’s choice...
Georgia Scot Kidd, age 61, 4845 Johnson Avenue NW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa was welcomed into eternal peace, Tuesday, June 1, 2004, at Willow Gardens Care Center in Marion, Iowa, after a short illness. Memorial services are to be planned at a later date. Burial was held Monday, June 7, 2004 at Iron Mountain Cemetery, Iron Mountain, Michigan. Teahen Funeral Home, Cedar Rapids, is serving the family.

Georgia is survived by her daughter, Kelly (Michael) Rieger of Cedar Rapids; a son, Troy (Debra) Kidd of Redding, California; a brother Patrick Fox of Phoenix, Arizona; four grandchildren, and one granddaughter.

Her parents, an infant daughter Kimberly Rae, and an infant sister Sharon, preceded Georgia in death.

Georgia was born March 4, 1943 in Belleville, Illinois, the daughter of George and Dorothy Parent Fox. She grew up in Iron Mountain, Michigan, until the family moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, where she graduated from high school and attended Arizona State University.

Georgia married David Kidd on June 8, 1963, in Scottsdale, and moved to the Kidd family farm in Montana. They were married for 24 years. She was very involved in church and community activities. Georgia graduated from Northern Montana College in 1989 and moved to Iowa in 1995. She retired from Four Oaks in 2001.

Instead of flowers memorials may be directed to the family.
Odin Vidnes Knutson

DEVON — Odin Vidnes Knutson, 81, a lifelong farmer and World War II Army Air Corps veteran from Devon, died of heart failure Wednesday at Marias Medical Center in Shelby.

His funeral is 11 a.m. Tuesday at Devon Lutheran Church, with military graveside services at 2 p.m. in the veterans' section of Mountain View Cemetery at Shelby. Whitted Funeral Chapel in Shelby is handling arrangements.

Survivors include his sister Lorene Johnson of Havre; brothers Alton Knutson of Conrad and K. Lloyd Knutson of Shelby; a sister-in-law, Paula Knutson of Shelby; nephews Tom (Sue) Saldin of Boise, Idaho, Kevin (Lanell) Dodson of Shelby; nieces Marie Ann (Loren) Toldness of Havre, JoAnn (Glen) Savage of Walla Walla, Wash., and Pastor Kriss (Darren) Bottino of Bakersfield, Calif.; great-nephews and great-nieces Rob and Kate Saldin, Jesse and Rachel Toldness, Bill and Shannon Savage, Trevor and Amanda Dodson and Hannah and Aaron Bottino also survive Odin.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his twin brother, Ivan "Ike"; another brother, Leonard; and a sister, Thelma Saldin.

Odin was born just ahead of his twin on June 11, 1922, in Devon to Leonard H. and Annetta M. (Roland) Knutson. He attended grade school in Devon and graduated from high school in Shelby. Odin farmed in the Dunkirk area retiring about 15 years ago. He served in the Army Air Corps from 1942 until 1946, being stationed in Yuma, Ariz., Gulf Port, Miss., and Chanute Field near Chicago. These years were an experience that left him with a love of airplanes and flying. He later went on to buy and fly his own plane.

Odin was an excellent mechanic and loved to tinker especially with electronics — discovering, though, that things don't always go back together as well as they come apart. He had a keen interest in the world around him and had a soft heart — for stray cats in particular. His home was a gathering spot for family get-togethers.

Odin loved visiting, going to auctions and playing cards. He had a wonderful sense of humor, always enjoying a good story or tall tale, including his own.

The family suggests memorials be given to the Devon Lutheran Church, c/o Diana Adamson, 293 S. Devon, Shelby, MT 59474.
Lois E. Kraft

HAVRE — Lois E. (Sande) Kraft, 83, who was active in the Havre community and an avid sports watcher who was always current on the basketball teams, died of natural causes Friday at a Havre care center.

A prayer vigil service is 7 p.m. Tuesday at Holland and Bonine Funeral Home, with a memorial Mass at 2 p.m. Wednesday at St. Jude Catholic Church. Burial will take place in Calvary Cemetery, followed by a fellowship luncheon at the parish center.

Survivors include daughters Shirley Gorman of Havre and Dolores Noffsinger of Havre; seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leo, in 1989.
KING was born August 13, 1946 at Browning, Montana. He was the youngest of six children born to Merrel & Grace (Pepion) Kuka. He was raised in the Birch Creek community south of Browning and received his early schooling at Valier. King's secondary education was completed at I.A.I.A. (Institute of American Indian Art) in Santa Fe, New Mexico where he graduated in 1965.

He was drafted into the military during the Vietnam Conflict. After serving two years in the U.S. Army, he received his honorable discharge and then returned to Montana.

King enrolled at the University of Montana in Missoula, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1973. He began teaching at a Helena Junior High School for a year, then transferred to Browning High School, where he taught art from 1974-1977.

King married Marietta LaBarre on September 20, 1975. They lived at East Glacier for five years, then moved to Great Falls. King has been a full-time professional artist since 1978, spending countless hours in his Great Falls studio. He specialized in Native American Art and was talented in all media, including paintings (charcoals, oils, acrylics, & water colors), jewelry, sculptures, pottery, stained glass, and others. He was active in many art productions and fairs throughout the years and received numerous awards for his work. He was always willing to donate a piece of art to a local fundraiser or charitable cause.

Several years ago King developed a heart problem, which had been regulated with a pacemaker. On Thursday January 15 he suffered a massive stroke at home. He was admitted to the Benefis East Medical Center. He died at this Great Falls hospital on the evening of Monday January 19, 2004. He was 57 years old.

King was proud of his Blackfoot heritage and a strong believer in the traditional Indian ways. He had been active in the Cursillo movement in the Heart Butte and Browning communities. A personal fulfillment achievement was his stained-glass work at the Catholic Church in Browning.

King loved to hunt, fish, and travel. He was an adventurous man who loved the "great outdoors." A lot of his art came from nature's beauty.

King was devoted to his family. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Marietta of Great Falls; seven children (and spouses), Chris Stevens (husband, Tom) of Missoula, Amy LaBarre (fiancée, John Lewin) of Coronado, California, Kokko Kuka (husband, Eulalio Cabrales) of Great Falls, Khi Kuka of Great Falls, Kayn Kuka of Great Falls, Kodi Kuka of Great Falls, and Khol Kuka of Great Falls; eight grandchildren (including Darian, Thomas, Juan, Janeczka, Javier, Kuhnne, Ty, and Kristen Jo); one brother Vern Kuka (wife, Marie) of Birch Creek; one sister, Patricia Cabell (husband, Bud) of Great Falls; and numerous nephews and nieces. He is also survived by his trusty horse, "Kolo."

King was preceded in death by his parents; one son (John LaBarre), two brothers (Wilbur Pepion & Merrel Kuka); and one sister (Rosemary Sewell).

Rosary Prayers were 7:00 p.m. Friday January 23rd at St. Anne's Catholic Church at Heart Butte. Funeral Mass was at 12 o'clock noon Saturday January 24th at the church. Burial with military rites followed at the Robare Cemetery near Birch Creek. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
LILA EDNA (WARD) LAAS
Birth: September 27, 1919 - Death: December 4, 2004
Liberty County Times
December 15, 2004

Lila loved her home in Chester, where she took great pride in her yard and flower gardens. She enjoyed seasonal decorations and was especially fond of Christmas time, so it seems fitting that she left us this time of the year. The Laas' also owned a Flathead area cabin where Lila enjoyed working in the cherry trees.

Lila was a lifelong Democrat who served as a Precinct Committee Woman for many years. In addition she was a longtime member of the R.N.A. (Royal Neighbors of America) and the V.F.W. Auxiliary. Also was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, where she was baptized as an adult in 1962.

One of her greatest enjoyments in life was bowling. Lila started bowling in 1958 and continued to bowl until May of 2004, just before her health failed. She was a life member of the Raudyard Women’s Bowling Association and was honored to receive their “Hall of Fame” award in 2001. She received many other trophies, patches, & awards during her 45 years in the bowling circuit. She loved the camaraderie, fun, and fellowship that she shared with her bowling buddies. Their annual pilgrimage to the State Bowling Tournament each year was planned on Mother’s Day weekend, and a candle-lighter. Memorial services were conducted at 11:00 a.m. Thursday Dec. 9th at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church by Pastor Pete Erickson. Karen Stack served as organist and the congregation sang “In the Garden” and “How Great Thou Art.” Vocalist, Anne Seidlitz-Melton, performed “The Old Rugged Cross.” Readers included Trudy Skari, Golda Laas Morrison, and Olivia Skari (who also served as candle-lighter). Memorial bearers were all of Lila’s old bowling friends Graveside prayers and burial of ashes followed at the Chester Cemetery. A luncheon was held at the church.

Arrangements by Rockmart Funeral Chapel. Memorials will be given to Liberty Village Arts Center or donor’s choice.

Lila had a gentle and subtle way of encouraging a positive influence on those she loved. Through the years she maintained close friendships with all of her sisters-in-law on both sides of the family. Although she didn’t become a grandmother until age 70, she “stayed young” for her two grandkids and was devoted to them. And she always supported her children in all of their interests and endeavors. This was Lila’s simple legacy of love.

Survivors include her son, Jim Laas of Gig Harbor, Wash.; two daughters, Darlene (Ron) Burnett of Huntley and Trudy (Alan) Skari of Chester; two grandchildren, Kink and Olivia Skari, and step great-grandson, Jacob Burnett; three brothers, Walter (Theresa) Ward of Choteau, Aden (Maxine) Ward of Chester, and Lawrence (Mary) Ward of Kalispell; one brother-in-law, Earl Thisselle; five sisters-in-law, Doma Laas, Golda Laas Morrison, Billie (Bill) Hamel, Mable Schultz, and Edna Leffler; and many nephews and nieces. Lila was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a daughter (Gale Ione Laas), and her sisters (Stella Thisselle & Vena McCullough).

Lila Edna (Ward) Laas, 85, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer this past July, died peacefully at her home in Chester early Saturday morning December 4, 2004. She felt fortunate to spend these past five months at home under the loving care of her family, friends, and house calls by her longtime friend and neighbor, Dr. Richard Baker. Lila enjoyed the many family “get-togethers” and social events with friends during this time.

Lila was born on the family farm south of Chester on September 27, 1919. She was one of six children born to L. A. Ward and Laura Martell. Lila received her formal education at the Erickson School near the farm. She later completed a course at a Great Falls beauty college.

She met her husband-to-be, Walter Laas, when he was campaigning door-to-door for a local election. They were married on June 17, 1939 at Great Falls. The couple made their home in Chester where they farmed at Great Falls. The couple made their home in Chester, and later declared the “family champion” because no one could ever beat her! She also enjoyed word puzzle games. Her favorite television shows were “Jeopardy,” and she enjoyed TV sports like bowling and golf. She was also an avid Montana Grizzly and Denver Bronco football fan. Just for the fun of it, Lila collected dolls, Christmas ornaments, driftwood, rocks, and a few objects of art. And just, but not least, she enjoyed the simple pleasure of a cup of coffee and a cigarette.

Lila made several memorable trips during her life. In 1957 she traveled to Florida and Cuba. She also enjoyed a relaxing vacation to Hawaii with Walt. One of her favorite trips was with her sister (Stella) via motorhome to Alaska, where they made a surprise visit to celebrate the 75th birthday of their sister (Vena).

Lila also enjoyed her travels to visit her son, Jim, when he lived in various states throughout the U.S. On a more personal note it should be stated that Lila cherished her many relationships. She was more than just a good friend to a lot of people; to many she was a loyal friend and a trusted confidant! She was also a fun-loving person who enjoyed the company of others, and those who knew her could always count on having fun with her. Some of her deep and lasting friendships were with Irene Hunsam Haston and Altra Soper.

In the 1970’s and 80’s Lila had a passion for digging sapphires. She acquired a lot at Sapphire Village in Utica where she mined many stones; some were cut for their beauty and some were made into lovely jewelry. Lila had many other interests. She loved to play cards, especially Bridge and Pinochle. She was a fierce competitor in games, particularly one called “Aggravation”; she was declared the “family champion” because no one could ever beat her! She also enjoyed word puzzle games. Her favorite television shows were “7th Heaven” and “Jeopardy,” and she enjoyed TV sports like bowling and golf. She was also an avid football fan. Just for the fun of it, Lila collected dolls, Christmas ornaments, driftwood, rocks, and a few objects of art. And just, but not least, she enjoyed the simple pleasure of a cup of coffee and a cigarette.

Lila later completed a course at the Erickson School near the farm. She was a lifelong Democrat who served as a Precinct Committee Woman for many years. She also was a member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, where she was baptized as an adult in 1962.

Arrangements by Rockmart Funeral Chapel. Memorials will be given to Liberty Village Arts Center or donor’s choice.
Albert Lincoln

Albert "Al" Lincoln age 84, passed away on Tuesday August 10, 2004 at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell, Montana.

Al was born on July 25, 1920 south of Inverness, Montana to Fred and Anna R. Lincoln. Al was raised south of Inverness and worked on the family farm and ranch. He joined the Army Air Corps 78th Troop Carrier Squadron in 1941 and spent most of WWII in England, where he met his wife, Joan. They were married in 1945.

After the War, he returned to Montana where he and Joan raised their three children on the family farm and ranch. In 1977 Al and Joan purchased a home in the Flathead Valley and they divided their time between their home and the family farm. Later on they spent their winters in California and then in Florida where he spent time with relatives and also helped his son in the restaurant business.

Al enjoyed playing golf and was forever “fixing things.” He will be remembered most for being a wonderful and loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend to many. He will be greatly missed by all.

His parents, and a son Jerome Lincoln preceded him in death in 1998.


Visitation was from 5:00-7:00 pm Thursday August 12th at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Graveside services were at 11:00 Friday August 13, 2004 at Glacier Memorial Gardens with the Rev. Vic Langhans officiating. Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor’s choice.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home caring for the family.
Anna Belle Lincoln

Anna Belle (Steffen) Lincoln, age 84, of 3242 - 4th Ave. S., a long-time Montana resident and farm homemaker, died of natural causes Thursday at a Great Falls hospital.

Graveside services were held at 11:00 am Monday June 7, 2004 at Mount Olivet Cemetery. O’Connor Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Survivors include her husband, Ray Lincoln of Great Falls; nephews: John (Ann) Steffen of California, and Jerry (Bridget) Armstrong of Washington; a niece, Julie (Bob) Reed of California; seven great nieces and great nephews; sisters-in-law: Frances Steffen and Harold (Marie) Tilley of California, Esther Lonergan of Omaha, Nebraska, Adelle (Venan) Alessandroni of Old Greenwich, Connecticut, and Lottie (Fred) Bourdeau of Great Falls; brothers-in-law: Albert (Joan) Lincoln of Kalispell, and Charlie Lincoln of Shelby; four nieces; four nephews; and their families.

Anna Belle was born May 8, 1920 in Portland, Oregon. She graduated from high school in Everett, Washington. Following business college, she was employed as a librarian for the Everett Public Library.

Anna Belle married Ray Lincoln in Everett in 1940 and they moved to Joplin, Montana where they farmed for more than 50 years. During World War II she worked for Boeing Aircraft in Everett. One winter she worked as a telephone operator in Yuma, Arizona.

She took pride in her skills as a farmer’s wife and was very active in those early years, working on the farm. His hobbies included crocheting afghans, reading and staying in touch with her family. She was famous for her pies and was a gifted and diligent writer.

Anna Belle’s life was a testimony to the sanctity of all human life. After abortion was legalized in 1973 Anna Belle worked to save the lives of children in the womb through volunteer work and by supporting various right-to-life organizations. She was well-known for the Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy dolls she made for raffles to support groups that helped women with crisis pregnancies. In 1985 she co-founded the Center for the Rights of the Terminally Ill to resist euthanasia and assisted suicide. Over the years she wrote extensively on end-of-life issues, and prayed constantly for an end to the killing of the innocent. Most recently, she has been a member of Life Is Worth Living, an organization dedicated to restoring authentic respect for all human life through prayer and education. This valiant defender of life will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and colleagues in the pro-life movement.

Memorials may be sent to: International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide (ITF), PO Box 760, Steubenville, OH 43952, or to Human Life Alliance, 3570 Lexington Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55126, or to the donor’s choice.
Annie Lincoln

Annie “with an e” Elizabeth Lincoln went to be with her beloved Jesus and husband Ervin Lincoln on September 21, 2004. She was surrounded in her home by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

“Grandma Annie” was born November 13, 1908 in Borup, Minnesota. Annie, given to detail and much precision, enjoyed her years of teaching school in a one-room schoolhouse in Montana. Her love for books, history, and reading brought her many years of pleasure, but most of all her greatest joy was in reading to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She met her husband Ervin Lincoln at one of the for-mentions schoolroom functions. They were married in 1932. “Mutual admiration and faithful love” is how the family aptly describes their years together.

Annie and Ervin began their life in Rudyard, Montana where they farmed wheat land and raised their family. Her family remembers with fondness her then claim of being able to pluck, quarter, and freeze over 100 chickens in a single day (together with her family). In 1977 she and Ervin moved to Hermiston, Oregon with part of their family where they managed a large potato farm. They remained there until 1984 when her loving husband passed away.

Annie remained in Hermiston for a few more years until moving to Longview with her son Jack and his family in 1988. In 1991 she came to the Yakima Valley where she has lived until her recent passing.

Annie loved her “sweet tooth” and had a fondness for baking things to satisfy that sweet tooth which naturally made her a favorite amongst her family and friends, young and old alike. She was always eager to be hospitable and entertain.

Her devotion to her family, prayer and her God were a source of strength not only for her, but also for those around her. Annie’s family always enjoyed their great conversation and time of reminiscing with her.

She is survived by sons: Jack and Lorraine Lincoln, Charles and Irene Lincoln; and daughter Barbara and Edward Daniel; 19 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Annie was preceded in death by her husband Ervin Lincoln, two sisters, one brother, and a grandchild.

Viewing was held Thursday September 23, 2004 at the Yakima Chapel of Valley Hills Funeral Home. Graveside services were held Friday September 24, at the Hermiston Cemetery in Hermiston, Oregon.

A Memorial Service was held Friday September 24 at the Hermiston Christina Center in Hermiston, Oregon.

Memorial donations may be given to Oriental Missionary Society (OMS), PO Box 130A, Greenwood, IN 56142-6599; or Feed the Children, PO Box 35, Oklahoma City, OK 73101.
James K. Marshall

James Keith ("Jim") Marshall was born February 6th, 1931 at Chester, Montana. He was one of nine children born to William and Sadie (Taplin) Marshall. Jim grew up in Chester and received his formal education here.

In 1950 he enlisted into the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He trained as a paratrooper and was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Jim attained the rank of Corporal before receiving his honorable discharge in 1953, when he returned to Montana.

Jim began working at the Art Berg farm near Kremlin. He married Shirley Jolly in 1955 at Kremlin. The Marshall's had 3 children before their marriage ended in divorce.

Jim moved back to Chester and began building homes for Leo Schaub Construction. In 1961 he married Betty Wood at Havre. That same year Jim took a job for the Montana State Highway Department where he worked on road maintenance in the Chester section. Jim adopted Betty's two children in 1968. In addition they had a child together, so the Marshall family grew to six. They lived & worked in the Chester community throughout their married life. After 27 years with the highway department, Jim retired in 1989.

His health remained relatively good over the years. About a week ago he experienced severe chest pains while working in his yard. Jim was subsequently sent to a Great Falls hospital for tests, which revealed major heart damage. He transferred back to Chester for extended care. He died at the local hospital on Wednesday morning (July 21st, 2004) at the age of 73 years.

Jim was a past member of the Chester Lions & Jaycees. He also coached American Legion & Little League baseball in those early years in Chester. In addition he worked as umpire for the community softball leagues for many years. Jim was a lifelong sports enthusiast and his favorite sport was baseball. He had been a longtime fan of the New York Yankees until recent years when his loyalty moved to the Chicago Cubs. Since his retirement, Jim has enjoyed his daily trips to the Chester Vets Club, where he socialized with friends and watched his favorite games on television. In fact, he kept the daily statistics on a special baseball board at the Vets Club (the local patrons have affectionately referred to this board as "Jim Marshall's Famous Baseball Blackout"!).

Because of Jim’s longstanding loyalty to the Vets, he was recognized by his friends several years ago with a special gift: his own personalized bar stool identified with his special nickname, "Chipper Jones” Marshall!

Jim’s other interests included camping, fishing, & cooking. During his quiet time at home he enjoyed watching "The Price is Right" on television. Just for the fun of it, he collected caps (most of them were baseball caps!). He was lovingly called “Pop”, “Dad”, and “Jimbo” by his family & friends. His presence in the community will be missed, but his memories will linger throughout the years...

Jim is survived by his wife of 43 years, Betty of Chester; 4 sons & spouses, Tony & Shona of Pilot Rock, Oregon, Butch & Cindy of Kremlin, Kenny & Nancy of Havre, and Scot & Jeanann of Chester; 2 daughters, Lynn (Bill) Lonbeck of Cut Bank and Jodine Sheppard of Stanford; 12 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; 5 sisters, Dorothy Stores of Chester, Maude Bassett of Chester, Janet Nessan of Great Falls, Mabel Jacobson of Chester, and Edith Cherry of Houston, Texas; and numerous nephews & nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents, 1 sister (Ethel Belstad), and 2 brothers (William Jr. & Darrell Marshall).

It was Jim’s wish to be cremated. A graveside service was conducted by Pastor Waveland King at 11:00 a.m. Saturday (July 24th) at the Chester Cemetery. The congregation sang “Amazing Grace”. Military "taps" were played and the flag was presented to the family by Don Buffington. A memorial luncheon followed at the United Methodist Church.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel. Memorials may be directed to the Hi-Line Health.
BARNEY DENZIL McClue
Born: December 12, 1921 - Died: September 14, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
September 15, 2004

Barney Denzil McClue

CHOTEAU — Barney Denzil McClue, 82, a Marine Corps veteran and retired bakery owner, died of natural causes Tuesday at a Choteau hospital.

Cremation has taken place under the direction of Gorder Funeral Home of Choteau. Burial of ashes is 9 a.m. Friday at Choteau Cemetery. A memorial service followed by military honors is 11 a.m. Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church.

He is survived by his wife, Chris; his daughter, Diane and husband Bill Jones, and grandchildren Travis Kennedy and Shandele (Larry) Wild; son Dan and wife Carol, and grandchildren Sarah (Jason) Ekin, Carrie McClue and Mark McClue; a sister, Janiece McCready, husband Larry and nephews Steve (wife, Beverly) and Doug; nephews and nieces Don and Dick McClue, Maxine Wood and Clerae Pitchford; and cousins Janet Huffman Olson and Verna Huffman Stott.

Barney was born Dec. 12, 1921, in Ryder, N.D., to Cleo Huffman and Ray Ingram McClue. The family moved to Choteau in 1924 and started the Choteau Bakery. After his high school graduation in 1940, Barney enlisted in the Marines (there aren't any other, is there?). He reported to San Diego for basic training.

Barney was sent to Shanghai on a peace-keeping mission in May of 1941. On Nov. 28, 1941, his unit was on the way back to the U.S. when ordered to stop at the nearest port (Olongapo, Philippines) because conditions were unsettled. Pearl Harbor was bombed Dec. 7, 1941.

Barney loaded supplies at Mariveles and took them to Corregidor. His group defended Corregidor from December 1941 to May 1942, when they were ordered to surrender. He was a POW for three years, six months and 22 days. He survived the Bataan Death March and the Hell Ships, which took him to Japan.

When World War II ended, Barney spent time in 11 hospitals before he was honorably discharged and returned to civilian life. He worked for Bison Motor in Great Falls for two years before moving back to Choteau in 1948 to run the bakery with his parents.

Barney married Irene "Chris" Christiansen on Feb. 1 1947, in Helena.

They owned and operated the bakery for 28 years. After retiring in 1976, they did some traveling and Barney also became a certified locksmith from 1985-1998. He was a part-time rural mail carrier from 1980-1984, sprayed weeds for the county and generally kept busy on his 1.83-acre farm. His "office" was known as the Log Cabin Drive Inn. He loved his coffee times with the "guys" at the Log Cabin and the Deli. Everyone knew Barney and Barney knew everyone. He loved to hunt, fish and bowl and to operate the big combines at the Billmayer farm near Hogeland. He was a volunteer firefighter for 28 years, a life-time member of the VFW and American Legion, a Lions Club member for 28 years, and a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Although Barney had struggled with increasingly difficult breathing over the last months, he maintained his famous sense of humor and ability to flirt, but it was obvious to everyone that the real love of his life was Chris, his wife of 57 years. He peacefully took his last breath in the early morning of Sept. 14th. He will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his mother, father, a brother Jerry, Jerry's wife Hazel, and a nephew, Mike McClue.

Memorials are suggested to the Trinity Lutheran Church; Teton Medical Center; Teton Nursing Home; or a charity of the donor's choice.
Lon E. Meldrum
Birth: May 4, 1948 – Death: June 3, 2004
Liberty County Times
June 16, 2004

Lon Meldrum
Former Joplin and Great Falls resident Lon E. Meldrum, age 56, of Lincoln City, Oregon lost a very brave fight against lung cancer on June 3, 2004.

Born to Frank and Esther Meldrum in Havre, Montana on May 4, 1948, Lon was the youngest of four children and went through elementary and high school in Joplin, Montana. In his youth, he was active in Boy Scouts and achieved rank as an Eagle Scout. He was an accomplished athlete at Joplin High, lettering in football, basketball and track. After graduating in 1966, he joined the US Air Force and served four years as a cable splicing specialist in the Cable Maintenance Section at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Montana. In 1971, he was honorably discharged and moved back to the family farm in Joplin.

In 1968, He married Jan Stuart in Hingham, Montana and together they had two children, Tawna and Tim. Lon left farming in 1989 and went to work for Boeing in Great Falls. He and Jan later divorced and he moved to Lincoln City, Oregon. At the time of his death, he was building kitchen cabinets and doing work that he loved to do. He built many beautiful kitchens and everyone who knew him admired his woodworking talent. He was an active member of the Elks Lodge and had many friends who admired and loved him, recalling that he was the nicest guy in the world.

Preceding him in death was his father Frank Martin Meldrum, and his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Lon is survived by his partner of 14 years, Sue Miller Poling; daughter Tawna Meldrum Parison and her husband George of Helena, Montana, and son Tim Meldrum and wife Dana, of Poolesville, Washington; his mother, Esther Meldrum of Chester, Montana; brothers Gene Meldrum and wife Pat of Havre, Montana, and Kent Meldrum and wife Mary Anne of Sebastopol, California; sister Marlene Rocks and husband Don of Joplin, Montana; grandchildren Reilly and Maia Parison; 13 nieces and nephews to whom he was very special, and Sue’s children Darci, Wendi and Ryan, and grandchildren Mindie and Jordan, Amy, Zach, and MacKenzie, who thought of him as their dad and grandfather.

Cremation has taken place and a service at the Elks Lodge in Lincoln City was held on Monday, June 7, 2004 at 3:00. Condolences may be sent to Sue Poling, P.O. Box 24, Neotsu, OR, 97464 or to Tawna Parison at 426 South Fee, Helena, MT 59601.
Frances Miller, age 101, dies

Frances F. (Schudar) Miller, 1109 8th Ave. N., a homemaker, died of natural causes Sunday at her home. She was 101.

At her request, no services were held. Cremation took place under the direction of Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home.

She is survived by a half-brother, Tom Sedlacek of Washington; and a son-in-law, Walter Forsman of Great Falls.

Frances was born Aug. 23, 1902, in Oakesdale, Wash. When she was a child, her family moved to St. Maries, Idaho, then to Chester, Mont., and to Great Falls in 1915.

She married Roy K. Miller in Fort Benton, Mont., in 1919, and became a full-time homemaker. She was a member of Eastern Star No. 71, loved to sew, crochet and knit, and had traveled to all 50 states.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy, in 1974; and a daughter, Ethel Forsman, in December 1999.
Deane Moffitt

Deane Lorraine Moffitt, age 84, a homemaker who lived out on the Chester highway some years ago, died of natural causes Thursday January 29, 2004 at her home in Lincoln, Montana.

Graveside services were held Monday February 2, 2004 at the Riverside Cemetery in Fort Benton.

Survivors include grandsons David Moffitt of Utah, and Bob Moffitt of California.

Deane was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Robert Moffitt in 1994.

Benton Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
PEARL ORLANDA (EGGEN) MOORE
Birth: March 9, 1919 - Death: February 9, 2004
Liberty County Times
February 18, 2004

Pearl Orlanda (Eggen) Moore was born March 9, 1919 in Inverness, Montana. She was the youngest of five children born to Harold and Nelsina (Otterness) Eggen. Pearl received her education in Inverness, graduating from Inverness High School in 1937.

She married Max Simon Moore in Havre, Montana on December 19, 1939. In their early married years they lived near Max's family in Nebraska, Idaho, and California. They finally settled in Montana where they farmed at Joplin. In 1961 they purchased a farm at Eastend, Saskatchewan. Pearl enjoyed her life as a farm wife, homemaker, and mother of three children. Her family will always remember her famous roast beef dinners.

The Moores retired in 1977. They enjoyed winters in Florida and Oregon. In 2002 they moved to the Horizon Lodge in Conrad, Montana. Pearl was diagnosed with cancer two years ago. She was admitted to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester for extended care this past November where she died on February 9, 2004. She was 84 years old.

Pearl was a lifelong member of the Joplin Bethel Lutheran Church where she had been active in church circles. She was a past member of the Joplin Eastern Star and had served as a Cub Scout Den mother.

Pearl enjoyed music over the years and had learned to play several instruments; her favorites were the clarinet and the organ. Her sporting activities included golfing and bowling. During her quiet time at home, Pearl liked to sew and paint. She loved to play cards especially Bridge. She also enjoyed traveling.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Max Moore of Joplin; three children and spouses: Donald and Yvonne Moore of Eastend, Saskatchewan, Kay and Sheridan Becker of Billings, and Douglas and Bonnie Moore of Joplin; eight grandchildren including: Dawn, Pati, Tina, Tonya, Chrissey, Michael, Mindie, and Matthew; three great-grandchildren: Tasha, Steffanie, and Paul; two sisters: Mayetta Olson of Havre, and Violet Brandt of Kennewick, Washington; and many nieces and nephews.

Pearl was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers: Clifton Eggen in 1995, and Adolph Eggen who resided with Pearl at the Liberty County Nursing Home until his death on January 24, 2004.

Pearl was cremated per her request. A memorial service was held at 2:00 pm Saturday February 14, 2004 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin. Pastor Brian Pederson officiated. Della Wolery served as pianist and the congregation sang "In the Garden" and "On Eagle's Wings." A taped music selection "Beyond the Reef," was played at Pearl's request. Scriptures and personal readings were shared by family members. Ushers were Bruce Mansfield and Ryan Wickum. Burial of ashes followed at the Joplin Cemetery, where a selected tape entitled "Aloha" was played as Pearl's family released balloons in her memory. A reception followed at Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
REV. ALFRED JOSEPH MORRISON

Birth: October 19, 1908 – Death: May 25, 2004
Liberty County Times
June 2, 2004

Reverend Alfred Morrison was born October 19, 1908 at Los Angeles, California. He was the only son of two children born to Joseph and Ella (Hawkins) Monison. Alfred grew up in northern California. He received his elementary education at Marysville where he graduated in 1925. In the years that followed, he worked in the California gold mines, peach orchards, and laundry business.

Alfred enrolled at the Glad Tidings Bible Institute at San Francisco. He earned his preaching certificate and became an ordained minister in the Assemblies of God. In 1930, Alfred was active in Senior Citizens Ministry programs.

Alfred and Alma moved to Blue Springs, Missouri in 1932. Alfred was 75 years old at that time and the word "retirement" was not part of his vocabulary, so he continued his outreach ministry at local senior citizen centers, retirement homes, and nursing facilities. He also served as president of the Blue Springs Ministerial Outreach Association. Because Alfred spoke fluent Spanish and loved the Spanish people, he made several more missionary trips to South America. Following his wife's death in 1993, Alfred continued to make his home at Blue Springs.

In 1998, Alfred was invited to Montana to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Assembly of God Church in Chester. While there he met a parishioner woman, Golda (Allen) Laas. Their friendship grew and they were married on January 6, 1996 in Chester. From that time on, they have spent their summers in Chester and their winters in Blue Springs. They have continued their ministry, too. They were active in the Thursday night Christian Church chapel services in Blue Springs where Alfred played the piano and served as an occasional speaker. They took a missionary trip to Honduras in 1997 where they had the privilege of working with Mike Hines (a well-known missionary pilot who flies a helicopter equipped with loud speakers for preaching and cargo doors for food/supplies/parachute drops). They also traveled to Sequim, Washington to volunteer as prison ministers. In 1999 they attended an anniversary service at one of Alfred's Hawaii churches.

Alfred's general health was very good throughout his life and he was thankful for each new day! Eventually his sight began to fail and his body energy level always remained high. A week ago Monday May 17th he passed away at his home in Blue Springs, Missouri on Tuesday morning.

Alfred's love of his Lord was unrelenting and unconfined, and even at the end he spoke freely of the "Good News of Salvation."

His funeral was held at Blue Springs, Missouri on Friday, May 21st, 2004 at 10:30 AM. The service was held at the Montgomery Community Church where Alfred was an active member. The Rev. Dan McCauley, the Rev. George Sisson, and the Rev. J. E. Smith delivered the eulogies.

Alfred's love of the Spanish language was evident in his love for his wife, Golda. He enjoyed writing poetry and became known as a "poet." He enjoyed the Spanish language and his love for it was evident in his poetry. He enjoyed writing poetry and became known as a "poet." He also enjoyed photography and took literally thousands of pictures of his missionary travels and events. He cataloged these color slides according to topic, country, and year so that he could refer to them or request for special presentations.

Alfred developed exceptional carpentry skills over the years. He built many church buildings, pulpits, birdhouses, bookcases, and shelves, games, and other wood projects. When he wasn't building something, he enjoyed his quiet time reading or writing poetry. He wrote poetry in a daily basis, even recently, and his poems could be narrative, commemorative, religious, or children oriented. Some of those poems are printed in his life's story, entitled "Born in Wheels and Adventures in Faith" (which was written by Alfred and published in 1994).

Some of those poems are printed in his life's story, entitled "Born in Wheels and Adventures in Faith." Alfred was 75 years old at that time and the word "retirement" was not part of his vocabulary, so he continued his outreach ministry at local senior citizen centers, retirement homes, and nursing facilities. He also served as president of the Blue Springs Ministerial Outreach Association. Because Alfred spoke fluent Spanish and loved the Spanish people, he made several more missionary trips to South America. Following his wife's death in 1993, Alfred continued to make his home at Blue Springs.

In 1998, Alfred was invited to Montana to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Assembly of God Church in Chester. While there he met a parishioner woman, Golda (Allen) Laas. Their friendship grew and they were married on January 6, 1996 in Chester. From that time on, they have spent their summers in Chester and their winters in Blue Springs. They have continued their ministry, too. They were active in the Thursday night Christian Church chapel services in Blue Springs where Alfred played the piano and served as an occasional speaker. They took a missionary trip to Honduras in 1997 where they had the privilege of working with Mike Hines (a well-known missionary pilot who flies a helicopter equipped with loud speakers for preaching and cargo doors for food/supplies/parachute drops). They also traveled to Sequim, Washington to volunteer as prison ministers. In 1999 they attended an anniversary service at one of Alfred's Hawaii churches.

Alfred's general health was very good throughout his life and he was thankful for each new day! Eventually his sight began to fail and his body energy level always remained high. A week ago Monday May 17th he became ill at home with an apparent heart ailment. He was transferred from the Chester hospital to Great Falls, where he died at Benefits East Medical Center on Tuesday morning May 25, 2004.

In his early years (which he called "B.C."), or more specifically, "Before Christ," Alfred played in a dance band and also sang with a Spanish quartette on the radio. His love for music continued and he could play the piano, organ, ukulele, violin, and harmonica. He also enjoyed photography and took literally thousands of pictures of his missionary travels and events. He cataloged these color slides according to topic, country, and year so that he could refer to them or request for special presentations.

Alfred developed exceptional carpentry skills over the years. He built many church buildings, pulpits, birdhouses, bookcases, and shelves, games, and other wood projects. When he wasn't building something, he enjoyed his quiet time reading or writing poetry. He wrote poetry in a daily basis, even recently, and his poems could be narrative, commemorative, religious, or children oriented. Some of those poems are printed in his life's story, entitled "Born in Wheels and Adventures in Faith." (which was written by Alfred and published in 1994). Alfred's love of his Lord was unrelenting and unconfined, and even at the end he spoke freely of the "Good News of Salvation."

He is survived by his wife, Golda Morrison of Chester; three daughters: Alleen (Tony) Pacifi of Loveland, Colorado, Adell Janzen of Polson and Jolene (Dick) Hattin of Polson; five step-children, Doni (Krystal Lass of Hillabro, Oregon, Bani (Ben) Shaw of Scappoose, Oregon, Cyndy (Joe) LaSorle of Chester, and Bob (Tina) Lass of Chester; seven grandchildren including: Patty Westworth, Bob Adams, Cher Pahmeyer, Ida White, Marielle Torns, Brian Winters, and Michelle Farnsworth); nine great-grandchildren (including: Stacey Brooks, Jose Adams, Kristen McWhirt, Trace McWhirt, Emily Pahmeyer, Aaron King, Sam Winters, Andrea Winters and Rochelle Farnsworth); eight great-great-grandchildren; 11 step-grandchildren; eight step-great-grandchildren; one nephew, David Wyman and two nieces: Beverly Fante and Judy (Frederick) Carlyle.
GWEN (LINFORD) MORRISON
Born: N/A – Died: January 27, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
January 29, 2004

Gwen L. Morrison

BIG TIMBER — Gwen (Linford) Morrison, 91, a homemaker who enjoyed writing poetry and short stories, died of natural causes Tuesday at a Big Timber hospital.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service is 11 a.m. Friday at Lowry Funeral Home in Big Timber.

Survivors include her husband of 63 years, John Morrison of Big Timber; sons John Morrison Jr. of Lakewood, Colo., Dan Morrison of Rock Springs, Wyo., and Anthony Morrison of Helena; daughters Anna Warhank of Rudyard and Peggy Hallinan of Elizabeth, Colo.; sisters Lois Stevens of Midvale, Utah, and Edith Hugie of Lake Oswego, Ore.; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.
Russell Andrew Myers

COLUMBIA FALLS — Russell Andrew Myers, 91, a World War II veteran and farmer, died of natural causes Sept. 1 at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

At his request, no memorial services are planned and his ashes will be scattered on a hill overlooking the area he farmed. Austin Funeral Home of Whitefish is in charge of arrangements.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanne Myers of Whitefish; a sister, Genevieve McCracken in the Pondera Nursing Home in Conrad; a son, Jerry Myers of Conrad; a daughter, Hazel Van Dessell of Joplin; 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; three stepchildren, Michael Higgins, William Higgins and Maureen MacKaman; and many nieces and nephews.

He was born March 16, 1913, in Conrad, Mont., the son of Charles and Bridget Myers. He spent his boyhood in the Fowler-Ledger area and attended schools in Fowler. He was a World War II veteran and farmed in Pondera County in the Ledger-Fowler communities.


In addition to his first wife, Ethel, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Marion Durkey; his parents; brothers Roland, Frank and Fred; and sisters Lorna, Inez, Mary and Sarah.
STANFORD — Edith Maud (Major) Nelson, 90, a homemaker, died of natural causes Tuesday at Pondera Medical Center Special Care Unit.

Services are 2 p.m. Friday at Pondera Valley Lutheran Church in Conrad. Graveside services are 11 a.m. Saturday in Stanford Cemetery, weather permitting, followed by a gathering for family and friends from noon to 2 p.m. at Stanford Community Center.

Survivors include daughters Genevieve (John) Armour of Grass Range, Betty (Doug) Boyce of Havre and Alice (Bob) Copenhaver of Brady; sons Fred (Carol) Nelson of Gilford and John (Gail Cole) Nelson of Ennis; a sister, Emma Ann Wilson of Pinole, Calif.; 17 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Edith was born March 27, 1913, in Rockwell, Iowa, and was raised in Rockwell and Sidney, Mont.


She had worked as a waitress, cook, and nurse’s aide for invalids. While in her 70s, she also provided care for elderly people in her home.

Edith was active in the Windham Community Hall and in 4-H with her children. Her favorite hobbies were gardening and sewing. She enjoyed making quilts, and even though she could no longer see, continued to help make them. Her flowers and garden were a comfort and solace to her all of her life.


Memorials are suggested to the Special Care Unit, Pondera Medical Center, P.O. Box 758, Conrad, MT 59425.
RHONDA JERLE (ALBERTSON) NORDGULEN
Birth: June 14, 1951 – Death: March 13, 2004

Havre Daily News
March 16, 2004

RHONDA NORDGULEN obituary


Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held 1 p.m. Thursday at the Fifth Avenue Christian Church with the Rev. Rowlie Hutton officiating.

Interment of the cremated remains will be at the Highland Cemetery following the memorial service. A fellowship reception will be held at the church following the committal rite.

Rhonda was born on June 14, 1951, to "Bud" and Rhoda (Dokken) Albertson in Havre. She grew up in Havre. She attended school in Havre and graduated from Havre High School in 1969.

She married Wayne Wood and they had one child. The couple later divorced. She then married Ray Griggs. They had one child.

On July 6, 1995, she married Marcus D. Nordgulen and had lived in Havre since. The couple had one son.

Rhonda enjoyed crafts, working on the computer, reading, and people. She also enjoyed '60s and '70s "hippie" music. She especially enjoyed cooking with friends and family around her. She was a generous and giving person, full of life, and ready to help when and where she could.

Rhonda is survived by her parents, "Bud" and Rhoda Albertson of Havre; husband, Marcus Nordgulen of Havre; son, Kieffer Nordgulen of Havre; daughters, Jennifer (Jason) Burket of New Jersey and Claudette (Paul) Doll of Kentucky; brothers Butch (Polly) Albertson of Havre and Brett (Julie) Albertson of Bozeman; sister, Mardy (Doug) Simonic of Havre; five grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Domestic Abuse and Rape Crisis, 2335 Fifth Ave., Havre, MT 59501 or to a person’s choice.

Services and arrangements are under the direction of Holland and Bonine Funeral Home.
RICHARD DARBY O'BRIEN
Birth: August 22, 1922 - Death: September 18, 2004
Liberty County Times
September 22, 2004

Darby O'Brien was born August 22, 1922 at Grace City, North Dakota. He was one of six children born to Joseph and Lucy (Willoughby) O'Brien.

Darby grew up in the Chester, Montana community where he received his formal education. He enjoyed journalism, so following his graduation from Chester High School in 1940, Darby began working in the newspaper business at Chester, Valier, and Anchorage, Alaska.

Darby returned to Chester and became a partner with Irvin Hutchison in operation of the Liberty County Times newspaper for approximately two years. In 1948 he was elected as Liberty County Clerk of District Court, a position he held for the next 39 years. In 1949 Darby purchased an insurance business from George Gau. He expanded this independent insurance agency and served as the local State Farm representative for many years. In addition he worked as a licensed real estate agent and became co-owner of the Liberty/Toole County Title Companies. After 40 years of dedicated service to Chester and the surrounding communities, he retired in 1988.

In the late 1970's Darby began building a retirement home near Essex. He affectionately called this home his "cabin," where he spent his weekends and holidays during the 1980's. This beautiful mountain haven became a popular "getaway" for the O'Brien family and their many Hi-Line area friends. Darby eventually moved to Essex following his retirement, but continued to commute to Chester for business meetings and social events. He was always interested in "the betterment of the Chester community." Over the years he supported many important projects, namely the Liberty County Hospital and Nursing Home, the Chester medical clinic, and the Sweetgrass Lodge retirement facility. Darby was proud to have been instrumental in the organization of a local scholarship program, the Reiland Trust Fund, which awarded over $500,000 in scholarships to area students during its 27 years of funding.

Darby's health had declined in these past few years. Recently, he moved to the Sweetgrass Lodge in Chester to be closer to family and friends. On this past Tuesday, September 14th, he transferred to a Great Falls hospital for treatment of congestive heart failure. Darby died peacefully at the Peace Hospice facility on Saturday evening September 18, 2004. He was 82 years old.

Darby was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith and had been an active member of St. Mary's Church in Chester throughout his life. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and the local V.F.W. Post #3997. For many years Darby served as the local chairman and overseas contact person for the Red Cross and was active in the Alcoholic Anonymous organization. He was a staunch Democrat who enjoyed politics; he was privileged to have been appointed to the Montana Judicial Selection Committee by Governor Tom Judge in the 1970’s.

Darby had many hobbies, but his favorite pastimes were playing cribbage and attending Jazz festivals.

He is survived by four daughters: Judith Kathleen Cole of Geneva, Switzerland, Mary Patt Hawthorne of Sherwood, Oregon, Deborah Ann O'Brien of Cut Bank, and Elizabeth Ann Gau of Great Falls, Montana.

Darby married Elizabeth Ann Kingston on September 26, 1942 at Seattle, Washington. That same fall he began his active duty in the U.S. Navy where he attained the rank of Quartermaster 1st Class. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre during World War II on the battleship U.S.S. Tryon and participated in seven island landings in the South Pacific. After three years of military service he was honorably discharged in 1945.

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Darby had many hobbies, but his favorite pastimes were playing cribbage and attending Jazz festivals.

He is survived by four daughters: Judith Kathleen Cole of Geneva, Switzerland, Mary Patt Hawthorne of Sherwood, Oregon, Deborah Ann O'Brien of Cut Bank, and Elizabeth Ann Gau of Great Falls, Montana.
Vieanna May Osborne, age 80, a former motel owner from Shelby, died Sunday, July 11, 2004 at the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre. Her funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 15, 2004 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Shelby, with burial to follow in Valley View Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Whitted Funeral Chapel in Shelby.

Vieanna was born November 18, 1923 to Henry C. and Inez (Kinyon) Frederickson on the family homestead northeast of Lothair, where she was raised and attended country school.

She married Alvin Osborne on April 8, 1941 in Chester. After living in the Whitefish area for a short time, they moved back and farmed north of Galata. In 1960 they moved to Shelby where Vieanna ran the Star Motel. In 1977, she went to work as a housekeeper at the Williams Court in Shelby until 1990. Alvin passed away in 1993. In 2002 she moved in the Marias Care Center in Shelby and then to the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre in 2003.

Vieanna loved music and playing piano, enjoyed gardening, and was known as an excellent cook. But most of all, she loved and cherished her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

She is survived by her sons: Henry (Sarah) Osborne of Casper, Wyoming, and Lester (Ellen) Osborne of Havre; a daughter, Shirley (Jim) Hendrick of Lakeside; a sister-in-law, Betty Frederickson of Chester; 12 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Alvin, and a brother Lawrence Frederickson.

Memorials are suggested to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Northern Montana Care Center, or the Marias Care Center.
Carol Glenna Patrick

HAVRE — Carol Glenna (Larson) Patrick, 85, a homemaker, died of natural causes Thursday at a Great Falls hospital.

Her funeral is 10 a.m. Tuesday, at the First Lutheran Church in Havre. Holland and Bonine Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

She is survived by her sons Kerry (Diana) of Hingham, Glenn (Carol) of Cardwell, Mont., Craig (Linda) of Hingham, Brian (Patty) of Townsend, Mont; a daughter, Bonnie (Dave) Cypher of Dillon, and 19 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, a son, Kyle, sisters Muretta Porter and Phyllis Ramberg; and brother Phillip Larsen.

Carol was born July 27, 1918, at Rudyard, Mont. She was the second of six children born to Peter and Mary Larsen.

She attended grade school at the Hue country school north of Rudyard. Carol graduated from Rudyard High School. She attended Northern Montana College and graduated with a teaching degree. For the next seven years, she taught at various country schools around Havre and Fort Benton.


For the last 30 years, Carol has sewn quilt tops for the Ladies Aid group of the Goldstone Lutheran Church north of Rudyard, where she was a lifetime member.

Once moving to Havre, Carol enjoyed looking around garage sales for stuffed toys and dolls. She cleaned the toys, mended them, dressed them in new clothes, and donated them to the Toys for Tots Program at Christmas. Carol also crocheted afghan squares and donated them for afghans that were given to those in need.

Carol enjoyed playing Bridge with family and friends and doing the daily crossword puzzles.

Memorials are suggested to the Havre Jaycees Toys for Tots Program P.O. Box 1327 Havre, MT 59501 or the charity of the donor's choice.
ETHEL MAE (CRAMER) PATTERSON
Birth: December 6, 1912 – Death: July 24, 2004
Liberty County Times
July 28, 2004

Ethel Mae Patterson

Ethel Mae Patterson, 91, of Belgrade passed away July 24, 2004.

She was born Ethel Mae Cramer at Hill, Montana on December 6, 1912, to Jane Marie (Veaulleux) and Charles Cramer. She was raised on a homestead that is now under Tiber Reservoir. She attended school in the Chester area where she was an accomplished athlete.

Ethel attended college in Missoula where she earned a teaching certificate. In 1932, she taught in a one-room schoolhouse in School District 64 near Chester, Montana. In those days the students sometimes stayed with their teacher when the weather was poor.

Ethel married Chester M. (Pat) Patterson on March 10, 1937. They moved to Great Falls where her husband worked for the Great Northern Railroad and Great Falls Creamery. They raised four children, all of whom graduated from Great Falls High School.

Ethel was an accomplished seamstress and completed a correspondence course in tailoring and making clothes. She worked at One Hour Cleaners in Great Falls for ten years. She did much of the tailoring along with the daily chores of the cleaners. She took sewing at her residence and made many beautiful clothes for ladies in the Great Falls area. She enjoyed bowling, participated in the Great Falls Toastmistress Club and was a member of the First Methodist church. She enjoyed dressing up and going dancing at the Elks Club, or to dinner at Borries Supper Club with her husband, Pat.

A husband of 44 years preceded her in death on July 26, 1981. In 1985, she moved to Belgrade, Montana to be near her daughter and son-in-law.

While living in Belgrade, she was active in the Bozeman Toastmasters, the Belgrade Grandma's Club, the Alliance Church, and volunteered at the Belgrade Library. Ethel was very sociable and enjoyed shopping and eating out with friends and family.

For the past year-and-a-half, Ethel resided at the Gallatin Rest Home where she was well attended. She will be deeply missed by her children, Ronald A. Patterson, Houston, Texas; Earl T. Patterson, PhD and Betty, Dallas, Texas; Patricia J. Gunderson and Merv, Belgrade, MT and Michael R. Patterson, Seattle, WA. Ethel adored her grandchildren. They are Shawn Patterson, Billings; Patrick John Patterson, Austin, TX; Orin Gunderson, Belgrade, MT; Kelly Patterson and Craig Patterson, Dallas, TX, and Chad Patterson, Spokane, WA. Her only great-grandchild is Cory Brainard of Dallas.

Funeral services will be held 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 28, at Dokken-Nelson’s Belgrade Tribute Center. Interment will follow at Chester Cemetery in Chester, MT on Thursday, July 29, at 2:00 p.m.

Should friends desire memorial contributions in Ethel’s name may be made to the Belgrade Library 106 N. Broadway Belgrade, MT 59714 by donating a book in her name. The Library has a list of subjects that interested Ethel should want to make a contribution.
GILDFORD — Minnesota native and former Belfry, Choteau, Victor and Opheim resident Dolores Elaine (Sommers) Perry, 70, of Gildford, a retired teacher, died after a long battle with cancer Friday.

At her request, cremation has taken place and no services are planned. Private urn placement will take place at a later date. Holland and Bonine Funeral Home in Havre is handling arrangements.

Survivors include her husband Richard of Gildford; stepchildren Fred Perry of Kalispell and Patricia Dowd of Victor; a sister, Shirley Stang of Bredar, Minn.; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her daughter Louise May (Perry) Siefert in November of 2003.
ROBERT R. PESTER
Birth: December 16, 1932 - Death: June 19, 2004
Liberty County Times
June 23, 2004

Robert R. Pester

Robert R. Pester, 71, Hingham farmer, business man and former Hill County Commissioner died Saturday June 19, 2004 at a Havre Care Center of natural causes. His Funeral Service will be 2 p.m. Thursday June 24, 2004 at the Holland & Bonine Funeral Chapel. Burial with full military honors will follow at the Calvary Cemetery in Havre. A luncheon will be held immediately after the graveside services at the Mediterranean Room in Havre. Memorials in Robert's honor may be made to the American Heart Association, 510 1st Avenue N. Rm 114, Great Falls, MT 59501 or to the Northern Montana Care Center, P.O. Box 1231, Havre, MT 59501. Services and arrangements are under the direction of Holland & Bonine Funeral Home.

Robert was born December 16, 1932 in Hingham, Montana to Thomas J. and Christine S. (Spinler) Pester. He was raised and educated in Hingham graduating from Hingham High School in 1951. After completing High School Robert enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Korean Conflict from 1952-1954 in the 82nd Airborne as a Heavy Drop Instructor. Robert returned to Montana and married Rosalie M. Sylte October 5, 1957 in Hingham. The couple made their home south of Hingham where they farmed for many years. Robert was very active in his community and served on many committees for the betterment of the rural area. In 1957 he was elected to the Hill County Planning Council and helped to designate Beaver Creek Park as the largest County Park in the state. He served on many political committees including the governors ad-hoc, Democratic County and state committees as well as the Hill County Commissioner. He was most proud of his accomplishments for farmers which he achieved while acting as President of the Montana Citizen Freight Rate Association and the founder/president of the Montana Farmers Trucking Association. Together he and others helped to establish lower freight rates and unit trains.

Robert's family was a very large part of his life. He enjoyed spending time with them barbequing in the summers and cooking holiday meals. He also enjoyed gardening and reading historic novels.

He was preceded in death by his parents Thomas and Christine Pester. His parents in-law Martin and Mary Sylte. Four brothers Charlie, Jerry, Joe and Gene Pester.

Robert is survived by his wife Rosalie Pester of Hingham, MT; Daughter Robyn Pester of Eugene, OR; son Bruce (Melinda) Pester of Lewistown, MT; two granddaughters Renee and Maranne Pester both of Lewistown, MT. Two sisters Martha (Al) Kiemele of Havre, MT; Rose Mary (Con) Murphy of College Place, WA; and one brother Jim (Maryle Lynn) Pester of Rudyard, MT.
ORRIN PETERSON
Born: October 3, 1915 - Died: May 18, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
May 21, 2004

Orrin Peterson

COFFEE CREEK — Longtime
Arrow Creek area farmer and
rancher Orrin
Peterson, 88, died
of cancer Tues­
day at Peace Hos­
pice House in
Great Falls.
A graveside
memorial service
is 1:30 p.m. Mon­
Peterson
day at Stanford
Cemetery. Crox­
ford's Funeral Home and Crema -
tory is in charge of arrangements.

He is survived by his loving
and devoted wife of 63-plus
years, Marjorie; a son, Dale, of
Stanford, along with his and
Mardi (Hart) Davis' daughter,
Laura (Bryce) Lawrence of Fargo,
N.D.; a son-in-law, Donald Duff­
er of Great Falls, along with his
and Donna's two daughters,
Dawn (Paul) Thompson of
Vaughn and Debbie (Tim) John­
son of Great Falls; a daughter-in­
law, Alice (Hedrick) Peterson of
Arrow Creek, along with Gary's
and her four children, Karen
(Shane) Hendrickson of Mis­
soula, Kent (Jill) Peterson of St.
Paul, Minn., Kelly (Jason) Nelson
of Rockville, Md., and Kristi
(Ron) Lynn of Stanford; 17 great­
grandchildren; two sisters, Mild­
dred (Donald) Eyre of Billings
and Dolores (Ray) Hollingsworth
of Marietta, Ga.; two brothers,
Clifford (Clarabelle) Peterson of
Salem, Ore., and Kenneth Dean
(Jo Ann) Peterson of Hermiston,
Ore.; as well as many other in­
laws, nieces, nephews, cousins
and close friends.

Orrin was born Oct. 3, 1915,
the sixth of eight children born to
Martin and Caroline (Vehle)
Peterson on the farm homesteaded
by his parents in 1910 near
Hingham, Mont. Drought and
hard times on the Hi-Line forced
the family to abandon their home­
stead and move to Arrow Creek
in 1921. Most of his years grow­
ing up, Orrin spent living in the
Milwaukee Road depot at Arrow
Creek, which his father managed
for the railroad. He began school
in Arrow Creek, at which time he
had to give up speaking Norwe­
gian, the language he had learned
at home. Orrin was among one of
the last classes to graduate from
Arrow Creek High School in
1933.

During those years growing up
in Arrow Creek, he became inter­
ested and involved in agriculture.
He attended diesel mechanic
school for a time in Spokane,
Wash., and spent some winters in
Lewistown and Bozeman at other
jobs, but always returned to the
farm.

Orrin met the love of his life
and wife-to-be, Marjorie Reich­
muth, in Denton, Mont., while
roller-skating. They were married
in Great Falls on July 19, 1940,
and spent their entire lives on the
farm, raising their four children:
Donna, Gary, Duane and Dale.
He became involved in many
local activities, the school board
and agriculture committees.
Orrin was a kind and gentle man,
who dearly loved his
family and
friends and the camaraderie that
went along with being near them.
Although this brought him a great
deal of pleasure in his life, it also
dealt him a great amount of grief
in the loss of each one.

Orrin was preceded in death by
three of his children: Duane in
1969, Donna in 2000, and Gary in
2002; his parents; a brother,
Alvin; two sisters, Esther Kitchell
and Olga Wolfe; a great-grand­
sone, Kyle Peterson; and many
other close relatives, in-laws and
friends.
Memorials may be made to Gift
of Life Housing; Peace Hospice;
Stanford Ambulance; or a charity
of the donor's choice.
ROBERT WESLEY "BOB" PETRICK
Birth: July 14, 1918 - Death: August 26, 2004
Liberty County Times
September 1, 2004

Robert Wesley "Bob" Petrick was born July 14, 1918 in Hingham, Montana. He was one of four children born to Albert and Clara (Olson) Petrick. He grew up in Hingham and received his formal education there, graduating from Hingham High School in 1936. In the few years that followed, he continued his schooling at Northern Montana College in Havre, Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and Montana State University in Bozeman where he studied electrical engineering.

Bob was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1942 during World War II. He received training as an armament and chemical officer and attained the rank of 1st Lieutenant. He was fortunate to serve Stateside during his military obligation and was discharged in 1945.

Bob returned to Montana and began farming. He married Margaret Alice Twedt on September 28, 1946 at the Hingham Lutheran Church. They began raising a family of five, so they built a new home in Hingham in 1948. In addition to farming, Bob operated "Petrick TV Sales & Service" out of his home from 1962-1985; he specialized in the sales, installation, and service of Zenith televisions. He officially retired from both businesses in 1985.

In the ten years of 1990-2000 Bob and Margaret enjoyed warm winters in Phoenix, Arizona. Those past few years Bob's health had failed, so they remained in Hingham. He died peacefully at his home on Thursday morning August 26, 2004. He was 86 years old.

Bob was baptized and confirmed at the Hingham Lutheran Church and remained active there throughout his life. He held most every office on the church council and served on many committees. In addition, he taught Sunday School for 20 years. Other memberships included the Sons of Norway in Havre and the American Legion in Chester. Bob had also served on the Hingham Town Council and was a member of the Hingham School Board for nine years.

Bob loved his life as a Montana farmer. One of his favorite pastimes was simply driving around the local area to "check out the crops." Even though he retired in 1985, he still liked to stay active in the farming operations. In fact, his sons reported that "he stopped giving farming instructions on Aug. 25, 2004!"

Bob played basketball during his four years of high school. He remained an avid sports fan, especially when his sons and grandsons were participating. He enjoyed baseball, bowling, and golf. Of interest was the fact that he received a "hole-in-one" in Mesa at age 72!

In his early years he was a giga­tiant to the M.S.U. "Bobcats" but in recent years (to the chagrin of some of his family) he had become an avid "Grizzly" fan.

He had numerous hobbies. He enjoyed woodworking and built many of the fixtures/cabinetry in their home. He loved the challenge of TV repair. He liked to play cards, especially Bridge, Whist, and Cribbage. He enjoyed his yearly gardens of potatoes and corn.

The Petricks were married 58+ years and enjoyed several memorable trips together (namely, to Germany, Hawaii, Alaska, and Mexico). But probably their finest times were during their annual family summer vacations to Whitefish.

Robert's friends called him "Bob." His family affectionately called him "Chic."

Survivors include his wife, Margaret of Hingham; four sons: Ronald (and Debby) of Hingham, Terry of Hingham, Bruce of Sunnyvale, California, and Ray (and Lynn) of Hingham; one daughter, Barbara of Lake Oswego, Oregon; three grandsons: David, Ryan, and Brent; and one sister, Clarice Petrick of Chester.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers (Eugene and Alvin "Pinky"), and a granddaughter (Kathryn Brooke Petrick).

Funeral services were 2 pm Monday August 30, 2004 at the Hingham Lutheran Church. Pastor Brian Pederson officiated and Pastor Gerald Amundson served as eulogist. Organist, Sharon Spicher, accompanied the congregation, who sang "In the Garden" and "Blessed Assurance." Vocalist, Terry Stevenson, performed "Fields of Grain" and "The Lord's Prayer." Ushers were Ron Kapperud and Ron Groseclose. Pallbearers were David, Ryan, and Brent Petrick, Lowell Twedt, LaNay Kapperud, and Bill Rathben.

Burial with military rites followed at the Hingham Cemetery. A luncheon was held at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester. Memorials will be given to the Bear Paw Hospice of Havre, the Hingham Lutheran Church, or donor's choice.
ISABEL MAY "TEDDY" (ABRAHAMS) PHILLIPS

Birth: June 18, 1918 - Death: March 8, 2004

Liberty County Times
March 17, 2004

Isabel May "Teddy" Phillips was born June 18, 1918 at Sidney, Australia. She was the only child of Charles and Isabella (Rendall) Abrahams. Teddy grew up in Australia and received her formal education at the Sidney Girl's School, graduating from high school in 1934. She attended the Metropolitan Business College for two years; when she graduated in 1936 she was recognized with a special award, "Junior Typist of Australia". In the few years that followed she worked as a bookkeeper for a large mercantile store in Sidney.

At the outbreak of World War II, Teddy enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force and served in the Signal Corps. She met an American soldier, Curtis "Roy" Phillips, who was serving in Australia in the Army Air Corps. Following Roy's honorable discharge, Teddy flew to the United States to be with him. They were married September 8th, 1947 in Great Falls, Montana. They made their home in the Rudyard and Hingham communities, where she worked as a homemaker and mother of five children.

Teddy's mom came to Montana in 1951 and lived with them until her death in 1959.

In the 1960's Teddy began attending school at Northern Montana College in Havre. She earned her teaching degree in 1965. The Phillips family moved to Joplin, where she accepted a teaching position; Teddy taught fifth grade and special education in the Joplin School system. She continued to teach in the consolidated J-I School system until her retirement in 1988.

Her husband, Roy, died on November 13, 1990. Teddy remained in her Joplin home until 1994, then moved to Great Falls to be closer to her children. Although she had several medical problems, her general health remained relatively good over the years. On this past Sunday March 7th Teddy became ill at home. She was admitted to Benefis East Medical Center in Great Falls, where she died the following day, March 8, 2004. She was 85 years old.

Teddy was a Lutheran and she enjoyed singing in the Bethel Church Choir in Joplin in those early years. She had also been a member of the M.E.A.

Her hobbies were many. She enjoyed knitting, swimming, flower gardening, crossword puzzles, and reading. Teddy was a self-taught piano player who could "pound out" some good ragtime music! Recently, she enjoyed learning and playing a new game called Mah Jong. But probably her greatest love was spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Teddy had a unique personality and a good sense of humor. She recently told her daughter that if she could write her own obituary it would read as follows: "Isabel May "Teddy" Phillips (nee Abrahams) is late..."

In addition to her husband & parents, Teddy was preceded in death by a son in 1957.

She is survived by four children: Glen Phillips of Great Falls, Kathy Phillips of Great Falls, Diane Peterson and husband Jim of Galesburg, Illinois, and Scott Phillips of Great Falls; three grandchildren: Aimee, Katherine, and Axel; and several nieces and nephews.

Teddy was cremated per her wishes. A committal service with burial of ashes in the Joplin Cemetery will be planned at a later date. Arrangements are by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
EARL KENNETH "BUD" POPPLER
Birth: October 26, 1912 – Death: January 27, 2004
Liberty County Times
February 4, 2004

Earl "Bud" Poppler

Earl Kenneth "Bud" Poppler was born at St. Paul, Minnesota on October 26, 1912. He was the only son of seven children born to Benjamin and Ruth (Knutson) Poppler. In 1913 the Popplers came to Montana to homestead 30 miles north of Joplin. Bud attended the Burke School near the farm. He finished his education in Joplin, where he graduated at age 16 as the Valedictorian of Joplin High School "Class of 1929". Bud continued his education at St. Olaf College in Minnesota for one semester, then returned to Joplin to help on the family farm. He also fought fires in Glacier Park one summer.

Bud met the "love of his life", Myrtle V. Bergan, and they were married March 14, 1934 at Havre. They lived in the old bunkhouse on the Poppler homestead for two years, then Bud went to work for Art LaValley; he drove truck and delivered bulk fuel to the Zottman Mine and other locations throughout Northcentral Montana. In addition he bought a little land south of Joplin. In the winter of 1842 Bud contributed to the war effort by working at the Boeing Aircraft Company in Seattle. About that same time he took over the International Grain Elevator in Joplin, a business he ran for five years. In 1948 Bud purchased his folks’ farm. The Popplers lived in a house three miles north of Joplin until 1952, when they built a new home in town. Bud continued to farm until 1965, then sold his place and purchased the H. B. Wolfe Insurance Agency in Joplin (this business became known as Poppler Insurance). In 1970 Bud and his son-in-law, Bob Wehr, became partners when they bought the Aspevig Agency in Rudyard. Bud worked in the insurance business until 1979, when he retired and sold his Joplin office to Greg Graff.

In the 1960's Bud and Myrtle began spending their winters in the south. For 30 consecutive years they always drove home to spend Christmas in Montana. As a celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary in 1985, Bud took Myrtle and their two daughters on a tour of Russia, England, and the Scandinavian countries.

When Myrtle became ill in 1992, Bud devoted his life to her care. He nurtured her at home for four years before she transferred to the Liberty County Nursing Home, where Bud spent time with her each-and-every day. When Myrtle died on October 22nd, 2002 they had been married 68 years.

Bud was the first resident at the Wheat Country Estates in 2001. Because of failing health in 2003, he, too, transferred to the Chester rest home. He was recently admitted to the local hospital, where he died on the evening of Tuesday January 27, 2004. Bud was 91 years old.

He had been an active community person during his life. He served on the TV Board and was instrumental in getting the television tower installed on Mount Royal. Bud was also a member of the Liberty County Hospital Board when they hired Dr. Richard Buker many years ago. In addition he served as an election judge for many years, served as Clerk of the Joplin School Board, and served on the Liberty County Cemetery Board. Bud also was a director on the board of the Liberty County Bank in Chester (now known as Wells Fargo).

Bud's interests were many. He loved to travel, especially RV traveling. His sporting activities included bowling, golfing, and fishing. He enjoyed working in his vegetable garden and raspberry patch. A lifelong baseball fan, Bud attended many World Series, and collected baseball memorabilia and autographs. His favorite teams were the New York Yankees and the Seattle Mariners. In his quiet time at home he liked to read or watch CNN. Bud always kept attuned to the stock market and current events. Last but not least, he was a dedicated father and grandfather who exhibited that "unconditional love" for his entire family.

He is survived by his two daughters and spouses, Erkie and Arlo Howe of Dickinson, North Dakota, and Linda and Bob Wehr of Rudyard; five grandchildren including: Cathy Schmitz, Donna Cornatzker, David Wehr, Deborah Brownlee, and Jeffery Wehr; 14 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Blanche Anderson of Rudyard and Lorraine Brickman of Naples, Florida; and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife and parents, Bud was preceded in death by four sisters: Lucille Johnson, Sarah, Joyce, and Laura Poppler.

Funeral services were 11:00 a.m. Monday February 2, 2004 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin. Reverend Brian Pederson officiated. Scripture readings were by Steve Brownlee and Julie Wehr. A poem was read by Teresa Wehr, the eulogy was read by David Wehr, and family reminescences were shared by Julie Wehr.

Ushers were Tom Wood Sr., Larry Olson, and Martin Graf. Pianist, Della Wolery, accompanied the congregation, who sang "In the Garden" and "Rock of Ages." Jeff Wehr played the guitar for Cathy Schmitz, who performed "How Great Thou Art" and "The Lord's Prayer." Together, Jeff and Cathy sang "Tears from Heaven." Pallbearers were David Wehr, Jeffery Wehr, John Schmitz, Steve Brownlee, Brock Brownlee, and Lynn Anderson.

Honorary bearers were Tom Wood Sr., Bob Toner Sr., Norbert VanDessel, Dr. Richard Buker Jr., Dr. Anna Earl, the staff at the Liberty Country Hospital and Nursing Home, and friends at the Wheat Country Estates. Burial followed at the Joplin Cemetery, then a luncheon was held at Kjos Hall. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.
MILDRED GERTRUDE “MILLIE” (ELLINGSON) RAMBO
Birth: April 6, 1928 - Death: February 25, 2004

Liberty County Times
March 3, 2004

Mildred Gertrude “Millie” Rambo was born April 6th, 1928 at Doran, Minnesota. She was one of four children born to Jorgen and Gertrude (Bertram) Ellingson. Millie grew up in Minnesota and received her formal education there.

In the early 1950’s she came to Montana to see a friend; she began working in the Havre and Hingham communities. Millie met her husband-to-be, Arthur H. (“Art”) Rambo, and they were married May 4, 1952 at Hingham. They made their home on the Rambo ranch five miles northwest of Gildford, where Millie worked diligently as a farmwife, homemaker, and mother of five.

In 1963 Art & Millie began building a new house on the ranch. They did essentially all of the work themselves, and were extremely proud and happy with the results of their 3-year endeavor. They made this house their home for the rest of their married life together. They were married 46 years when Art died in 1998. Millie remained on the farm until last spring, when her health began to fail, so she moved to Havre to live with her son and be closer to medical facilities. She died peacefully in her sleep at her son’s home on the morning of Wednesday February 25th, 2004. She was 75 years old.

Millie was a member of the Gildford Baptist Church. She was also active in the Democratic Party and had been a member of MACO (Montana Association of Counties). She enjoyed traveling to meetings and supporting her husband, Art, during his 13-year tenure as a Hill County Commissioner.

Millie’s hobbies were many. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting, and crafts; she made many quilts, afghans, and other gift items for family and friends over the years. She planted a lot of trees on the farm, loved her flower gardens, and had a “green-thumb” for houseplants (especially, African violets).

Millie also enjoyed photography; she took and indexed literally thousands of photographs of her family and special events. In another related hobby, she organized newspaper clippings and photos of Hi-Line events/people into historical scrapbooks. She also enjoyed genealogy and did detailed research on the Ellingson and Rambo family trees. And just for the fun of it, she collected butterfly memorabilia and china cups-and-saucers.

Millie was a meticulous housekeeper and an exceptional cook. Her family was always amazed how she could make a wonderful meal after starting out with just a few things from the cupboard. Some of her favorite family dishes were her baked beans, fried chicken and gravy, homemade breads, and meringue pies.

The Rambo children affectionately called Millie “Moth” (pronounced “muth”). She loved her family and was very proud of all of her grandchildren.

She is survived by her five children and spouses: Karen (Doug) Ferris of Choteau, Kathy (Gary) Clock of Havre, Steve (Pegi) Rambo of Havre, Curt (Mary Kay) Rambo of Great Falls, and Kim Rambo Reinmuth of Great Falls; 10 grandchildren including: Eric and Kristal; Trina and Savannah; Amie; Chase, Mandy, and Zackary; and Ryan and Tyler; three great-grandchildren (and two more coming!); one sister, Beverly Winther of Fergus Falls, Minnesota; one brother, Raymond (Shirley) Ellingson of Doran, Minnesota; and many nieces and nephews.

Millie was preceded in death not only by her parents and husband, but also by grandson Josh, and sister Darlene.

Funeral services were 10:00 a.m. Monday March 1, 2004 at First Lutheran Church in Havre. Officiating pastors were Eddie Fallo from Gildford, and Brad Ulgenos from Havre. Eulogist was Chris Christensen. Kay Hammier served as organist, and the congregation sang “Amazing Grace” and “How Great Thou Art.” Vocalist, Terry Stevenson, performed “The Old Rugged Cross.” Special vocal selections by granddaughter Mandy, was “Thine You’ll Be,” and granddaughter Amie Thompson sang “I Can Only Imagine.” Ushers were Gary Kapperud and Dan Jorgenson. Pallbearers included Joe Big Knife, Harold Brauer, Stan Rambo, Mark Burkhardtzmyer, Marty Winther, and Read Christensen. Interment was at Highland Cemetery in Havre. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester. Memorials will be given to the Gildford Baptist Church “Building Fund.”
Carol Richter
Carol Severson Richter died Tuesday July 6, 2004 at St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings from cancer.

She was born September 20, 1963 in Williston, North Dakota, to Kenny and Janette (Jacobson) Severson. She attended school in Williston before moving to Cody, Wyoming in September 1971, where she graduated in 1981. She attended Northwest College in Powell the following year.

On December 3, 1988 Carol married Richard Richter, originally from Inverness, Montana. Throughout their marriage Carol worked at Y-Tex Corporation in Cody.

She was dedicated to the activities of her children in bowling, Girls and Boys Scouts. Sunday school, softball, etc. She was an avid Bronco fan and a Dale Jarrett racecar fan, "Go 88." She also loved George Strait’s music.

Carol Richter was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Cody. Some of her friends lovingly called her "Martha."

She always had red curly hair, which she lost several times in her five-year fight against cancer. Her hair and cancer always came back, despite several operations, chemotherapy and radiation. She always said, "I'm okay."

Carol is survived by her husband Rich; children: Kayla and Kenny; mother Janette (Duane) Ahmann of Minot, North Dakota; sister Janelle (Bill) Garaas; and brothers Kevin and Gary Severson of Cody, Wyoming; stepbrothers Robert Ahmann and stepsister Ashley Ahmann; nieces, uncles, aunts and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father Ken; brother Kendall; and grandparents.

Funeral services were Friday July 9, 2004 at 2 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cody. Interment will follow in Riverside Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church in Carol’s memory.
ELEANOR ANNA (KOENIG) RIES
Born: February 14, 1918 – Died: July 9, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
July 11, 2004

Eleanor Ann Ries

CONRAD — Eleanor Anna (Koenig) Ries, 86, of Conrad, a homemaker, died Friday at a Great Falls hospital from injuries in an accident.

Rosary is 7 p.m. Monday at St. Michael’s Catholic Church in Conrad. Her funeral is 11 a.m. Tuesday at the church, with burial in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Conrad. Pondera Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Survivors include daughters Eileen Johnson and her husband Cleve, and Bernadette and her husband Michael Lahr, all of Helena, and Mary Lou and her husband, Richard Matthys of Winnemucca, Nev.; sons Charles Ries of Whitehall, Curtis Ries and his wife, Mary Ann, and Theodore Ries and his wife, Janet, all of Conrad; sisters Irene Belusko of Portland, Ore., and Marcella Hull and her husband, James, of Chester; 15 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 42 years, Gerald John Ries; a grandson, Brent Johnson; and a sister, Mary Whooley.

Eleanor was born Feb. 14, 1918, in Conrad, where she was raised and educated, graduating from Conrad High School in 1938. She married Gerald John Ries in 1945 in Conrad. She worked for Salansky’s Grocery Store from 1938-45.

She was a charter member of Golden Valley Extension Homemakers Club, a member of the VFW Auxiliary, St. Michael’s Guild, St. Michael’s Journey Group, and St. Michael’s Prayer Network, as well as being a 4-H leader.

Eleanor enjoyed sewing, embroidery, gardening, reading, game shows, Lawrence Welk, cooking, baking, her grandchildren, card games and bingo.

Memorials are suggested to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation or the American Heart Association.
JESSE BENJAMIN ROMAIN

Birth: April 2, 1980 - Death: September 11, 2004

Liberty County Times
September 15, 2004

He was an avid Miami Dolphins and Atlanta Braves fan, and liked basketball, hunting, fishing, rafting, playing pool, and Texas Hold 'em Poker. He will be remembered for his big, generous smile and charming ways. He always had a handshake, hug, or pat on the back for everyone he met. Jesse had as many friends as there are fish in the mountain streams - too many to count.

Survivors include his parents Ken and Greta Romain; daughter Haley Jayne Willson Romain, and her mother Kelly Marie Willson of Great Falls; Jesse's sisters Deanna Lynn Romain Temple (David) of Roy, Washington, Wesli Wynn Romain Davis (Jerry) of Great Falls; grandparents Gene and Jayne Griffith of Loganville, Georgia; aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews and cousins; "life-long Brother" Shilo Cook of Fort Benton; "Special Friend" Heidi Ann Stevenson of Missoula.

Jesse was preceded in death by a sister Kendra Romain in 1992; and grandparents Clarence and Marion Romain.

Visitation is Wednesday September 15 from 8 am to 8 pm at the O'Connor Funeral Home, Great Falls, and Thursday September 16 from 12 Noon to 3 pm at the Community Bible Church in Fort Benton. Funeral services will be Thursday September 16, 2004 at 4 pm at the Fort Benton Elementary School Auditorium. Burial will be in the Riverview Cemetery in Fort Benton.

Arrangements by O'Connor Funeral Home, Great Falls. Memorials to: Kendra Jayne and Jesse Benjamin Romain Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o O'Connor Funeral Home, or Greta Romain.

Jesse Romain

Jesse Benjamin Romain was born April 2, 1980 in Great Falls to Ken and Greta Romain, and was raised north of Fort Benton on the family farm. He attended school in Fort Benton and graduated from Fort Benton High School in 1998. Jesse was the 1998 Homecoming King, and Fort Benton's first male Cheerleader. He also attended the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia for two years.

Jesse died on September 11, 2004 as a result of an automobile accident north of Fort Benton. He was 24 years old.

Jesse was currently working on the family farm north of Fort Benton, and as a waiter at the Grand Union Hotel in Fort Benton. He was involved with 4-H for over 11 years, and was past president of the Fort Benton Key Club.
Hazel L. (Fuhs) Ross
Born: N/A - Died: March 24, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
March 27, 2004

Hazel L. Ross

Hazel L. (Fuhs) Ross, 85, of 1408 4th Ave S, Great Falls, a homemaker, died of complications from a stroke Wednesday at a local hospital.

At her request, no services are planned. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Schnider Funeral Home.

Hazel is survived by three daughters; Shirley (Rich) Urango, Sandra Ross, and Susan Ross, all of Great Falls; one son, John (Genny) Ross of British Columbia, Canada; three sisters, Betty Early of Indiana, Loretta McKay of Alaska and Darlene Kelly of California; two brothers, Marvin Fuhs of Alaska and Norman Fuhs of Washington; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Her husband, John Ross, preceded her in death.
ELLA MAY (CADY) ROWIN
Born: December 6, 1912 - Died: December 24, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
December 26, 2004

**Ella May Rowin**

HAVRE — Ella May (Cady) Rowin, 92, of Havre, a housewife, died of natural causes Friday at a Havre Hospital. Her funeral is 2 p.m. Tuesday at Holland and Bonine Chapel, with burial in Highland Cemetery in Havre, followed by a fellowship at the VFW.

Survivors include her husband of 52 years, Howard Rowin of Havre; daughters Willa (Ken) Kooch of Havre, Doris (Bob) Bishop of Great Falls and Betty (Bill) Hafner, Laura Hafner and Sue Roberts, all of Havre; sons Melvin (Tammy) Erickson, Dave Rowin and Ron Rowin, all of Havre; 20 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

Ella was born Dec. 6, 1912, in Larimore, N.D., to Howard and May (Weston) Cady. She was raised in the Goldstone area north of Joplin, where she attended schools. When she was 16 years old, she married Melvin Erickson, to which seven children were born. In 1962 she married Howard Rowin and they had four children.

Ella's hobbies include playing pinochle, knitting, watching the critters on her farm and visiting with all her family. Ella was the most loving person any of her family has ever known.

She was a member of the Salvation Army Church and participated in their Home League and Summer Camps for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and May Cady; two daughters, Donna Roberts and Charlene Rowin; a granddaughter, Roxanne Shelstad; and two great-grandchildren, Nathan Green and Clayton Morse.

Memorials in Ella's honor may be made to the Salvation Army, P.O. Box 418, Havre, MT 59501.
Nora Sanvik

Nora Ann Sanvik, age 80, of Mesa, Arizona, and former Rudyard resident, died Thursday November 4, 2004 in Mesa. Mrs. Sanvik, a homemaker, was born in Gildford, Montana.

Survivors include her husband Robert O. Sanvik of Mesa; daughters Charlotte (Edward) Proulx, and Roberta (Larry) Bowmar; son Greg (Mary) Sanvik; six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held November 11, 2004 at the Mesa Good Shepherd Villa Chapel, 5848 E. University Dr, Mesa, AZ 85205

Arrangements by the Apache Junction Mortuary, Apache Junction, AZ.
ORVILLE ORDINE "TUBBY" SATHER
Birth: September 18, 1923 – Death: November 8, 2004
Liberty County Times
November 17, 2004

The Sather's moved to Whitefish in 1986 to enjoy their retirement years. In addition they traveled to St. George, Utah during the winter months of 1990-2004. Orville was diagnosed with cancer about a year ago and his health has slowly declined since that time. Two months ago the Sather's moved to the Greenwood Village (assisted living facility) in Kalispell where Orville had been cared for by his family, hospice nurses, and staff at the Village. He died on the late evening of Monday November 8, 2004 at the age of 81 years.

Orville was a meticulous bookkeeper and enjoyed serving as the clerk of the Havre School board during his tenure there. He was always a "proud American" who considered his military service as a duty and an honor! He also enjoyed American politics and remained a loyal Republican throughout his life.

His hobbies included golfing, bowling, and tennis. During his quiet time at home he loved working in his garden and yard, which were always immaculate.

On a personal note, Orville's family will remember him as a very patient, kind, and gentle man who never hesitated to reach out to anyone in need, yet never asked or expected anything in return...

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Lavon Sather of Kalispell; two sons, Vance (Anita) Sather of Fairfield, California and Grant (Carol) Sather of Bremerton, Washington; two daughters, Sharan Sather of Denver, Colorado and Jill (Don) Leo of Havre; six grandchildren (inc. Amber, Tiffany, Spencer, Sierra, Jeremy, and Jordan); one brother, Jim (Aileen) Sather of Havre; one sister, Helen (Emil) Klies of Anacortes, Washington; and several nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents, a son (Gaylord Sather in 1974), a son-in-law (Rich Fisher in 1986), and two brothers (Arnold Sather in 1998 and Mel Sather in 2004).

Funeral services were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Friday November 12th at the First Lutheran Church in Havre by Pastor Brad Ulgenes. Kay Hammier was the organist and the congregation sang "How Great Thou Art." Vocalist, Terry Stevenson, performed "Beyond the Sunset" and "Peace in the Valley." Ushers were Dick Ditmar and Jake Jacobson. Orville's sons and grandsons served as pallbearers, as did a nephew, Dale Dahlke. His granddaughters were honorary bearers. Burial with military rites followed at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. A reception was held at the church.

Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester. Memorials can be given to any Hospice organization or donor's choice.
Mavis
Schaefer
SOUTHLAKE – Mavis Jean Schaefer, 54, passed away Wednesday, April 21, 2004, in Bedford. Mass of Christian Burial was at 5:00 p.m. Friday at St. John The Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Drive, North Richland Hills.
Mavis was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mavis Hartnett.
Survivors include her husband, Paul Schaefer of Southlake; children: Jennifer Schaefer of Orlando, Florida, Pamela Schaefer of Southlake, Allison Schaefer of Southlake, Zachary Schaefer of Southlake; brothers: Michael Hartnett of Brewster, New York, Philip Hartnett of Smithfield, Rhode Island, John Hartnett of Margate, Florida; and numerous other family members and friends.
SHIRLEY ARLYS (HANSON) SCHEUERMANN
Birth: March 30, 1924 - Death: December 9, 2004
Liberty County Times
December 15, 2004

Shirley Scheuerman
Shirley Arlys Scheuerman, age 80, died Thursday, December 9, 2004 at her residence of natural causes. Funeral services were 10:30 am on Tuesday, December 14, 2004 at the First Baptist Church in Gildford with Pastor Eddie Fallo officiating. Burial followed at the Calvary Cemetery in Havre. A fellowship luncheon was held at 2:00 pm at the church. In Lieu of flowers Memorials may be made to the Gildford First Baptist Church or to a memorial of one's own choice. Arrangements are under the direction of Holland and Bonine Funeral Home.

Shirley Arlys Scheuerman was born on March 30, 1924 to Arnold and Sylvia (Myers) Hanson in Artichoke, Minnesota. She moved to Montana with her family as a young girl. They settled North of Gildford. Shirley attended school at the North Gildford country school and then graduated from Gildford High School in 1942. On December 16, 1942 Shirley married Reuben Harley Scheuerman. After the couple married they moved to Kremlin. Then in 1946 they moved to Hingham and Reuben went to work for Arnold Hanson his father in-law. Shirley worked in the house and was a companion to Reuben ever since they met.

Shirley enjoyed sewing, any kind of needlework, and ceramics. She had collections of glass bottles, jars, and spoons. She was a lifetime member of the Gildford Baptist Church and has been very active in all phases of the church. She was a member of the Jolly Janes Homemakers Club, Gildford American Legion Auxiliary, and Gildford School PTA when Joyce and Junior were in school. Shirley was most passionate about her family and her church, and also being a "Great" grandmother.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents and brother Willis.

She was survived by her husband Reuben Scheuerman of Hingham, Montana; daughter Joyce (Noel) Preeshl of Gildford, son Reuben Jr. (Karen) Scheuerman of Havre; brothers Dean Hanson, Delmar Hanson; grandchildren: Noela Donoven, Steve, Bryan, and Brent Preeshl, Wendy Schweitzer, Kari Riley, Katy Fritz; great-grandchildren, Nicholas, Brianna Donoven, Kristin May, Nolan Preeshl, Russelle, Lauryn Preeshl, Jazlyn Young, Taegan, Iza Schweitzer, Trennis Riley, Tade, Thatcher Smith.
EVELYN (TAPP) SEARS
Born: July 11, 1924 – Died: July 23, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
August 6, 2004

Evelyn Sears

EDMONDS, Wash. — Former Great Falls and Juneau, Alaska, resident Evelyn (Tapp) Sears, 80, died July 23 at her home in Edmonds, Wash.

Her funeral is 1 p.m. Saturday at the chapel of Purdy & Walters with Cassidy in Everett, Wash., with burial at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Everett.

Evelyn is survived by sisters Opal Powell of Fort Benton, Mont., and Vera Sears of Great Falls, Mont.; several nieces and nephews; and a wide circle of longtime friends from their days in Alaska.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Howard, and a sister, Thelma Sundgren of Chester, Mont.

Evelyn was born in Great Falls, Mont., to Jesse and Ethel Tapp on July 11, 1924. Following high school, she married Howard S. Sears on March 22, 1945. Both became dedicated federal employees, with Evelyn joining the U.S. Forest Service.

The couple moved to Juneau, Alaska, in 1957, where Howard worked as a fisheries research biologist for the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, and Evelyn progressed in her career to become executive assistant to the regional forester.

She achieved qualification as a certified professional secretary and worked enthusiastically for many years with Juneau’s Potlatch Chapter of the National Secretaries Association. She served one term as chapter president. The couple enjoyed a variety of activities in Juneau, including ice skating, bowling and dancing at the Elks Club.

Howard and Evelyn moved to Edmonds in the late 1970s, after lingering illness forced Howard’s retirement; he passed away in 1980. By the time of Howard’s death, Evelyn had retired from her position as budget and program analyst with the Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest with headquarters in Seattle. She continued to live in their Edmonds residence, enjoying handcrafts, lunches with her Red Hat Society friends, computer games and activities at the local health spa.

In 2000-01, she successfully battled breast cancer.

The family requests that memorial remembrances be made to the American Cancer Society.
MILDRED FERN (ALEX) SEDIVY
 Birth: July 15, 1910 - Death: August 22, 2004
 Liberty County Times
 September 1, 2004

Mildred Fern (Alex) Sedivy was born July 15th, 1910 at Kensal, North Dakota. She was one of eight children born to Anthony and Nettie (Greb) Alex. Her family came to Montana in 1913 and homesteaded nine miles north of Hingham. Mildred received her early education at the Huey Country School, then finished her formal schooling in Hingham.

She married Vincent Sedivy on November 24, 1930 in Hingham where they lived throughout their married life. In those early years they owned and operated the Ford Garage in Hingham and also had interest in the Ford dealership at Cut Bank. In 1932 they built the White Eagle Service Station in Hingham (which is now known as the Hi-Way Bar & Service Station). In 1948 they sold the business and began farming at two locations (south of Inverness and east of Hingham).

Mildred enjoyed her life as a farmwife, homemaker, and mother. She and Vincent were married 27 years at the time of his death in 1957. Mildred remained a widow and continued to live in their Hingham home for 40+ years. When her health began to fail in 2000, she transferred to the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre (where she was fortunate to live with her two sisters prior to their deaths).

Mildred died at this Havre nursing facility on Sunday evening (August 22, 2004) at the age of 94 years.

Mildred loved her home where she enjoyed her skills in sewing, crocheting, and cooking. She sewed and mended numerous clothing items for community friends over the years. In her later years she made wonderful garments for her grandchildren. She also made many, many doilies and afghans for her relatives and friends. Her cooking and baking talents were exceptional; her family will always remember her delicious breads, buns, pies, cookies, and dumplings!

Mildred enjoyed playing cards; her favorite card games were Whist, Kings-in-the-Corners, and Crazy 8's. She also enjoyed playing a board game called "Aggravation." As a hobby she collected thimbles. And just for the fun of it, she loved to go shopping!

Mildred’s home, like her life, was always immaculate, warm, personable, and welcoming to all who chose to enter. In her youth she was given a special nickname, "Mood," which has stuck with her throughout the years.

She is survived by her two sons: Vincent Sedivy Jr. of Trego, and Jim Sedivy (and wife, Joyce) of Swan Lake; nine grandchildren (including Peggy Marie, Jean, Gwen, Jill, Donny, Dari, Doug, and Donna); 20 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Mildred was preceded in death by her parents and husband; five brothers: Ed, Harry, Tony, Chen, and John Alex; two sisters: Myrtle Ditmar and Eleanor Rathbun; and a special friend Charles Vakoch.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday August 26th at the Hingham Lutheran Church by Pastor Brian Pederson. The organist was Sherron Spicher. A vocal trio of Dana Phillips, Doral Anderson, and Leota Hansen sang "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Amazing Grace." A congregational hymn was "What A Friend We Have In Jesus". Alan Alex served as eulogist. Ushers were Ron Petrick and Ron Groseclose. Pallbearers included Doug Effinger, Bill Rathbun, Alan Alex, Dick Ditmar, Joe Raunig, and Ole Warren. Following burial at the Hingham Cemetery, a reception was held at the church. Undesignated memorials will be given to the Hingham Lutheran Church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
SHAWN FRANKLIN SHERRARD
Great Falls Tribune
September 10, 2004

Shawn Franklin Sherrard
SHELBY — Shawn Franklin Sherrard, 44, a Shelby native and GM master technician in Missoula, died of heart failure Tuesday at a Missoula hospital. Visitation is 1 to 8 p.m. today at Whitted Funeral Chapel in Shelby. His funeral is 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, with burial in Mountain View Cemetery.

Survivors include his son, Justin David Sherrard of Missoula; his mother, Darlene Sherrard of Shelby; a sister, Cheryl (Jeff) Janke of Avon; brothers Don (Terri) Sherrard of Phoenix, Ariz., and Dwayne Sherrard of Pocatello, Idaho; and nieces Megan Janke, Nicole Janke and Jamie Sherrard.

He was preceded in death by his father, James W. Sherrard; and his grandparents, Clarence and Dorothy Adams and John and Maude Sherrard.


He was a GM mechanic for the past 23 years, and had worked for Bell Motor in Cut Bank. He was presently employed at Karl Tyler Chevrolet in Missoula as a GM master technician.

As a youth, Shawn belonged to the Galata Boy Scout troop, where he received his Eagle Scout award. He helped his father and mother with the farming operations over the years, and those memories held a special place in his heart.

He was especially proud of raising his son, Justin, and Justin’s recent enrollment in the culinary program at Missoula College of Technology.

He was a member of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Shelby, and enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping. He especially enjoyed spending time with Justin and helping his family and friends.

The family suggests memorials to the Justin Sherrard Education Fund, 875 Teton Ave., Shelby, MT 59474.
MODONNA JOAN GIFFORD SMEDSRUD
Birth: June 20, 1931 – Death: April 17, 2004
Liberty County Times
April 21, 2004

Madonna Joan Gifford Smedsrud, 72

Madonna Joan Gifford Smedsrud, a housewife aged 72, of Conrad, passed away Saturday, April 17, 2004, at the Pondera Medical Center due to Chronic Pulmonary Obstructive Disease.

Graveside services will be 11:00 am Wednesday, April 21, at the Chester Cemetery with Rev. Peter Erickson officiating. At her request there will be no visitation. In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials to the St. Olaf Lutheran Church of Ledger or the Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church in Yuma, AZ.

Rockman Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include her daughter Kathy Pruneda of Los Lunas, NM and sons Jay Gifford of Oceanside, CA, Blaine Gifford of Washington, NC; stepdaughter Lisa Hanson and stepsons Gordon Smedsrud, Duane Smedsrud and Roger Smedsrud all of Shelby. Sixteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren also survive Madonna. Her two husbands, three brothers, four sisters and one grandson all precede her in death.

Madonna was born June 20, 1931 at Minot, ND where she grew up and graduated from high school in 1949. She married O.D. Gifford June 25, 1950. They came to Chester in 1951 where they owned and operated OD's Market for 25 years. When O.D. died Dec. 18, 1976 she sold the business. Madonna married Olaf Smedsrud June 20, 1978. They farmed in the Ledger area until retiring in 1990 when they moved to Conrad while spending their winters in Yuma, AZ. Olaf died April 26, 2000.

Madonna was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Chester and St. Olaf Lutheran Church of Ledger, Moose Lodge, Royal Neighbors and was a Lady Elk. Madonna enjoyed bowling, playing bridge and cribbage, working with stained glass, gardening and canning. She always enjoyed entertaining friends, was a wonderful hostess and was also an immaculate housekeeper.
HAVRE — Gladys Roberta (Patrick) Smith, 93, of Havre, a retired teacher and former Hill County Superintendent of Schools, died of natural causes Dec. 2 at her home.

Her funeral is 11 a.m. Thursday at First Lutheran Church in Havre, with burial in Highland Cemetery, followed by a fellowship luncheon at the church. Holland and Bonine Funeral Home of Havre is handling arrangements.

Gladys is survived by her daughter, Maureen Dolan of Havre; grandchildren Trevor and Tyler Smith of Havre, Mike Dolan of Billings and Wade Dolan of Phoenix; brothers Raymond, Wayne and Bernard Patrick, all of Havre and Don Patrick of Grafton, N.D.; sisters Ruth Meredith of Havre and Phyllis Gagnon of Chester; and two great-grandchildren, Chase Smith and Kameron Dolan.

Gladys was born Feb. 9, 1911, to Charles and Sadie (Gale) Patrick at LaBelle, Mo. In 1915, the family of then four children with their parents homesteaded north of Rudyard. Gladys was the second-oldest of fifteen children. She was raised and educated in the Goldstone area, graduating from Rudyard High School in 1928. Gladys married Marvin R. Smith in 1933, and they had three children.

Gladys continued her education at Northern Montana College, receiving a one-year teaching degree in 1931. Her first job at Swift School included three siblings among the 28 students. Over the years, Gladys taught at Zurich, Rocky Boy, Shambo and in 1950, transferred to the Havre Public Schools as an elementary classroom teacher. She also served as a principal at Washington School. In 1962, Gladys was elected as Hill County Superintendent of Schools, a position she held until 1968, and then returned to the classroom. Gladys retired from active teaching in 1971, continuing to substitute, doing speaking engagements and serving as Guest Artist in the Classroom for many years.

Gladys loved sports. She played basketball in high school and college, and pitched horsehoe with her brothers and friends. She joined the Havre Golf League, bowled at Big Sandy and Havre and loved playing softball in the Havre Women’s League. She was known for her pitching ability and was inducted into the Montana Softball Hall of Fame in 1988. Her softball career ended at the age of 72 after 30 years of playing.

In the summer, Gladys grew a large garden of vegetables and flowers. She sold her vegetables at the Farmer’s Market from Smith’s Gardens and her flowers were entered for judging at the Hill County Fair. Her other hobbies included collecting barbwire of which she collected over 200 different types. She also collected antiques and match box holders.

Gladys was an avid bridge player and received the highest honor in 1981 as a Life Master. She loved working with her hands, she crocheted, sculptured and oil painted. Gladys wanted the family to be acquainted with one another. Being from a large family, its members were very important to her. So Gladys organized the first family reunion in 1977, and it has continued every four years.

Gladys was affiliated with the Home Demonstration Club and the Eagles, for which she received her fifty-year recognition. She was the author of Foot-Step Across Years 1911-1992, an autobiography that is on display at the Montana Historical Society.

Along with her niece, Linda Patrick Hayes, she also produced a family quarterly newsletter, the Patrick Post. She appeared on TV on Dec. 30, 1960, on the Charge Account with Jan Murray, and appeared again in 1975 to be interviewed by a Spokane TV station.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Marvin Smith in 1962; a daughter, Karen Taylor in 1993; a son, Richard Smith in 2004; and an infant brother as well as other brothers Ralph, Russell, Floyd, Clarence, Cecil, Clifford and Richard.

Memorials in Gladys’ honor may be made to the MSU-Northern Foundation, P.O. Box 1681, Havre, MT 59501; or to Bear Paw Hospice, P.O. Box 1231, Havre, MT 59501.
Morris Nels Smith

Birth: December 11, 1909 - Death: January 7, 2004

Liberty County Times
January 14, 2004

Morris Smith

Morris Nels Smith was born December 11, 1909 at Havre, Montana. His parents were Soren and Anna (Bohm) Smith and he was one of five children in the Smith family. Morris grew up on his father's homestead north of Rudyard and attended the Oreana Country School. He entered the 9th grade in Rudyard, but quit to help out with the farming operations.

Morris married Esther Goldberg on June 21, 1941 in Great Falls. In 1942 they took over the farm, where they lived and raised a family of three.

Their activities were centered around neighbors, church, school, 4-H, and community. They retired in thend 1970s when they sold the farm to their son Stu.

Esther died in April of 1974. Morris continued to live on the farm until January of 1999 when his health began to fail. He moved to the Northern Montana Care Center in Havre where he lived until his death on the afternoon of Wednesday January 7, 2004. He was 94 years old.

Morris was baptized at the Episcopal Church in Havre then confirmed in the Lutheran faith as an adult. He was a longtime member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard and served on the church council for several years. He also served on the Rudyard School Board in the 1960s; this was when the new gym was built and Morris was proud to have been in on the decision to have bleachers in the adult bleacher section. In addition, he was an active member of the Farmer's Union, serving on the elevator and the oil station boards. In his retirement years Morris enjoyed activities at the Rudyard Senior Center with his "extended family."

Rodeos and bull, cattle, and horse sales were social highlights that he loved because they gave him the opportunity to meet and "b.s." with his rancher friends from the Bear Paws to the Sweetgrass Hills. Never having time to develop hobbies or recreational interests, Morris' favorite pastime was simply visiting with people (bel it on the phone or in person). He did enjoy participating in the Hi-Line bowling leagues (both the Men's and the Father-Daughter Leagues) and playing pool at the senior center. Morris also enjoyed reading Westerns and historicals, playing cards (Pinochle and Whist), and watching television (The Price Is Right, and Wheel of fortune).

Morris loved his life as a farmer and ranchers. Springtime was his favorite season with anticipation of new life in baby calves, green pasture, and new crops. After he entered the Havre nursing facility, he often commented that he had 'the best room in the house,' the best nursing staff and caregivers, and faithful visits from friends and family. Still, he said everyday his thoughts were of the farm. He was always thankful for his family and friends and often said, "I'm a lucky man!" Morris will always be admired by those who loved him for his simple life, common sense, and honesty.

Morris treasured his family including his kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids. He is survived by two sons: Stan Smith and wife Karen of Mahtomedi, Minnesota, and Stuart Smith and wife Leslie of Rudyard; one daughter Sharon Spicher and husband Bill of Hingham; six grandchildren including: John and Melissa Draxter of Kremmling, Colorado, Jason Draxter of St. Cloud, Minnesota, Blaine Smith of Jackson, Wyoming, Roby and Thad Burkhartsmeyer of Helena, Rod and Juanita Spicher of Hingham, and Scott and Melissa Spicher of Ponca City, Oklahoma; eight great-grandchildren including: Cooper, Graysen and Bailey Spicher, Logan, Jaiden, and Cade Spicher, and Madison and Jake Draxter, and a half-sister Marlan Larsen of Spokane, Washington.

In addition to his wife and parents, Morris was preceded in death by two half-brothers Jerry O'Brien and Bernard Smith, and one half-sister Anna Mae Goetteman.

Funeral services were at 11:00 am Saturday January 10, 1994 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rudyard.

Reverend Brian Pederson officiated and Ila McElhany read scriptures. Morris' son Stan shared the eulogy. The congregation sang "How Great Thou Art" and "He Leadeth Me," accompanied by organist Stanleigh Barbie. Vocal music by Terry Stevenson included "Fields of Grain" and "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." Grandson Scott Spicher, played the guitar and sang "Grandpa." Ushers were Bud Eun and Fred Rigg. Pallbearers included Jerry Hyner, Ted Jurenka, Lon Wald, Merlin Welney, Norman Kapperud, and Dave Stevenson. Friends listed as honorary bearers were Bob Eun and Fred Rigg. Pallbearers included Jerry Hyner, Ted Jurenka, Lon Wald, Merlin Welney, Norman Kapperud, and Dave Stevenson. Friends listed as honorary bearers were Bob Eun and Fred Rigg. Pallbearers included Jerry Hyner, Ted Jurenka, Lon Wald, Merlin Welney, Norman Kapperud, and Dave Stevenson. Friends listed as honorary bearers were Bob Eun and Fred Rigg. Pallbearers included Jerry Hyner, Ted Jurenka, Lon Wald, Merlin Welney, Norman Kapperud, and Dave Stevenson.
Susan Snyder

Susan Marguerite (Anderson) Snyder, age 54 of Chester, died of cancer May 24, 2004 at the Liberty County Nursing Home. She was born May 12, 1950 at Havre, Montana, and was the youngest of three daughters born to George and Ada (Collar) Anderson. She grew up in Chester and received her education there, graduating from Chester High School on May 28, 1968. She then attended Eastern Montana College (EMC) in Billings for the next two years. In 1969 during her time at EMC she was diagnosed with systemi lupus, a disease she coped with the rest of her life. In 1970 Susan became employed at Liberty County Hospital and Nursing home doing billing and insurance work. She retired from that position after 25 years and managed to take a full year off before deciding she needed something more to do. In 1998 she became a part-time medical transcriptionist at Triangle Health Care in Chester, a job she kept until she was diagnosed with cancer in January of this year.

Susan married Timothy A. Snyder in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho on April 19, 1982. They made their home in Chester where both kept busy with many different interests. Susan especially enjoyed photography, cross-stitching, reading, puzzles, flower gardening, cats (7), and buying shoes for babies. Because she never had children of her own, she first kept her nephew and niece supplied with new shoes when they were young, and had continued the tradition with their children. In addition, Susan and Tim took these children on weekend getaways or nights out to a hockey game. Susan also enjoyed short motor trips to places like Glacier Park, and liked camping in her “blue van.”

Susan, having worked in health care all her life, was very knowledgeable about her illnesses, especially lupus. She also let everyone know she was bitten by a rattlesnake at age five, the first rattlesnake bite Dr. Richard S. Baker, Jr. ever treated. She was very appreciative of the doctor for that and for managing her lupus so well over the years.

Susan is survived by her husband of 22 years, Tim Snyder of Chester; her mother Ada Anderson of Chester; her sister, Beverly (Gary) Jensen, and Barbara (Bob) Nordstrom, all of Chester; numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father George W. Anderson.

She was cremated per her request and no service is planned. Burial of ashes will be at the Chester Cemetery at a later date.

Whitted Funeral Chapel of Shelby is handling arrangements. Memorials are suggested to the Hi-Line Pool & Recreation Foundation in Chester.
HAZEL LUVERNE (RISHOFF) STANDIFORD
Birth: June 5, 1910 – Death: January 13, 2004
Liberty County Times
January 28, 2004

Hazel moved to their home in Chester. In 1968 she began working as a dietary aide in the kitchen at the Liberty County Hospital. She enjoyed her work there for the next 21 years, when she retired in 1989 at the age of 79.

Hazel continued to live in her Chester home until 1998, when her health began to fail. She transferred to the Liberty County Nursing Home where she resided until her death on the evening of Tuesday (January 13th, 2004). She was 93 years old.

Hazel was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith during her youth in Gary, Minnesota. As an adult she was a longtime member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Chester and was active in the Lydia Circle. After moving to Chester, Hazel kept busy at her home by operating a simple daycare center. She babysat many children over the years, and many of them still affectionately referred to her as “Gramma Hazel”.

Her hobbies included flower gardening, embroidery, and reading (she was especially fond of “romances”). She was an excellent cook; some of her family favorites were Norwegian cookies and lefse. She also enjoyed taking area trips with her family.

She is survived by four sons, Allan Standiford of Prior Lake, Minnesota, Leland Standiford of Chinook, Gary Standiford (and wife, Joanne) of Chester, and Ray Standiford (and wife, Deanna) of Chester; one daughter, Nancy Harrison of Chester; one brother, Cyrus Rishoff (and wife, Ovedia) of Bigfork; two sisters-in-law, June McDowell of Marysville, Washington, and Barbara Backen of Lothair; 23 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

Hazel was preceded in death not only by her husband and parents, but also by two daughters-in-law (Betty Lou and Ardisne Standiford), two grandsons (Peggy Sue and Mary Standiford), one brother (Marvin Rishoff), and four sisters (Eva Edmister, Dorothy Thennis, Margaret Janewski, and Lillian Berglind).

Funeral services were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Friday (Jan. 23rd) at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Chester by Pastor Peter Erickson. Karen Stack was organist and the congregation sang “Beautiful Savior”. Soloist, Rock Svennungsen, performed “Amazing Grace” and “The Old Rugged Cross”. Hazel’s son, Ray, shared the eulogy. Ushers were Jim Carter and Cliff Hanson. Hazel’s grandsons served as pallbearers. Burial was at the Chester Cemetery. A luncheon followed at the church. Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
BERTHA CHRISTINA (FRASER) STANDLEY
Born: December 25, 1915 – Died: August 24, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
August 26, 2004

BERtha Christina Standley

CASCADE — Bertha Christina (Fraser) Standley, 88, a homemaker, died of natural causes Tuesday at her home near Cascade.

Visitation is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and Friday at Croxford Funeral Home and Crematory.

Services are 11 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church in Great Falls, with burial at Hillside Cemetery in Cascade.

Survivors include daughters Elaine Schuchard, Paulette Linabary and Becky (Keith) Olsen, all of Cascade, Jan (Jerry) Albright of Devon, Louise (Bob) Falk of Great Falls and Kathy Webster of Billings; sisters Eleanor (Harold) Fransen of Great Falls, Ruby Barrett of Concord, Ohio, Ann (John) Carlson of Sun City West, Ariz., and Darlene (Nick) Wood of Payson, Ariz.; brothers Donald (Clara Mae) Fraser of Cascade, Rodney Fraser and Darrell Fraser of Great Falls, Bill (Doris) Fraser of Chester, Charles (Dorothy) Fraser and Duane (Darlene) Fraser of Inverness and Scott Fraser of Washington; 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was proceeded in death by her husband of 63 years, Lester Standley; her parents; brothers Brodie "Bud," Clinton and James Fraser; a grandson, Kirby Albright; and sons-in-law Don Schuchard and Mike Webster.

Bertha was born Dec. 25, 1915, to Donald and Annie (Brodie) Fraser, in Frazer, Mont. She attended schools in Frazer, Victor, Florence, Ulm, and in the Castner Falls area.

On Sept. 7, 1936, Bertha and Lester Standley were married in Helena, Mont., and they lived at the Green Meadow Farm near Helena. In November, 1944, they moved to the family home near Cascade, where Bertha had lived ever since.

She was a member of the Methodist Church in Cascade, where she taught Sunday school for many years, and was a 53-year member of Cascade Chapter No. 101, Order of Eastern Star, serving as Worthy Matron in 1969. She belonged to Daughters of the Nile and Castner Falls Home Demonstration Club, and was named Mrs. Montana Homemaker in 1965.

Bertha was famous for her raised doughnuts, cinnamon rolls and all baked goods. She was also an excellent seamstress, sewing countless dresses for her daughters and granddaughters. Her granddaughters just loved receiving one of Grandma's handmade flannel nightgowns as a Christmas present. Each daughter, grandchild and great-grandchild was the recipient of one of her famous quilts, and will treasure it always.

She was a perfect farmer's wife, helping with the milking chores during harvest, caring for the chickens, and gathering the eggs morning and night.

Although Mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease several years ago, she was always a pleasure to be around. Everyone was always rewarded with her friendly smile whenever they came to visit, or saw her at various functions.

Mom will be greatly missed by all of us who knew and loved her, but we know that she is at rest with Dad and smiling down on us. We love you, Mom and Dad!

Memorials are suggested to Cascade United Methodist Church; Order of Eastern Star No. 101, Cascade; or Peace Hospice.
DALE JOSEPH STAUDACHER

Birth: May 17, 1939 – Death: July 5, 2004

Liberty County Times

July 14, 2004

Dale Staudacher

Dale Joseph Staudacher was born at Chester, Montana on May 17th, 1939. He was the youngest of five children born to Thomas Staudacher Jr. and Aina C. Johannson. He grew up in the Chester community and received his early education here, graduating from C.H.S. in 1957.

Dale began attending college at Eastern Washington University at Cheney where he studied liberal arts. In 1959 he moved to Boise, Idaho where he worked various jobs during his two-year stay there. In 1961 he enlisted into the U.S. Navy and received his recruit training at San Diego, California. He eventually served on a ship, the U.S.S. John S. McCain, in the Pacific and was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He had attained the rank of Radio Man 2nd Class (E-5) at the time of his honorable discharge in 1965. He transferred to the naval reserves until 1967, when his military obligation was fulfilled.

Following his discharge Dale continued his education at Waldorf College in Iowa. While there he met his first wife, Karen Sorum, and they were married in 1966. Dale transferred to the University of Montana at Missoula where he earned his Business Administration degree in 1969.

The Staudacher’s moved to Great Falls where Dale worked as a salesperson and department manager for Montgomery Wards. In addition they began raising their two daughters, Renee and Paula. In 1972 they moved to Shelby where Dale accepted a position as an independent insurance agent for A.A.L. Six years later they transferred to Havre where he started his own agency, “Dale Staudacher Farmer’s Insurance”; he had owned and operated this successful Havre enterprise since that time. The Staudachers were divorced in 1984.

Dale met his second wife, Carol Lammerding, in 1987. They have made their home in Havre during their past 17 years of married life together.

Dale was diagnosed with brain cancer in October of 2003. Even though he received surgery and other treatments, his condition deteriorated about two months ago. On June 1st he moved to the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester for extended care. Dale died at the Chester rest home on his past Monday morning July 5, 2004 at the age of 65 years.

Dale was baptized and confirmed at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Chester. During his life in Havre he was a member of Messiah Lutheran Church and he served on the board of the Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd for many years. Other Havre memberships included the Lion’s Club (where he served as past president), the Elk’s Club, and the V.F.W. Post.

Dale was a sociable man, so his hobbies revolved around people. He loved to play cards, especially Pan, so he was a “regular” at the local games and tournaments throughout the Hi-Line. He also enjoyed cribbage, hearts, and other card games. During his quiet time he spent hours playing computer solitaire and watching Fox News simultaneously! He loved to travel and made several memorable trips with Carol and friends throughout the U.S. and Canada, Germany and Italy, the Caribbean, and those many goodtime junkets to Nevada.

Dale’s dry wit and good sense of humor, his positive attitude and even temperament, his eagerness to have fun and enjoy life, his love of a new joke or a good story, his excellent memory for people and places, his integrity and “handshake mentality”, his common sense and courtesy, and his general love and concern for his fellow man made him an easy man to call FRIEND! He will be missed by many...

He is survived by his wife, Carol Staudacher of Havre; two daughters, Renee Burgess (and husband, Bill) of Edina, Minnesota and Paula Lacey (and husband, James) of San Leandro, California; three step-children, Jamey Lammerding of Havre, Shane (Brenda) Lammerding of Saco, and Jeff (Susan) Lammerding of Aline; six grandchildren (including Megan, McCall, Colter, Paige, Taylor, and Peyton); one brother, Tom (Norma) Staudacher of Everett, Washington; one sister, Lois (Bob) Bonnes of Salem, Oregon; and numerous nephews and nieces. Dale was preceded in death by his parents, a brother (James), a sister (Marilyn), and his father-in-law (Lloyd Hellebust).

Funeral services were conducted at 11:00 a.m. Thursday July 8th at Messiah Lutheran Church in Havre by Reverend Rodney Mruk. Dale’s two daughters shared Scripture readings and his brother-in-law Eric Hellebust served as eulogist. The organist was Ruth Carlson and the congregation sang “Holy, Holy, Holy”, “The Old Rugged Cross,” Vocalist, Wayne Wardell, performed “Amazing Grace” and “The Wind Beneath My Wings.” Ushers were Gene Cady and Gary Staudiford. Pallbearers included Larry Lambott, Ed Staudacher, Dick Harmon, John Troy, Jupe Compton, and Tom Zocholl. Burial followed at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. Military Taps were played and the veteran’s flag was presented by Larry Lambott. A memorial luncheon was held at the Havre V.F.W. Lodge.

Memorials are suggested to Messiah Lutheran Church, “Gift of Life” in Great Falls, or the L.C.N.H. in Chester. A prayer service for Chester friends and family was held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday July 7th at the Rockman Funeral Chapel, who handled all arrangements.
Lee Ray Staudacher

Lee Ray Staudacher was born July 22nd, 1945 at Chester, Montana. He was the youngest of two sons born to George and Victoria (Anderson) Staudacher. Lee grew up in Chester and received his education here, graduating from Chester High School in 1964. He continued his schooling at Spokane Community College where he earned an electronic engineering degree in 1968. Soon after graduation he was offered a position in the computer division of the Hewlett-Packard Company in Palo Alto, California. Lee worked on some of Hewlett-Packard's first computers, specifically the "211-A" computer (which contained 4K bytes of memory and weighed 300 pounds) and the HP35 calculator. Of interest was the fact that Lee worked with Steve Wozniak, who later left Hewlett-Packard and founded the "Apple Computer Company". Also of interest was the fact that Lee set up one of H.P.'s first environmental failure analyses labs at A.P.D. in California and later at Corvallis, Oregon.

Lee lived in the San Francisco Bay area until 1993, when he transferred to Boise, Idaho. He continued to work for H.P., in their Disk Memory Division in Boise as a manufacturing development engineer.

Lee was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma about 25 years ago. He survived the disease, but the strong radiation treatments took a toll on him. In the early 1990's he suffered a serious heart ailment, which required bypass surgery. Lee decided to retire about five years ago when his health began to deteriorate. So he ended his illustrious 30-year career with Hewlett-Packard and continued to live in Boise during his retirement years.

Lee married Patricia Gillespie in January of 1996. She developed a serious illness a few years ago and she went to live with her family. The marriage eventually ended in divorce.

Recently Lee developed a severe cold with early pneumonia, which complicated his already weakened condition. He was found dead in his Boise home on Monday morning November 8th, 2004. He died at age 59.

Lee was baptized and confirmed at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester. He continued to be active in the Lutheran faith throughout his life.

He enjoyed many hobbies, including camping, boating, square-dancing, and yard work. He collected stamps, old coins, and other memorabilia. He enjoyed all kinds of music: he learned to play the piano in his youth and continued to play it as an adult. Lee loved automobiles and presently owned two restored classics: a 1928 Durant and a 1936 Buick. Lee was always meticulous in the maintenance of his cars and his home.

Lee will be remembered as a quiet, kind, and generous man. He loved his mother dearly and called her faithfully.

Survivors include his mother, Vic Staudacher of Chester; his brother, Ed (and Harriette) Staudacher of Grass Valley, California; two nieces, Georgia and Helen; one nephew, John; two grandnephews; one aunt, Lilly Oraw of Chester; numerous cousins; and his pet cat, "Kitty".

Lee was preceded in death by his father in 1962.

Funeral services were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Saturday November 13, 2004 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester by Pastor Peter Erickson. Karen Stock served as organist and Wayne Wardell sang "Peace in the Valley," "The Wind Beneath My Wings", and "Amazing Grace". Eulogist was Dick Harmon, Steve Oraw read the scriptures, and ushers were Rod and Steve Oraw. Pallbearers included Robert Hutchinson, Neil Harstad, Gary Layton, Terry Thiedman, Neal Eveland, and Dave Mattson. A reception followed at the church.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester. Memorials are suggested to Our Savior's Lutheran Church or the Cancer Society. Following the funeral, Lee was cremated. His ashes will be buried in the family plot at the Chester Cemetery.
RAE C. STEVEN
Birth: November 28, 1917 - Death: July 22, 2004
Liberty County Times
July 28, 2004

Rae C. Steven was born November 28, 1917 on the family homestead south of the Sweet Grass Hills near Shelby, Montana. He was the only son of two children born to Lavinia "Minnie" Cockell and William Steven. Rae grew up in the Shelby community and graduated from high school there in 1935. He continued his education at Montana State University in Bozeman where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in mechanical engineering in 1941.

Rae met a local school teacher, Martha Yurman, at the Shelby roller skating rink in 1940. They were married October 24, 1941 at Kalispell. Soon after the onset of World War II, the Stevens moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where Rae worked as an engineer for Curtis Wright Aeronautics. As the war wound down, they moved back to Montana. Rae took employment at National Supply Company in Cut Bank where he worked in the oil business.

In 1946 the Stevens moved to the family farm 25 miles south of the Sweet Grass Hills. They lived, worked, and raised their family of four in the Chester community for 15 years. In 1961 they purchased a farm/ranch operation on the Missouri River not far from the Virgelle Ferry south of Big Sandy. This ranch has been their home and enjoyment for the past 40 years. In recent years they purchased a home in Fort Benton and have commuted between the two places.

Rae developed diabetes and related ailments, so he moved to the Big Sandy Nursing Home in 2002. He recently suffered additional complications and was transferred to Benefis East Hospital for treatment. Rae died at this Great Falls hospital on the late evening of Thursday July 22, 2004. He was 86 years old.

Rae was confirmed as an adult at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester. He was a member of the Shelby Elks Club and had served on the Chester and Geraldine school boards for many years. After moving to the Virgelle ranch, Rae frequently worked with local Search-and-Rescue crews, who appreciated his expertise and help in assisting with river mishaps and accidents. Rae was later recruited to participate in an area film for the "Backroads of Montana" series; in this film's featured role Rae rescued the Virgelle Ferry from the Missouri mud.

Rae was a good neighbor. He enjoyed sharing his work and skills with his friends. In the wintertime he loved to snowplow the local roads. Over the years many hunters were welcomed to the Steven's ranch; some of Rae's favorite hunting companions were Uncle Carl Yurman, and Uncle Nick Laas.

One of Rae's favorite childhood memories was when he "sneaked under the tent flap" to watch the Dempsey-Gibbons fight in Shelby. From that time on boxing became one of his favorite sports. He also enjoyed the NFL (especially the Denver Broncos) and he was a lifelong basketball and football fan of the MSU Bobcats!

Rae's hobbies were many. In his younger years he enjoyed hunting, bowling, ice-skating, and dancing. He loved good music; of interest was the fact that he played clarinet in the MSU band during his college days. In his quiet time at home he liked to read. Rae always looked forward to a good poker game with his friends and he enjoyed playing Pinochle and board games with his family. He was an excellent mechanic who could fix most anything. His carpenter skills were good, too, as he built many of the cabinets and furniture in their home.

Rae was always a pleasant and happy man. He and Martha were very content during their 63 years of married life together. They made many memorable trips to Estonia, Central America, South America, Alaska, and other exciting places.

His children will always remember his humble intelligence and his unique way of teaching using "boxing metaphors." But mostly they will remember his wonderful example as a kind and loving father.

Rae is survived by his wife, Martha of Fort Benton; two sons: Dr. William Steven and wife Patricia of Shreveport, Louisiana, and Jim Steven and wife Carol of Chester; one daughter Ida Steven and husband Ray Gonzalez of Lakeville, Minnesota; five grandchildren: Rebecca, Sarah, Lana, Charles, and Samantha; two great-grandchildren: Abigail and William; one sister Maude Echols of Fort Benton; and one cousin: Susan Yurman of Chester.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a daughter Martha Rae in 1967.

Rae's family would like to express their sincere gratitude to Dr. Forrest Lanchbury and the nurses and staff at the Big Sandy Medical Center for their kindness and loving care these past two years.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Wednesday (July 28th) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester. Burial will follow at the family plot at the Chester Cemetery (where Rae's final resting place will be "in the shadows of the Sweet Grass Hills").

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
IRENE (SHEPHARD) STUART
Born: April 7, 1910 - Died: October 21, 2004
Great Falls Tribune
October 24, 2004

Irene Stuart

CONRAD — Irene (Shephard) Stuart, 94, who farmed near Gilford with her husband for many years, died of natural causes Thursday at a Conrad hospital.

A memorial service is 11 a.m. Saturday at Pondera Funeral Home in Conrad. Another memorial service will be held at a later date in Gilford.

Survivors include a son, Reid (Irene) Stuart of Valier; three grandchildren, Boyd (Sheryl) Stuart of Valier, Jill (Roger) Ash of Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, and Bruce (Julie) Stuart of Goodletsville, Tenn.; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Irene was born April 7, 1910, in Derrick, N.D., to Allen H. and Freda (Corenke) Shephard. She graduated from high school in Devils Lake, N.D., in 1928, and came to Montana with her parents that same year.

She married Walter G. Stuart on Sept. 5, 1929, in Great Falls, and they lived on a farm near Gilford for all their working years. She had most recently lived in Conrad.

She was a longtime member of the Gilford Baptist Church, a charter member of the Gilford Home Demonstration Club, a 50-plus year member of Order of Eastern Star, and a member of Daughters of the Nile.

Irene had lots of hobbies, including gardening and flowers. She loved to sew, crochet and make baby blankets, and her donated blankets made it all the way to Bosnia. Fishing and traveling with her husband, Walter, or sister, Jan, were always high on the list of things she loved to do.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter, on Feb. 19, 1977; a daughter, Denise, on Feb. 3, 1948; her parents; five siblings, Gordon Shephard, Earl Shephard, Allen Shephard, Janet Lucke and Blanche Stafford; a granddaughter, Rachelle Stuart; and a great-granddaughter, Rhanda Stuart.

Memorials may be made to the Shriner's Crippled Children's Hospital or a charity of the donor's choice.
VIOLA BERNADINE (SENEY) SUNDGREN
Birth: July 6, 1920 – Death: August 8, 2004
Liberty County Times
August 25, 2004

Viola then started working for the Immanuel Lutheran Home as an Aide and worked there until her marriage to Art Sundgren in December 1967. Where they shared a farm at Joplin, Montana and a lake home in Bigfork.

Viola has three children and one son-in-law: Donna Ten Eyck of Vancouver, Washington, Carol Herring of Kalispell, and Judy and Clare Kinyon of Bigfork, Montana. She also has seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren; three sisters Geneva Lockart, Velma Heinrichson, Vera Heinrichson; sister-in-law Doris Seney, all of Kalispell; and many nieces and nephews.

Viola’s hobbies were cooking and baking, especially Norwegian cookies and lefse and really super buns. Viola was a farm girl, so she spent many hours gardening and canning. She also was busy with her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren, playing games and shopping.

Viola also loved to go shopping and out to lunch with her sisters and sister-in-law. Viola has been a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church for many years, also a supporter of the Lutheran Bible camp.

Donations may be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or Immanuel Lutheran Home.
EDWARD GEORGE “EDDIE” SWANK  
Birth: September 5, 1930 - Death: August 24, 2004  
Liberty County Times  
September 1, 2004  

Edward G. “Eddie” Swank was born September 5, 1930 on the family farm at Chester, Montana. He was one of 15 children born to Charles and Rosa (Wyman) Swank. In addition to farming, the Swank's operated a dairy business, so Ed stayed busy in his teens either milking cows or delivering milk throughout the community.

He received his formal education in Chester, then began working for the Great Northern Railroad. In 1952 Ed enlisted into the U.S. Marine Corps as an act of patriotism for national defense during the Korean Conflict. After two years of active duty, he was honorably discharged in 1954. He returned to the family farm at Chester.

Ed married Patricia A. Berkholtz on February 28, 1959 at Havre. During their 45 years of married life they made their home in Chester, where Ed continued to farm and ranch until his retirement in 2000.

In recent years he suffered from chronic lung disease. This past February he was diagnosed with cancer, which required numerous hospitalizations. Ed died at the Liberty County Hospital in Chester on Tuesday evening August 24, 2004. He was 73 years old.

Ed had been a longtime member of the United Methodist Church in Chester; he served on the Church Council and was active in the building of the existing church. In later years he attended the Chester Assembly of God Church. In addition he was a member of the Shelby Elks Lodge.

In his younger years Ed enjoyed boating and skiing. He and Pat enjoyed camping, dancing, gardening, bowling, playing darts, and traveling. In the 1970's they made several winter trips to Hawaii, where Ed framed houses and assisted a friend with carpenter work.

Ed also enjoyed playing cards; his favorite games were Pitch, Poker, Pinochle, and Cribbage. During these recent winters when he was “homebound” Ed liked to hook rugs or build picture puzzles. He also enjoyed sitting in his recliner in front of the television as he loved to watch movies and golf; his family affectionately declared him as “King of the Remote Control”!

Although a very quiet and private man, Ed loved to be around people. His close friends and family will remember his April Fool’s pranks. All in all, Ed was very content with his life as a Montana farmer, a dedicated husband, a caring father, and a loyal friend.

Survivors include his wife, Pat of Chester; daughter, Sherill Powell-Balsley (and husband, “Fuzzy”) of Anchorage, Alaska; son, Scott Swank (and wife, Cheri) of Chester; six grandchildren: Richard, Jason (and wife, Sue), Edward, Adam, Katie, and Michael; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents; eight brothers: Leon, DeVoe, Donald “Casey”, Russell, Irvin, Emanuel “Tuffy”, Charles “Bud”, and John, and six sisters: Mildred, Maude, Ruth, Edith, Lorene, and Grace.

Memorial contributions will be given to the “Gift of Life” in Great Falls or the Hi-Line Health Foundation in Chester. Ed requested no services; however, a reception and gathering of friends in his honor was held at 2 pm Sunday August 29 at the Roadhouse in Chester.

Ed bequeathed his body to the University of North Dakota School of Medicine in Grand Forks. Local arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.
Sheldon Hall 'Mac' Thrasher

MESA, Ariz. — Great Falls native and Navy veteran Sheldon Hall "Mac" Thrasher, 76, died Monday at a hospice in Mesa, Ariz. A memorial service is 10 a.m. Oct. 30 at Central Christian Church in Mesa. Burial will be private.

He will be greatly missed by daughters Valerie (Dan) Agnew of Great Falls and Linda (Stu) Hogue of Gilbert, Ariz.; a son, Blaine (Cindy) Thrasher of St. Paul, Minn.; grandchildren Jessie and Julie Agnew, Megan, Drew and Ryan Thrasher, and Lindsey, Stacey and Wil Hogue; a special friend, Wanda Zimmerman; and Jack the cat.

Sheldon was born March 16, 1928, in Sand Coulee, and served in the U.S. Navy from 1948 to 1952. He worked in sheet metal and refrigeration in Montana, Wyoming and Arizona for 40 years, retiring from Motorola in 1993. He was an active member of Central Christian Church in Mesa.

Sheldon was preceded in death by his parents, Sheldon and Margaret Thrasher; and sisters Nettie Korin, Dorothy Jendro and Jean Hovland.

Memorials are preferred to American Indian Christian Mission; Arbor House Palliative Care (Hospice of the Valley); American Diabetes Association; or the donor's choice.
ANNIE (THORMAHLEN) KOLSTAD TINNIN

Born: November 15, 1914 – Died: June 4, 2004

Great Falls Tribune
June 7, 2004

Annie Kolstad Tinnin

Annie (Thormahlen) Kolstad Tinnin, 89, of 1109 6th Ave N., a homemaker, died of natural causes Friday at a local hospital.

Visitation is 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Schneider Funeral Home, and for an hour before the service at the church. Her funeral is 11 a.m. Wednesday at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, with burial in Highland Cemetery.

Annie is survived by a son, Dayton, and his wife Polly Kolstad of Great Falls; a daughter, Shirley Stephens of Great Falls; five grandchildren, Mark and wife Susan Stephens, Cathy Stephens, Tyler Kolstad, Syndie and husband Mike George and Kelly Kolstad; and five great grandchildren, Karli, Randi and Staci Stephens, and Mackenzie and Madison George.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Kelly Kolstad and James Tinnin; a sister, Elsie Braun; and a brother, Herman Thormahlen.

Annie Margaret Kolstad Tinnin was born Nov. 15, 1914, to Peter and Jean (Walker) Thormahlen, in Chinook, Mont. She was raised in Chester, Mont., where she graduated from high school. She was married to Clarence "Kelly" Kolstad from 1933 until his death in 1966. She later married James Tinnin in 1973 and he passed away in 1977.

Annie was active in the Great Falls Flower Growers, Our Savior's Lutheran Church and the Church Ladies Association in Great Falls, and then Peace Lutheran in Phoenix.

Annie was a homemaker. She loved being with her family and enjoyed shopping for them. In her earlier years, she made jewelry, did ceramics, liked to garden, designed flower arrangements, and was a great cook. She took painting lessons while living in Phoenix and painted for several years creating several oil paintings. She enjoyed traveling and visited Europe several times.

Memorials are suggested to the Children's Receiving Home, P.O. Box 1061, Great Falls, MT 59403; or Alzheimer's Fellowship of the Northern Rockies, 2621 15th Ave S., Great Falls, MT 59405.
ROSEMARY (SCHUHMACHER) TOMASKIE

Birth: March 28, 1925 - Death: April 8, 2004

Liberty County Times

June 2, 2004

Rosemary Tomaskie

Former Montana resident and retired nurse, Rosemary (Schuhmacher) Tomaskie, age 79, died of a heart attack April 8 in Portland, Oregon. At her request, no services were held.

She is survived by a son George E. Tomaskie III of Scappoose, Oregon; a daughter Sheryl Putnam of Warren, Oregon; a brother Pete (Kathy) Schuhmacher of Chester, Montana; a sister Geraldine Sorensen of Seattle, Washington; grandchildren George E. Tomaskie IV, Amy (Tom) Merliatt; Eric (Michelle) Putnam, Dr. Bryan (Dec) Putnam; and great-granddaughter Riley Anne Putnam.

Rosemary was born March 28, 1925 to Helena and Louis Schuhmacher in Chester, Montana. She graduated from Fort Benton High School in 1942, and soon after enrolled in nurses training at Columbus Hospital in Great Falls, Montana, becoming a registered nurse in 1945.

At about this time, she married George Tomaskie of Sand Coulee, Montana and they moved to Kalispell, Montana where her husband taught school and Rosemary began her nursing career. Rosemary and her husband had two children— their daughter Sheryl and their son George.

In 1959 she moved with her husband, daughter, and son to Oregon, where he husband had obtained a promotion in his career as a high school teacher, and Rosemary embarked on a 27-year career with the Veterans Administration Hospital in Portland. During her employment at the VA Hospital she became head nurse, and in 1983 she was awarded the Veteran's Administration "Hands and Heart Nurse of the Year Award" for her exceptional work. One of her many accomplishments at the VA was that of developing a patient medication distribution and control procedure that was adopted nationally by the Veteran's Administration.

Rosemary's husband George died in the late 1970s and she continued to run their small farm alone for a number of years before purchasing a house in Portland.

Rosemary had boundless enthusiasm and energy. After her retirement from the VA in 1986, she traveled in Alaska, Europe, and China, and she worked part-time at various nursing homes in the Portland area. When she permanently retired, she had worked as an RN for more than 50 years.

She was always generous with her time and attention, and she used her marvelous sense of humor and her never-waning empathy to cheer up all whom she met. She especially enjoyed gardening, knitting, and cooking.

Rosemary faced life with a smile on her face, love in her heart, and compassion for others in all that she did. She will be greatly missed.
DOROTHY ARIZONA “DOTTY” (MINOR) VANSCYOC
Birth: June 7, 1925 – Death: December 15, 2004

Liberty County Times
December 22, 2004

Dorothy Vanscyoc
Dorothy Arizona “Dotty” Vanscyoc, age 79, died at the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester, Montana on Wednesday morning December 15, 2004.

Dorothy was born on June 7, 1925 at Cressup, West Virginia. She was the youngest of four children born to Otho and Nancy Jane (Kiggens) Minor. She grew up in Cressup and received her formal education there.

She married Roy W. Vanscyoc on October 11, 1942 at Moundsville, West Virginia. They made their home in Ohio in the communities of Lowell and Marietta throughout their married life. In addition to being a homemaker and mother of seven, Dotty worked as a part-time cook in local schools and nursing homes. Her husband died on May 18, 1985.

She remained in Ohio until 1998, when she moved to Thermopolis, Wyoming to be near a daughter, a nurse who cared for her during those years of declining health.

When her daughter (Vera Champion) accepted a nursing position at the Liberty County Hospital in Chester in July of 2001, Dorothy came with her and entered the local rest home.

During Dotty’s three-year stay at the nursing home, she developed a special friendship with two residents, Anna Nordstrom, and Herb Poetzl, both of whom preceded her in death.

Dorothy dedicated her life to the Lord 51 years ago at the Nazarene Church in Marietta, Ohio. From that time on she loved to read her Bible.

Other interests included camping and fishing. As a hobby she collected salt-and-pepper shakers.

Dorothy is survived by six daughters: Nancy (Neal) Kuhn of Lowell, Ohio, Laura (Joe) Stewart of Cauldwell, Ohio, Violet (Dwight) Hayes of Gurnsey, Wyoming, Mary Gaskins of Lower Salem, Ohio, JoAnn (Raymond) Oliver of Marietta, Ohio, and Vera Champion of Chester; one son Jamie Vanscyoc of Marietta, Ohio; an honorary daughter Shari Wodrich of Chester; 24 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a newborn son (Earl), one brother Joseph Minor, two sisters Laura Mayers and Jessie Shipley, and a son-in-law James Gaskins.

Cremation has been completed. Her ashes will be shipped to Lowell, Ohio where a graveside memorial service will be conducted later this spring.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel Chester
LOUISE CATHERINE (HAAS) VILLETT

Birth: October 17, 1916 – Death: August 31, 2004

Liberty County Times

September 8, 2004

After 56 years of marriage, Sterling died on August 6, 1994. Louise continued to live in their Hingham home until 2002, when she moved to the Eagle’s Manor in Havre. Because of declining health, she transferred to the Northern Montana Care Center this past May. She died at the Havre hospital on the early morning of Tuesday (August 31, 2004). She was 87 years old.

Louise had been an active member of the Hingham Lutheran Church since 1945, the year she received her confirmation as an adult. In addition she was a member of WELCA’s Rachel Circle and did the janitorial duties at the church for 15+ years. Louise also was a member of the Hingham Home Demonstration Club and served on many election boards over the years.

Louise loved to quilt, in fact, during those years from 1977 to 2002 she made approximately 3000 quilt tops that were donated to Lutheran World Relief. She also made many beautiful quilts and crafts as gifts for her family and friends. Other hobbies included sewing, crocheting, gardening, reading, jigsaw puzzles, and cards (her favorite card games were Pinochle, Poker, and “Hand-&-Foot”).

Even though Louise suffered from osteoporosis, she still enjoyed staying busy and always maintained a cheerful, positive attitude. She will be remembered as a loving and giving lady.

She is survived by her two sons and spouses, Russell and Betty Villet of Havre and Lloyd and Carol Villet of Amarillo, Texas; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; two brothers, John Haas of Royal Palm Beach, Florida and Leonard Haas of Hingham; 1 sister, Ann Fallon of Superior; and many nephews and nieces. Louise was preceded in death not only by her parents and husband, but also by a daughter (Laurel Louise Villet) and a brother (Mike Haas).

Funeral services were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Thursday (Sept. 2nd) at the Hingham Lutheran Church by Pastor Brian Pederson. Organist was Sharon Spicher and the congregation sang “Beautiful Savior” and “How Great Thou Art”. Vocalist, Terry Stevenson, performed “Amazing Grace” and “Just A Closer Walk With Thee”. Terry also read Louise’s obituary. Pallbearers were her nephews: Jerry, Randy, Steve, and Roger Haas. A reception was held at the church following burial at the Hingham Cemetery. Per Louise’s wishes undesignated memorials will be given to the American Cancer Society.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester.

Louise C. Villet

Louise Catherine (Haas) Villet was born October 17th, 1916 at Hingham, Montana. She was one of five children born to John and Barbara (Duerr) Haas. Louise grew up in Hingham and received her education there, graduating from Hingham High School in 1937.

She married Sterling R. Villet on January 10, 1938 at Havre.

In those early years they lived at Big Sandy, Box Elder, and Butte where Sterling worked in the coal mines. In 1944 they moved to Hingham where they lived the rest of their married life. Louise enjoyed her role as homemaker and mother to three children. In addition she worked as a clerk in the Hingham grocery store from 1949-1969 (initially, she worked for Rose Kocar in the “Chicago Store” and then for Tony Schweitzer at “Schweitzer’s Store”). Louise was also employed parttime at the Hingham Post Office for five years. From 1970-1972 she worked for Lawrence Struck in a dry goods store in Rudyard.

Louise C. Villet
ARCHIE LEROY VIOLETT
Birth: August 2, 1913 - Death: September 10, 2004
Liberty County Times
September 15, 2004

Archie Leroy Violett was born August 2, 1913 on the family homestead south of Lothair, Montana. He was one of four children born to Lee and Leone (Marson) Violett. Archie received his formal education at Lothair, then began working on the family farm.

He married Ellen I. Warnes on June 16, 1934 at Havre. They farmed at Lothair throughout their married life and raised 3 sons. In 1948 they built a home in Chester and also had a summer home at Hungry Horse for many years. Even though Archie had heart by-pass surgery in 1975, he continued to remain active in the farming operations into the 1990’s. The Violett’s moved to the Sweetgrass Retirement Lodge in 1998. Archie transferred to the Liberty County Nursing Home in 2001 for extended care. He died peacefully at the Chester rest home on this past Friday evening September 10, 2004. He was 91 years old.

Archie was a longtime member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Chester; he served on the church council and was a member of the building committee when the new church was built. Other memberships were the Chester Rotary and Shelby Elks Clubs, and he had served on the Chester School board many years ago.

Archie was an avid horseman; he raised, trained, and rode many horses over the years. He always had cattle and loved to work the cows and move them from one pasture to the next. He did this with the help of his trusty horse and anyone else in the family that could ride with him. On a relaxed vein, he loved to attend horse racing events and rodeos. Just for the fun of it, he collected horse paraphernalia and belt buckles.

In addition, he was an avid sports enthusiast. Not only did he enjoy TV sports, he personally participated in baseball, bowling, hunting, fishing, boating, water-skiing, and related activities in his earlier years. At functions with family and friends, Archie enjoyed playing cards (especially, Pan, Whist, and Pitch). During his quiet time at home he enjoyed reading; he loved “Westerns” and his favorite author was Louis L’Amour.

There are a few other interesting “id-bits” not well-known about Archie: he enjoyed singing (although he did this privately) and he was an exceptional amateur juggler!

Archie loved his life as a Montana farmer. He was an early riser and was never afraid of hard work. And he could fix most anything on the farm.

The Violett’s took many memorable trips during their 70 years together. They visited the Philippines and Japan, the Panama Canal and Puerto Rico, and many U.S. states (most notable were Arizona, New Mexico, and Virginia).

Survivors are his wife, Ellen Violett of Chester; three sons and their spouses: Russell and Delores Violett of Tucson, Arizona, Gary and Bev Violett of Lothair, and Mike and Sue Violett of Chester; nine grandchildren (including Kathy, Pam, Tracey, Merri, Randy, Bon, Aaron, Stacey, and Dan); 21 great-grandchildren; one sister, Nellie Dombos of Salem, Oregon; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Archie was preceded in death by his parents and four siblings: brother, Willis Violett; sister, Jessie Lasich; half-brother, Francis Violett; and foster-brother, Francis Moran.

Funeral services will be 11 am today Wednesday September 15th at Our Savor’s Lutheran Church in Chester. Pastor Peter Erickson will officiate. Karen Stack will serve as organist and Wayne Wardell will be the vocalist. Ushers are Don Raunig and Phil Nordstrom. Archie’s five grandsons are pallbearers. Burial will be at the Chester Cemetery and a luncheon will follow at the church.

Arrangements by Rockman Funeral Chapel, Chester. Memorials will be given to Our Savor’s Lutheran Church, or the Hi-Line Health Foundation.
HAVRE — Army veteran and Havre native Lyle A. Watson, 75, of Havre, a former Gildford resident and broker and owner of Law Realty and Watson Appraising, died of leukemia Saturday at a Havre care center.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service celebrating his life is 2 p.m. Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church, with burial with full military honors in Highland Cemetery in Havre, followed by a fellowship reception at the church. Holland and Bonine Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Jean Watson of Havre; daughters Kathi Hanson and Kandi Connor, both of Richland, Wash., and Lori Evans of Havre; a son Roger Watson of Havre; a brother Earl Watson of Havre; 12 grandchildren and four great-granddaughters.

Watson, a historian and preservationist, was one of the founders of Havre Beneath the Streets.
Donna Jean Wilson

HELENA — Kremlin native Donna Jean (Winter) Wilson, 72, of Helena, died of natural causes Nov. 9 at Big Sky Care Center in Helena.

A celebration of her life is 11 a.m. Saturday at Immanuel Baptist Church in Havre. Helena Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements.

Survivors include a son, Dennis Wilson of Houston; a daughter, Darla Jackson of Helena; a stepson, Glen Tomoson of Alberta Minn.; a sister, Beverly Grass of Box Elder; a brother, Allen Winter of Shelby; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Donna was preceded in death by her husband, Murrell Somers Wilson and a son, Richard Wilson.
JAMES K. WOOD

Born: February 28, 1910 – Died: October 11, 2004

Great Falls Tribune
October 13, 2004

SWEET GRASS — James K. Wood, 94, a longtime Sweet Grass Hills rancher, died of natural causes Monday at his home in the Sweet Grass Hills.

Visitation is 1 to 8 p.m. today at Whitted Funeral Chapel in Shelby. His memorial service is 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Whitlash Presbyterian Church. Private family burial will take place at the family ranch prior to the service.

Survivors include his wife, Norma Wood of the Sweet Grass Hills; sons Ron and Toni Wehr of Whitlash and Jon and Janice Wood of the Sweet Grass Hills; daughters Janis and Everett Rolfe of Sunburst and Carla Allen of Great Falls; a sister, Joyce (McDaniel) and Ed Tempel of Chester; 16 grandchildren, two stepgrandchildren and several great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, six brothers and three sisters, an infant son, James R. Wood; and an infant grandson, Max Wehr.

Jim was born Feb. 28, 1910, in Burlington, N.D., to William E. and Margaret (Loehr) Wood. He was only 16 years old when his father suddenly passed away. Shortly afterward, the family moved to the Sweet Grass Hills from their home in Idaho. He worked on several ranches in the area and attended area country schools. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1942-43.

Jim met Norma Weidemann Wehr in 1944, and they were married March 9, 1946, in Conrad. They worked on other ranches in the area before buying their present ranch in 1947, and have been there ever since.

He was member of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, R-CALF, and a past member of the District No. 45 school board and the local election board.

Jim enjoyed crossword puzzles, playing pinochle and cribbage and music. He loved horses as well, being involved in amateur rodeos in his younger days. But his greatest love was his cattle and ranching in general. He liked to debate with people and was honest to a fault. He will be remembered as a fair and hardworking man who was always generous with his time.

The family suggests memorials to the church or a charity of the donor’s choice.
TOM WOODS, SR.
Birth: April 28, 1923 – Death: October 19, 2004
Liberty County Times
October 27, 2004

Tom was born April 28, 1923 to Jacob and Claire (Wilson) Wood in Alma, MT. He attended school in Joplin and graduated in Charlo. He met and married Fern LeValley on November 20, 1944 in Missoula. He enlisted in the US Navy and served at the end of WWII.

After his military service, he worked in the local grocery store in Joplin and shortly afterwards started his own trucking business.

He managed the local grain elevator for 40 years and retired from there in 1988. Together with Robert Moog, he also owned and operated Hi-Line Implement, as well as a farm he and Robert established in the 1950's, all while managing the elevator. He was also a partner in the local car wash. In Tom’s later years, he owned and operated Hi-Line Chemical Co.

He was a member of the Joplin Commercial Club, a past member of the Joplin School Board, and was a big supporter of the school district overall. He was also a past president of the Montana Am. Business Association.

He was an avid card player, enjoying trips to Jackpot, Nevada to play Blackjack. He also enjoyed bowling, and was an avid sports fan in general, attending numerous basketball tournaments over the years and keeping score for the local basketball games for 25 years.

Tom, age 81, a long time Joplin resident, died Tuesday, October 19, 2004 at the Liberty County Nursing Home in Chester.

Tom is survived by his daughters: Karen and Rudy Skonord of Kalispell, Nancy and Duane Alley of Great Falls, and Faye and Dave Dewing of Justin, Texas; sons: Tom Wood, Jr. of Joplin, Larry and Joey Wood of Kalispell, and Marti and Tina Wood of Joplin; brothers: Carl (Bill) Wood of Fort Benton, Forrest (Pork) and Millie Wood of Boise, Idaho, and Harold (Nick) and Darlene Wood of Payson, Arizona; and a sister Edna and Bob Duncan of Lakeside, Montana. Also surviving Tom are 12 grandchildren: Debbie Hickox, Daren Skonord, Darwin Skonord, Danette Alley, Jarad Alley, Deanne Dewing, Paige Dewing, Adam Wood, Michael Wood, Rachell Wood, Emily Wood and Lydia Wood; as well as eight great-grandchildren; and numerous sisters and brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Fern in 1997, brothers, Charles and Lewis, and sisters Hazel and Nan.