Hugo Aspevig
Hugo Grendahl Aspevig, 93, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 1, 2010 at the Kalispell Hospital.

He was born the oldest of five sons to Herbert and Cora Aspevig on their homestead at Black Coulee, south of Rudyard. He spent his life farming.

Hugo was very innovative and loved to create things out of materials he had on hand.

Many of those creations have become useful and treasured by his family. He also loved to talk about how times had changed in farming and along the hi-line. He was proud of his Norwegian heritage and always had a good story to tell. Hugo was active in the community, school and church.

He married Lois Heydon in 1941. Together they had four children, Twila Kjensrud of Portland, Oregon, Dale(Kathy) of Sedona, Arizona, Mark(Gail Matter) of Rudyard and Herbert(Mika) of Japan.

Lois died in 1969. In 1974 he married Pauline and they continued farming until he retired in the mid eighties. They moved to Whitefish where he enjoyed his pastimes of golf, projects and travel. In 2007, they moved to Kalispell.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, Donald, Leroy and Paul, and first wife Lois.

He is survived by his wife Pauline, his four children and spouses, two granddaughters, Kristen and Kasey, great-grandchildren Iris, Nate and another great-granddaughter due any day. He is also survived by step-children Connie VanDeKop, Dorie(Terry) Williams and Greg(Mary) Hover as well as five step-grandchildren, Tammi, Adam, Tiffani, Pat and Chris. Also surviving are his brother Roger of Helena, sisters-in-law Beaver of Rudy and Wilma of Yakima, WA., as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will take place in Rudy in late June of this year.
KREMLIN/HAVRE — Clark Banks, 84, who worked for various farmers in the Kremlin area and did odd jobs around town, as well as volunteered for many years at the Kremlin Volunteer Fire Department, died of natural causes Monday at Northern Montana Care Center.

Viewing is one hour prior to the funeral service at 2:30 p.m. Friday at Van Orsdel United Methodist Church, with burial following in Highland Cemetery. Holland & Bonine Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

He is survived by his Kremlin community family; special friends Dallas and Jan Donoven and family; and Neil and Lylas McCormick and family; and cousins Tom and Jan Hooker, Bruce Hooker, and Judy Cassady of Minnesota.
JAMES LEWIS BARRY
Birth: January 14, 1947 – Death: January 22, 2010
WANDA MAE (HAWKS) BARRY
Birth: December 14, 1957 – Death: January 22, 2010
JAMES LEWIS ‘JAMIE’ BARRY V
January 8, 1995 – January 22, 2010
Liberty County Times
February 3, 2010

The Barry family, Jim (age 53), wife Wanda (age 52), and son Jamie (age 15), died from smoke inhalation at their Columbia Falls home early Friday morning (January 22, 2010). Initial reports indicate that a fire started in the chimney of their wood-burning stove and the family perished before rescue teams arrived.

James Lewis Barry IV was born Jan- uary 14, 1947 at Kansas City, Missouri. Jim was the eldest of five children born to James Barry III and Anna Popovich.

Wanda Mae (Hawks) Barry was born December 14, 1957 at Chester, Montana. She was the only daughter of three children born to Leo Hawks and Frances Mae Shettel.

James Lewis Barry V, who was lovingly called “Jamie”, was born January 8, 1995 at Kalispell, Montana. He was the youngest of two children born to Jim and Wanda.

The Barry’s were both living in the Flathead Valley when they met and married on January 20, 1990. They made their home in Columbia Falls where they were working partners in a construction business called “Alpine Builders”. The couple enjoyed collecting antiques and restoring old cars together. At the time of their death, they were home-schooling their son, Jamie.

Jamie grew up in Columbia Falls and received his early education at the Glacier Christian School. He enjoyed home-school and quality time with his folks. He had achieved the level of a high school freshman. For the past two years Jamie loved singing in an adult Barber shop Chorus in Kalispell and was recently learning to play the guitar.

Wanda grew up on the Hawks family farm northwest of Chester. She received her education through grade 5 at the Eagle Creek Country School and transferred to the Chester Schools where she graduated from C.H.S. in 1976. Wanda continued her education at the Flathead Community College and earned an associate degree in social work. She loved the Flathead Valley and made it her home from that time on.

For the past few years Wanda worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant at the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

Jim grew up in Kansas and received his education at Westport, where he enjoyed playing high school basketball. After he graduated in 1965, he began working as a carpenter. In 1966 Jim married Linda Riggs. The couple and their 2 daughters, Tina & Wendy, moved to Montana in 1975. The family lived in Hungry Horse until their divorce. Jim eventually met Wanda and their new life began in 1990.

The Barrys attended the Lion Hill Baptist Church in Martin City, where Jamie was baptized. They were a tightly-knit family who loved spending time together. Recently Wanda taught Jamie the skills of snow-skiing and Jim took him hunting this past fall (when Jamie successfully bagged his first deer). Jim was also teaching Jamie some carpentry skills and they were presently building a chicken coop at the family home.

Jamie loved animals, especially doves and baby chicks. He also enjoyed driving his scooter, which had been given to him by an old friend.neighbor, Charlie Fisher, who has since passed away. Jamie was also an avid Lego builder, he designed & constructed many interesting & intricate structures over the years.

Jim collected antiques and loved to work on old cars. One of his most prized possessions was his restored 1957 Chevy Convertible. Jim also enjoyed hiking, hunting & fishing. During his quiet time at home he liked to watch television. He was a talented carpenter who was well-known and respected by many people throughout the Valley.

Wanda had many hobbies, too. Like Jamie, she loved all animals. Her backyard was like a neighborhood zoo; in addition to her favorite horses & dogs, she took care of many goats, ducks, pigeons, chickens, doves, & other assorted creatures. Wanda enjoyed skiing, playing the piano, and reading. She loved to collect & restore old furniture, so she ran a small upholstery business to keep herself busy at home.

Wanda had a great sense of humor. Her use of words & language were unique; when she spoke and shared stories, there was always humor & fun for everyone! At an early age Wanda was given a special family nickname: “Quack”. The name stuck with her throughout the years and she proudly displayed it on her personalized license plates.

The loss of this special family is heartfelt by their loving relatives and community friends. The Barry’s are gone, but their memories will linger on forever...

Wanda is survived by her mother, Frances Hawks of Chester; 2 brothers, Claude (Rita) Hawks of Chester and Adrian (Janet) Hawks of Galata; 2 nephews, Jeremy & Cory; and 3 nieces, Tammy, Kimberly, & Kari.

Jim is survived by his two daughters, Tina (Dave) Was sam and Wendy (Scott) Persinger, both of Columbia Falls; 7 grandchildren (including Bradley, Mitchell, Adam, Nachelle, Ashley, Zachary, & Ricky); 2 great-grandchildren (Gage & Alyssa); his mother, Anna Munhall of Archie, Missouri; 1 brother, John Barry of East Summit, Missouri; 2 sisters, Pam Smith of Kansas City, Kansas and Sandy Greenhall of Tonganoxie, Kansas; and his extended family, the Hawks.'

Jamie is survived by his 2 grandmothers, his 2 sisters, and numerous nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, & cousins.

The Barrys were preceded in death by their beloved daughter (Carmen in 1995). Wanda’s father, Leo, passed away in 1988. Jim’s dad (James) preceded him in death, as did a sister (Jami Clevenger) and a grand-daughter (Alyssa).

Funeral services for the
Barry family were held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday (Jan. 27th) at the New Covenant Church (at 436 Birch Grove in Kalispell). Pastor Patrick Pierce provided scripture readings and the message. Pastor Peter Erickson read the obituary and shared some special writings from Wanda. Vocalist, Renae Persinger, performed "I Can Only Imagine" & "Amazing Grace". The congregation sang "The Old Rugged Cross", lead by Dave Selig. The Flathead Valleyaires Barbershop chorus sang "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again".

Ushers were Russ Vukonich & Tai Foley. Pallbearers were Monty Stoart, Olaf Erving, Neil Swartz, Don Fry, Perry Pagent, James Sutherland, Jeff Rijkowski, & Myron Mast. Jim's 5 grandsons served as honorary bearers. Following the service, a coffee hour was held at the church.

Graveside services were in Chester on Thursday (Jan. 28th). Because of cold weather the services were moved to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, where Pastor Val Metropoulos provided readings & committal prayers. Vocalist, Mary Ann Zorn, sang "Amazing Grace". Friends from Wanda's "Class of 1976" offered a special salute with the release of balloons outside the church. A coffee hour followed at Our Savior's.

The Barry family was buried in the Hawks' plot at the Chester Cemetery. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester.

JAMES LEWIS BARRY IV
Born: January 14, 1947 in Kansas City, Missouri
Died: January 22, 2010 in Columbia Falls, Montana
Jim's age: 63 years ...
0 months ... 8 days

WANDA MAE (HAWKS) BARRY
Born: December 14, 1957 in Chester, Montana
Died: January 22, 2010 in Columbia Falls, Montana
Wanda's age: 52 years ...
1 month ... 8 days

JAMES LEWIS BARRY V
Born: January 8, 1995 in Kalispell, Montana
Died: January 22, 2010 in Columbia Falls, Montana
Jamie's age: 15 years ...
0 months ... 14 days

Funeral Services: 2:00 p.m. Wednesday (Jan. 27, 2010) at the New Covenant Fellowship Church [436 Birch Grove Road in Kalispell, Mt.]

Scripture Readings & Message: Pastor Patrick Pierce
Obituary Reading & Thoughts from Wanda: Pastor Peter Erickson
Vocalist: Renae Persinger
Vocal Tributes: "Amazing Grace" & "I Can Only Imagine"...
Special Musical Rendition: Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus
Congregational Hymn: "The Old Rugged Cross"

Ushers: Tai Foley and Russ Vukonich
Pallbearers: Monty Stoart, Olaf Erving, Neil Swartz, Don Fry, Perry Pagent, James Sutherland, Jeff Rijkowski, and Myron Mast
Honorary Bearers: Jim's 5 grandsons, Bradley, Mitchell, Adam, Zachary, and Ricky

...Following the service, a luncheon will be held in the New Covenant Church hall...

Graveside Services: 2:00 p.m. Thursday (Jan. 28, 2010) at the Chester Cemetery (located one mile northwest of Chester, Mt.)
Graveside Prayers /Readings: Pastor Val Metropoulos
Graveside Music: Vocalist, Mary Ann Zorn
Vocal Tribute: "Amazing Grace"
Balloon ceremony: Wanda's CHS classmates

...Following the service, a coffee hour will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church fellowship hall in Chester...
Donald Lee Benjamin

BOISE, Idaho — Montana native Donald Lee Benjamin, 73, an Air Force veteran, died of a heart attack Jan. 2 at the Veterans Hospital in Boise.

His memorial service was held Jan. 8 in Boise, followed by burial with military honors in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Acless Funeral Home of Boise.

Survivors include his wife, Mora Benjamin of Boise; daughters Cindy (Robert) Arnoldus and Jane Good of LaGrande, Ore., Beth (Carl) Barr of Nampa, Idaho, Gail Kurgwewit of Issaquah, Wash., and Donna Benjamin of South Korea; two brothers, Clarence Benjamin of Fort Benton, and Harry Benjamin of Shelby; a sister, Phoebe Surratt of Loveland, Colo.; and 10 grandchildren.

Don was born Aug. 31, 1936, in Devon, Mont., to Clarence Elionzo and Berta (Duncan) Benjamin.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Wesley, Wallace and Norman Benjamin; and his sisters, Gertrude Lambott, Mildred and Lillian Benjamin, and Marjorie Clouser.

Condolences may be posted online at www.gftribune.com/obituaries.
Emil Bjorkman, age 60, a wood-worker who had lived in Inverness, MT these past two years, died at his residence on the early morning of Wednesday (January 27, 2010).

He was born Emil Alexander Tiffin Bjorkman on August 11, 1949 at Seattle, Washington, one of three children born to Emil Alexander Bjorkman and Helen Lois Tiffin. Emil was raised in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota, then moved to Denver, Colorado and received his secondary education. He graduated from Aurora Hinkley High School in 1967. Emil continued his schooling at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, where he earned a degree in accounting. During his college years he served in the Colorado Air National Guard.

Emil moved to Ely, Minnesota and began working for the city. His job included everything from street repair to bookkeeping duties. After 20 years with the city, Emil decided to go into business on his own. In the late 1990's he started a wood-craft business called "Water Spirits". He built wooden boats, including miniature canoes, sailboats, and kayaks. He sold these specialty items on his Web site.

In 2005 Emil moved to Lewistown, MT, where he continued his woodworking skills. In 2008 he was Googling the internet and driving the roads of north central Montana when he found a small house for sale in Inverness, so he purchased it and moved to the Hi-Line. He remodeled the attached garage and made it his wood shop.

He was preceded in death by his parents (his father in 1990 and his mother in 1994) and a brother (John Charles Bjorkman in 1987).

Emil never married. His only survivor is his sister, Elizabeth "Liz" Bjorkman (and her husband, Guy Smith) of Seattle, Washington.

He left instructions that there be no formal services and requested that his ashes be returned to Ely, Minnesota to be buried in the family plot with his parents. Cremation and arrangements were handled by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester, MT.
DAVID ALLEN BROWN  
Born: March 28, 1931 - Died: January 21, 2010  
Great Falls Tribune  
February 14, 2010  

Obituary for  
Allen D. Brown,  
(David Allen Brown)  

On January 21, 2010, David Allen Brown passed away of natural causes at home with his wife, Marie, by his side. According to Allen’s wishes, cremation has taken place, and there will be no funeral. Allen’s ashes will be interred at Highland Cemetery at a later date. Instead of flowers, please donate to your favorite charity.

The family is planning a private, invitation-only, dinner party. The family is also planning a reception, for anyone who wishes to attend, on Wednesday, February 17, at 7:30 PM. The location of the reception is the Great Falls Meadowlark Country Club.

Allen and his twin sister, Alice, were born March 28, 1931, at their parents’ home in Box Elder, MT. His parents named him David Allen Brown. In 1955, Allen married his first wife, Shirley E. Carr. Allen and Shirley had four children: Emily Brown Smith of Glen, MT; Robert Brown of Ledger, MT; Theodore Brown of Hingham, MT; Sarah Brown of Ledger, MT. Allen married his second wife, E. Marie Wingo Brown, in June 1990. Allen & Marie’s daughter is Crystal M. Brown of Great Falls, MT. Allen has three grandchildren by his daughter Emily. They are Jacob, Sarah, and Elizabeth Smith of Glen, MT. Allen has one grandchild by his son Robert, Kyla Abbott of Oregon. Allen has two grandchildren by his daughter Crystal. They are Joyce Ralf and David Conley both of Great Falls, MT.

Allen is survived by his former and current wife, all five of his children, and all six of his grandchildren.

Allen was preceded in death by his father, James Allen Brown (Nov. 4, 1899 - Nov 25, 1967); his mother Alice Kinread Brown (1900 - Jan. 6, 1982); his twin sister, Alice E. Brown Taurigny (1931-1968); his uncle, Thomas Harold Kinread (1894-1987); his Aunt Helen J. Brown (May 16, 1892 - 1987)

Allen’s Grandfather, Walter Brown (1856 – 1946), was born in Lenarshire, Scotland, May 30, 1856. In 1888, Walter Brown came to Montana. He arrived in Fort Benton by way of river steamer. In 1889, Walter and his wife, Helen Gray (Born in Glasgow, Scotland, 1859-1938) homesteaded eight miles east of Box Elder. This area is now part of the Rocky Boy Indian reservation.

Allen’s Grandfather on his mother’s side was Thomas Kinread (1864 – 1934) Thomas Kinread was born May 1864 on the Isle of Man. His wife, Emille Margaret Pugsley Kinread (1870 – 1941) was born in 1870, in Nova Scotia. Thomas and his wife and two children moved to Montana in 1900. He farmed and ranched along the Marias River, 28 miles south of Chester. The original Kinread ranch is now at the bottom of Lake Ewell (Tiber Dam).

Allen spent his life farming and ranching. He loved his work and spent many long hours herding sheep, raising cattle, and farming the land. Although he worked long, hard hours, he never forgot to take time out to play, laugh, and love.

Allen taught us how to work hard, play energetically, and laugh often.
DAVID ALLEN BROWN  
Birth: March 28, 1931 - Death: January 21, 2010  
Liberty County Times  
February 17, 2010

Allen Brown
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Allen taught us how to
Richard Douglas Brown

CONRAD — Richard Douglas "Dick" Brown, 70, of Conrad, died of natural causes Friday at Peace Hospice.

His memorial service is 11 a.m. Thursday at Pondera Funeral Home, followed by a reception at the Conrad Moose Lodge.

Dick was born June 19, 1939, in Billings, to Dan and Yvonna Brown. They homesteaded on the White Horse Bench south of Laurel. Dick and his sister, Kathy, spent many a day raising chickens and pigs, and picking chokecherries, and magpie eggs and legs. On hot summer days, you could find Dick and Kathy swimming with the snakes in the Yellowstone River.

Dick had a special relationship with his Grandpa Coombs, who was blind. He watched over him and was entrusted with the whereabouts of Grandpa's secret money stash in an old hollow tree.

Dick married Barbara Gerard in 1957 and the birth of their first son, Mike, followed shortly. Approximately two years later, their second son, Jeff, was born. Dick, Barb and their two boys moved to Chester. Dick was a parts man at an International Harvester ("IH") dealership, where he was later promoted to manager. Dick and Barb became very active in the Chester community through the Jaycees and other social activities. Soon after the birth of their third boy, Gary, an entrepreneurial opportunity became available in Conrad for ownership of an IH dealership at the ripe age for Dick of 24. Three years later, their fourth son, Brad, was born.

Through the ups and downs of the agricultural economy, family and business success was found, only to be hindered by a devastating fire of the IH and Chrysler dealership in 1972. Incredible support from loyal customers and local banks allowed Big Sky Equipment to be rebuilt at its current location north of Conrad.

During his busy life, Dick successfully accomplished many goals; his favorite was becoming an expert mountain/private pilot. Dick created many cherished friend and family flying memories... some of them more scary than fun!

Dick created many longstanding business and customer relationships that he cherished until the day he died.

Dick’s four boys each have special memories of their dad and each acquired a special talent that was fostered by Dick to help create their individualism.

Survivors include his sister, Kathy (Ron) Keener; four sons, Mike (Leesa), Jeff, Gary (Angela), and Brad (Diane); former wives Barbara Brown and Joan Robins; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and many extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents; infant brother and his beloved labs, Porter and Dakota.

Condolences may be posted online at www.gftribune.com/obituaries.
WALLACE ‘WALLY’ CARLSTAD

Liberty County Times
March 17, 2010

Wallace “Wally” Carlstad, 74, of Williston, ND, died Sunday, March 7, 2010 at Trinity Medical Center in Minot. His funeral service will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Williston. Pastor April Peterson will officiate. Cremation will follow the services and inurnment will be at a later date at the Emmanuel Churchyard Cemetery, rural Ambrose, ND. Friends may sign the on-line register book and give their condolences at www.fulkersons.com.

Wallace Carlstad was born May 22, 1935 to Otto and Edna (Arneson) Carlstad in Crosby, ND. He attended school until having to leave to help care for his mother. In his early years he helped on the family farm and also had various construction jobs.

On March 31, 1956 Wallace married Evelyn Gustafson at the family farm west of Crosby. From this union two children were born, Peggy and Larry. In the 70’s they moved to Montana where Wallace worked for Laas Construction and later owned his own equipment as Hi-Line Improvement, and also working with his brothers Ed and Ken, he later worked for Shumaker Trucking and Excavating of Great Falls, MT while residing in Williston since 1992, Wally never officially retired.

Wally enjoyed being with friends, playing and listening to country music, he also enjoyed fishing and made it to coffee hour with his friends as much as possible, but most of all he missed running equipment.

Wally is survived by his wife, Evelyn, Williston, ND; daughter, Peggy (Bob) Anderson of Fargo, ND their children Kara Anderson, Mandan, ND, Ryan Anderson and his son Kade, Trenton, ND, Katie (Shannon) Busbard, their children Abigail, Jairon, Kyleigh and Carsen, Fargo, ND, Wyatt Anderson and his sons Ayden, Ashdyn and Austen, Fargo, ND; son, Larry (Eva) Carlstad, Williston, ND and their sons, Chad Carlstad, Fargo, ND, and Tyler Carlstad, Williston, ND; sister, Joyce (Claude) Gustafson, Kalispell, MT; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Edwin and Kenneth Carlstad; and nephew, Steve Carlstad.

Friends may call at the Fulkerson Funeral Home in Williston on Friday from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM, Saturday from 9:00 AM until Noon and one hour prior to services at the church.
LAVONA MAE (LAUE) CHVILICEK
Birth: February 21, 1923 – Death: February 26, 2010
Liberty County Times
March 3, 2010

Lavona Chvilicek
Dateline – Havre, Montana

Lavona Mae (Laue) Chvilicek, 87, died Friday February 26, 2010 at the Northern Montana Care Center of natural causes. Her prayer vigil service will be 7 p.m. Sunday March 7, 2010 at the Holland & Bonine Funeral Chapel with her Funeral Mass 11 a.m. Monday March 8, 2010 at the St. Jude Catholic Church with Father Joseph Retzel officiating. Burial will follow at the Highland Cemetery. A fellowship luncheon will be held at the St. Jude Parish Center immediately after the services at the graveside. Memorial contributions in Lavona’s honor may be made to the Hays Mission or to a memorial of one’s choice. Services and arrangements have been entrusted to Holland & Bonine Funeral Home.

Lavona was born February 21, 1923 in Kearney, Nebraska to John and Verda Laue. She grew up on a farm in Nebraska. She married Frank J. Chvilicek January 20, 1946 in Kearney, Nebraska. They moved to Montana after Frank was discharged from the Army. Frank had a wheat farm in Montana and he and Lavona moved there to operate the farm and Lavona became a farm wife, homemaker and a mother of six children.

She enjoyed sewing and gardening and loved to dance. She has always enjoyed television especially Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, the soaps, Lawrence Welk, Shirley Temple movies and Western Movies. She was very creative and covered photo albums for baby books and weddings to give as special gifts.

Lavona and Frank moved to Havre in 1967 and purchased the Sunset Motel and Lavona went to work at the hospital. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother John Laue Jr. her husband Frank Chvilicek and grandson Wil Brown.

Lavona is survived by her six children: daughters, Julie (Dave) Brown and Teresa Johnson; son Sons: Mark (Arlyne) Chvilicek; David (Sally) Chvilicek all of Havre, Montana; Daniel (Sharon) Chvilicek of Kalispell, Montana and Michael (Nenita) Chvilicek of Port Hadlock, Washington. Her sister in-law Violet Laue of Kearney, Nebraska.

13 Grandchildren
17 Great Grandchildren
Several Nieces and Nephews
DENNIS LEE COLE
Born: Age: 73- Died: March 24, 2010
Great Falls Tribune
March 30, 2010

Dennis Lee Cole

GLASGOW — Army reserve veteran Dennis Lee Cole, 73, of Glasgow, a self-taught artist and Burlington Northern Railroad worker who was an active member of his community his entire life, died of natural causes Wednesday at his home.

Funeral service is 11 a.m. Thursday at First Methodist Church in Glasgow with burial in Highland Cemetery. Bell Mortuary of Glasgow is handling arrangements.

He is survived by his children, Denise Cole of Portland Ore., Shannon Cole of South Bend, Ind., Derwin Cole of Dubuque, Iowa, Terrace Cole, Danial Cole, and Robert Cole, all of Great Falls, and Edmond Cole of Hingham, Mont.; a brother, Darrell Cole of Glasgow; five grandchildren, six step grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Judy, in 2006.
PAULINE (KUPER) JERGESEN CONRAD
Born: Age: 90 - Died: March 23, 2010
Great Falls Tribune
March 25, 2010

Pauline Jergesen Conrad

CHINOOK — Pauline (Kuper) Jergesen Conrad, 90, a homemaker, died of natural causes Tuesday at a Chinook nursing home.
A vigil and rosary is 7 p.m. Friday at St. Gabriel’s Catholic Church in Chinook. Funeral Mass is 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Gabriel’s, with burial in Kuper Memorial Cemetery. Edwards Funeral Home of Chinook is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include her husband, Jerome Conrad of Chinook; sons Richard Jergesen of Lewistown, Steve Jergesen of Knoxville, Texas, and Douglas Jergesen of Fernley, Nev.; daughters Janet Mayer of Malta, Nancy Maxfield of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Connie Kissner of Chinook; stepdaughters Sharon Rubino of Spokane, Peggy Kimball of Chester, and Alice Shockley of Chinook; 11 grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.
She was preceded in death by her first husband, Pete Jergesen, in 1988.
GERALD ERNEST ‘JERRY’ COPENHAVER
Birth: December 13, 1941 – Death: January 1, 2010
Liberty County Times
January 6, 2010

Jerry Copenhaver

Gerald Ernest “Jerry” Copenhaver was born December 13, 1941 in Dillon, MT. His parents were Ernest and Annette (Colby) Copenhaver and Jerry was the eldest of five children in the family. His father was a school superintendent, so they moved several times during Jerry’s formative years. The family moved from Hinsdale to Joplin following his eighth grade year. He finished his education at Joplin High School, graduating in 1960. He played on the football and basketball teams and was a proud Joplin Bulldog.

Jerry married his high school sweetheart, Sandra Goebel, in Rudyard on July 29, 1960. Soon after, they moved to Spokane, WA where Jerry attended barber college. They returned to Montana to apprentice in Rudyard and Great Falls. Before long, he purchased the barber shop in Rudyard and named it Jerry’s Barber Shop. He gave first haircuts to many of the Hi-Line kids, owning and operating this business until he sold it in 1976.

He began working for Hasty Tire (Tire Rama) in Rudyard. In addition, he operated a small farm north of town and drove the Rudyard school bus for many years. Jerry enjoyed his work at Tire Rama for over 20 years, but was forced to quit due to serious injuries sustained in a fall in 1997. Jerry and his son, Mark, continued to farm together and began leasing the Mark Widdis place. He enjoyed having his son, son-in-law and grandson working side by side with him. Cope took great joy in farming and treasured his many friends in the farming community north of Rudyard.

Jerry and Sandi recently traveled to Helena to spend the Christmas holidays with their children and grandchildren. While there, Jerry became seriously ill and was admitted to St. Peter’s Hospital. Surrounded by the family he loved so much, he passed away peacefully on Friday (January 1, 2010). He was 68 years old.

Jerry was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and was a member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Rudyard. He was a longtime member of the Rudyard Jaycees and served on the Rudyard County Water & Sewer Board for many years.

The Copenhavers raised a family of two and enjoyed camping, fishing, boating, and water-skiing at Tiber Reservoir for many years.

In 1977 they took a memorable family vacation to California with their cousins, the Spichers. They also enjoyed trips to Hawaii and the National Rodeo Finals in Las Vegas. In recent years, they looked forward to visits with their children and grandchildren. Jerry loved his 5 grandkids and always had a special treat of gum or licorice for each of them. He was proud of them and loved them dearly.

Jerry enjoyed many hobbies, including bowling, golfing, hunting and wood-working. While hunting in 1987, he was privileged to bag a record mountain goat. Jerry also liked to play cards, especially cribbage, pinochle, and poker. During his quiet time at home, he enjoyed watching rodeo events on the Chicago Cubs on television. And just for the fun of it, he collected rodeo belt buckles. He rarely missed an opportunity for breakfast and coffee with his friends at the Rudyard Cafe. Jerry learned a great deal from his father-in-law who built houses and was quite a “handyman.” He shared those skills as he helped his son build and renovate houses. He always took pride in his yard and equipment. Those who knew Cope frequently saw his trademark “toothpick” in the corner of his mouth.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister (Marsha Copenhaver). He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Sandi Copenhaver of Rudyard; 2 children, Marcia (Dale) Welliever of Billings and Mark (Tammy) Copenhaver of Helena; 5 grandchildren, Tom, Kelci and Steven Welliever and Jacklyn and Jerilyn Copenhaver; 2 brothers, Robert (Lola) Copenhaver of Bismarck, ND, and Ernie (Kim) Copenhaver of Sparks, NV; 1 sister, Cheryl (Roger) Hyndman of Helena; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday (Jan. 6th) at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Rudyard. Pastor Arden K. Barden will officiate. Special vocal music will be provided by Terry Stevenson and Scott Spicher, with Sharon Spicher serving as accompanist. Son, Mark, will share family memories. Following burial of ashes in the Rudyard Cemetery, a luncheon will be held at the church. Arrangements are by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester. Memorials may be sent to the Rudyard Museum, the Hi-Line Health Foundation, or Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.
HAVRE — Gregory N. Cresswell, 62, a groundskeeper and Army veteran, died of cancer Monday at a Havre care center.

Burial with military honors is 11 a.m. Thursday in Harlem Cemetery, followed by a memorial service at 2 p.m. at the Fifth Avenue Christian Church in Havre.

Edwards Funeral Home of Chinook is in charge of arrangements.

DOROTHY HELEN (GRUEL) CURFMAN
Born: Age: 83 - Died: March 23, 2010
Great Falls Tribune
March 26, 2010

Dorothy Helen Curfman

HAVRE — Lifelong Montana resident Dorothy Helen (Gruel) Curfman, 83, a former railroad secretary and a homemaker who was characterized by her family as someone "able to turn hard times into a joy and a sandwich into a banquet," died of natural causes Tuesday at a Havre hospital.

Her funeral is 11 a.m. Saturday at the Gildford Baptist Church, followed by a fellowship luncheon. Burial will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Highland Cemetery in Havre. Holland & Bonine Funeral Home of Havre is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Lloyd Curfman of Havre; sons Larry Curfman of Richland, Wash., and Darryl Curfman of Bozeman; a daughter, Sandra Brown of Havre; a sister, Norma Vaughn of Billings; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
HAVRE — Norman Dees, 77, a lifelong Kremlin-area farmer, died of natural causes Wednesday at his home in Havre.

Cremation has taken place under the direction of Holland & Bonine Funeral Home, and a private memorial service will be held.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Mary (Weyh) Dees of Havre; sons Steve Dees of Kremlin and Paul Dees of Havre; a sister, Dorothy Sanda of Minnesota; brothers Alvin Dees of Tacoma, Wash., Richard Dees of Billings, and Donald Dees of Kremlin; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.
RUBY (GRAVES) DEFRANCE
Birth: October 14, 1927 – Death: April 7, 2010
Liberty County Times
April 14, 2010

Ruby DeFrance

Ruby was born to Clarence & Mary Graves in Chinook, MT on 11-14-1927 the youngest of their five children. She attended school in Lohman and Hingham, graduating from Hingham in 1947. She married John Simon on 9-7-1947 and from this union two children were born, Ronald and Cynthia. They made their home in Rudyard. Ruby was a very social person and never met a stranger. She was active in Boy Scouts, VFW, PTA, and the P Ten Club.

After her first marriage was dissolved she met and married Robert DeFrance. They resided in the state of Washington until the late 1970's when they returned to Rudyard. Ruby worked as a nurses assistant and then for home health care. She loved being involved in the Chester Chuck Wagon kitchen band in which she played the drums. Ruby's love of music and dancing were a source of enjoyment her entire life.

Ruby died on 4-7-10 from natural causes in Yakima, WA. She had battle health issues for years and is now at peace. Ruby was preceded in death by her son Ron, her parents and all of her siblings. She is survived by her daughter, Cindy and husband Russ, 3 grandchildren; Angela, Malisa & Laura; 3 great grandchildren; Kendra, Christopher & Collin. She is also survived by her daughter in law Del.

A small family grave side service will be held at a later date.
INA MAY (MILLEDGE) DIEMERT

Birth: September 26, 1929 – Death: March 27, 2010

Liberty County Times

March 31, 2010

**Ina May Diemert**

Ina May (Milledge) Diemert was born September 26, 1929 in Fort Benton, MT. She was the eldest of six children born to Clarence and Sara (Watson) Milledge. Ina May grew up in Fort Benton and received her formal education there, graduating from Fort Benton High School in 1948.

She married Lloyd Augustinie Diemert on June 15, 1950 at Fort Benton. Several years later they moved to their farm 20 miles south of Rudyard, where Ina May worked diligently as a farm wife, homemaker, and mother of five. Her loving children included a daughter (Stacey) and four sons (Tom, Mark, Luke, and James). After 40 years of working the land, the Diemerts retired in 1994.

Ina May had been handicapped with various physical ailments during the last half of her life. She spent several years in an assisted-living facility in Fort Benton before transferring to the nursing home in Big Sandy. Just over a year ago she moved to Moses Lake, WA to be closer to her daughter and family. Through all of her medical issues, Ina May always tried to keep a positive attitude. She recently developed pneumonia and was admitted to the Samaritan Hospital in Moses Lake. She died there on Saturday morning (March 27, 2010) at the age of 80 years old.

Her church memberships included Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Hingham and the Immaculate Conception Church in Fort Benton.

Ina May was an avid horse lover throughout her life. She raised, broke, and raised horses for as long as she was able, and continued to own and admire horses until she died.

She always spoke of these special times with a smile and a "twinkle in her eye". In fact, she loved all of God's creatures — great and small. In her later years, she enjoyed the companionship and loyalty of several special dogs.

She also loved gardening and being outdoors, so she continued to care for many potted flowers and house plants to give her a sense of being active and outside. And just for the fun of it, she collected spoons. In her quiet time she enjoyed watching television (of interest, she was an avid fan of the NFL).

Ina May's greatest joy was to spend quality time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Her personality was "full of ginger" and she had an awesome sense of humor. Her family will cherish many fond memories.

She was preceded in death not only by her husband and parents, but also by a sister (Arleen Kuebler) and a brother (Jackie Milledge).

She is survived by her 5 children, Stacey (Richard) Ribel­lia of Moses Lake, WA, Tom (Linda) Diemert of Turpin, OK, Mark Diemert of Fort Richie, FL, Luke (Lily) Diemert of Polson, and James (Sherri) Diemert of Helena; 22 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; 3 brothers, Daryel Milledge of Great Falls, Boots Milledge of Great Falls, and Leon Getts of Columbus, Ohio; and many nieces and nephews.

Ina May enjoyed traveling. Even though she spent a lot of time back-and-forth between Montana and Washington, the place she always called "home" was Montana.

She made sure that she would one day return here to be laid to rest close to her family and friends. Ina May was dearly loved by her family, and although they are content that she is now dancing and riding her horses in Heaven, they will continue to miss her presence here on Earth...

A Memorial Service will be 10:00 a.m. Saturday (April 3rd) at the Immaculate Conception Church in Fort Benton. Viewing will be for an hour prior to service time. Father Leo McDowell will conduct the liturgical service. Ina May's son (Tom Diemert) will share the eulogy, and grand­daughters (Jessica, Lindsay, and Brittany Diemert) will read scriptures. Special music will be provided by Anna.

**Pallbearers will be grandsons** (Quincy, Caleb, Saul, and Galen Ribellia; Jordan Diemert; and Brian Scott). Following burial at the Riverside Cemetery in Fort Benton, a reception will be held at the church. Local arrangements are by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester.
HELEN J. (McDERMOTT) DOLEZAL
Birth: September 4, 1933 – Death: February 17, 2010
Liberty County Times
February 24, 2010

Chinook - Helen J. (McDermott) Dolezal, 73; daughter of the Sweetgrass Hills, ended her long courageous struggle with Scleroderma on the evening of February 17th in her home surrounded by her loving husband and children. Funeral mass services will be Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 11 a.m. in St. Gabriel's Catholic Church with burial following in the Kuper Memorial Cemetery and a fellowship luncheon will follow at the church parish center. Rosary will be recited at the church on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Memorials may be sent in her memory to the Chinook Senior Citizens Center or the Scleroderma Foundation at www.scleroderma.org. Arrangements are by Edwards Funeral Home of Chinook. Born on September 4, 1933 in Shelby, Helen was the ninth child of Ruth and Peter McDermott's twelve children. Helen was raised at the McDermott Coal Mine in the Sweetgrass Hills north of Shelby. She attended the McDermott School and Sunburst High School. Helen married her sweetheart and best friend Robert J. Dolezal, Sr. on September 15, 1951 in Havre. She and Robert raised their nine children on the Dolezal Brothers Ranch of Whitlash and the R & H Ranch of Roy. She was well known for her fun loving spirit and willingness to share her family. In addition to many years as a ranch wife and 4-H leader, she was a popular cook at the Chinook Motor Inn Restaurant. She was a board member of the Chinook Senior Citizens Center, meeting everyone at the door with a smile and hugs during the daily noon meals. She loved playing cards with family and friends, singing and laughing with her children, grandchildren and foreign exchange students. She welcomed all to her table, being generous with her bakery delights. Helen is survived by her husband Robert J. Dolezal and their children; Ruth Burleigh of Chinook, William (Marcia) Dolezal of Dayton, OH, Robert J. (Nancy) Dolezal, Jr. of Ely, NV, Sharlene (Tom) Barnum of Eugene, OR, Penny (Michael) Velk of Havre, Nancy Dolezal of Yuma, AZ, Arthur (Charlotte) Dolezal of Billings, Mark (Karla) Dolezal of Ely, NV, Kent (Julia) Dolezal of Carbondale, IL, sister Beverly (Edward) Nash of Cut Bank, Dixie Swenson of Great Falls, brothers Rodney (Grace) McDermott of Seattle, WA, Henry (Jane) McDermott of Shelby, Kenneth (Ellen) McDermott of Fairfield, thirty six grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents Peter J. and Ruth A. (Barnes) McDermott, Sisters Rosemary McDermott, Elnora McDermott Lammerding, Betty McDermott Zell, brothers Patrick McDermott, William Patrick McDermott, and Peter Guy McDermott.
PHYLLIS (HILL) DUMON
Born: August 10, 1919 - Died: March 12, 2010
Great Falls Tribune
March 14, 2010

Phyllis Dumon

SHELBY — Phyllis Hill Dumon, 90, of Shelby, died of natural causes Friday at the Marias Care Center in Shelby.

Her memorial service is 1 p.m. Tuesday at Whitted Funeral Chapel, with a reception to follow at the Marias Heritage Center from 2 to 4 p.m. A family celebration of her life will be held later in the summer at the Dumon cabin in Coram.

Phyllis was born on Aug. 10, 1919, in Rudyard, to Harry and Esther (Robertson) Hill. She moved to Detroit as a child, attended schools there and met and married Joseph Dumon on June 29, 1940. After World War II, they moved to Kevin, living there for 27 years. Phyllis worked in the Toole County Treasurer’s Office for 13 years and was elected Toole County assessor in 1966, serving two terms in office. Phyllis also was a lifetime member of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW.

Phyllis and Doris Rambo were instrumental in bringing Weight Watchers to Montana and western North Dakota, traveling extensively and lecturing to classes in the two states. Phyllis realized her ‘life dream’ of helping others.

After retiring, she and Joe spent the winters in Arizona and summers at their cabin in Coram. She moved to Shelby after Joe died in 1998. Phyllis lived at the Marias Heritage Center for the last three years and her latest job was a volunteer folding the newsletter for the city of Shelby. She might stay up half the night to accomplish her goal.

Phyllis loved so many things: she played golf, was an avid bowler, loved to entertain, and was fond of animals ... especially dogs. She taught so many people how to play pinochle and would play any kind of card game for hours. Phyllis loved to laugh and had the motto ‘mind over matter’ and the mindset that anyone could accomplish anything.

Phyllis is survived by her daughter, Denise (Larry) McCormick of Shelby and son David (Kim) Dumon of Somers. Grandchildren surviving are Jeff (Janelle) Platt of Wilsonville, Ore., Leann (Mario) Birsa of Anthem, Ariz., Dena (Mike) Akers of Fayetteville, N.C., and Tori (Derek) Price of Kalispell. She also is survived by great-grandchildren Johnny, Jady and Julie Platt; McKenzie Wisdom, Joseph Birsa, Byron Akers and baby Akers due in August; and Audrey and Piper Price, as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Joe in 1998; great-granddaughter Taylor Wisdom in 2009; and niece Connie Hill Merlo in 2010.

The family suggests memorials to the newly established Prairie Oasis Animal Shelter in Shelby. Donations should be directed to Denise McCormick or David Dumon.

Condolences may be posted online at www.whittedfuneralchapel.com and/or www.gftribune.com/obituaries.
CLIFFORD HERMAN FUSK
Born: October 19, 1926 - Died: January 13, 2010
Great Falls Tribune
February 6, 2010

Clifford Herman Fusk

PORT ANGELES, Wash. —
Former Montana resident Cliff­
ford Herman Fusk, 83, died of
lung cancer Jan. 13 at his home in
Port Angeles,
Wash.

A memorial
service will be
held June 21 in
Joplin. The
Neptune So­­
ci­
ty of Lynn­
wood, Wash.,
is in charge of
arrangements.

Clifford Herman
Fusk was born Oct. 19,
1926, in Alma, Mont., to Peter
and Ollann Gotvall Fusk.
After leaving the Fusk farm,
Cliff served two years in the
Army. He went on to become a
standard labs technician at Lock­­
heed Aircraft in Palmdale, Calif.
He retired early to take care of his
wife, Marjorie, during the last two
years of her life.

Six years ago, Cliff moved to
five acres with a view and mild
winters on the Olympic Penin­­
sula. Here he enjoyed woodwork­­
ing, caring for two rescued llamas
and an alpaca, and using his
John Deere riding mower.

In addition to his first wife,
Marjorie, he was preceded in
death by his parents; brothers
Harold, Donald and John; a sis­­
ter, Alice; and a nephew, Walter
Bilden.

Cliff is survived by his wife,
Margot; her daughters, Andrea
Hedges and Michelle Fulton;
nieces Pat Meldrum, Janet
Bilden, Chris Sapp, Ellie Keeley
and Debbie Dees; and nephews
Leroy Bilden and Leonard Fusk,
and their families.

Throughout his life Cliff was
always there for family and
friends, and will be missed by all.
Condolences may be posted online
at www.gftribune.com/obituaries.
HELEN GREEN obituary

Helen (Dahl) Green passed away Feb. 23, 2010, in Great Falls, surrounded by her family and loved ones.

Helen was born Dec. 2, 1922, to Bernie and Lura Dahl in Scobey, Mont. She married Laurence Green on Aug. 8, 1959, in Lewistown. After much travel, they returned to Montana. They settled in Gildford, where they stayed.

She never met a stranger and loved life and was devoted to family and friends. Helen is survived by her husband of 50 years, Laurence Green; a sister, Alene Cavanaugh of Scobey; a brother, Elvin Dahl of Minot, N.D.; and several nieces and nephews. Memorial services will be held 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, at the Baptist Church in Gildford.

Helen Green
Bertha Louise Haag

MALTA — Bertha Louise (Chaffee) Haag, 90, a homemaker and former teacher who was active in her church and enjoyed baking for friends and neighbors, died of natural causes Tuesday at her home in Malta.

Memorial services are 11 a.m. Saturday at the Grace Fellowship Church in Malta, and 2 p.m. May 15 at the Nazarene Church in Longview, Wash. Kirkwood Funeral Home of Malta is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include her children, Katherine Haag and Samuel Haag of Longview, Steven Haag of Malta, Mary Haag of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Daniel Haag of Helena; a sister, Beulah Davis of Oregon; and eight grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Haag, in 1976; and a daughter, Ruth, in 1994.
ALMA MARGARET (SKONORD) HEYDON HADFORD
Born: May 9, 1914 – Died: April 19, 2010
Liberty County Times
April 28, 2010

Alma Margaret (Skonord) Heydon Hadford was born May 9, 1914 at Joplin, Montana. Her parents, Lars and Gustava (Johnson) Skonord, came to Montana in 1914 and homesteaded on Big Sage Creek, located 22 miles north of Joplin. Alma grew up on the farm and was the youngest of six children in the family. She received her early education at Big Springs country school, then finished her schooling in Joplin. During her high school years, Alma was active on the girls basketball team. Following her graduation from Joplin H.S. in 1933, she continued “normal school” at Northern Montana College in Havre and earned a teaching certificate. For the next ten years Alma taught at the Meldrum, Laird, & Burk country schools in the north Joplin community.

She married Franklin J. Heydon on January 2, 1940. Soon after, they moved to the Burt Smith farm 30 miles north of Joplin. In 1947 they purchased the old Wiseman place, where Alma worked diligently as a farmwife and mother of three (Darlys, Della, and Kenneth). In the late-1950’s Franklin suffered several heart attacks, so Alma decided to go back to college to update her teaching credentials. She earned her two-year Associate Degree from Northern in 1961. Two years later Franklin suffered a third heart attack and died. Alma and the children moved into Joplin, where she continued teaching. Of interest was the fact that Alma taught school for a total of 17 years, which included three generations of area families!

On December 16, 1968 Alma married her second husband, Lloyd W. Hadford, a Hi-Line area farmer. They made their home in Joplin throughout their married life. They made many memorable trips to Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Iowa, and Canada to visit family and friends. They also enjoyed many fun junkets to Nevada.

When Alma’s health began to fail in December of 2007, she was admitted to the Liberty County Nursing Home. She died peacefully at the Chester nursing facility on the early morning of Monday (April 19, 2010). She was 95 years old.

Alma was baptized and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church north of Joplin. She later transferred her membership to Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin, where she was active in the Ladies Aide and WELCA.

Her hobbies were many. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting afghans, and yarning clothes hangers. In her early years she enjoyed dancing and bowling in the Hi-Line women’s leagues. Alma loved cards (mainly, pinochle and whist) and the slot-machines.

In her quiet time at home she enjoyed television (especially, “Wheel of Fortune”, “The Price is Right”, and “Jeopardy”). She was a good cook and her family remembers her delicious homemade milk gravy, tomato soup, and potato salad.

Alma was a loving mother and friend. In addition she was a loyal companion and best friend to Lloyd during their 41 years together. She will be sorely missed...

Alma was preceded in death not only by her parents and first husband, but also by 2 sisters (Stella Pimley and Ellen Zorn) and 3 brothers (Trygve, Hjalmer, & Palmer Skonord).

Survivors are her husband, Lloyd Hadford of Joplin; 2 daughters, Darlys Heydon (and partner, Janet Remlinger) of Tucson, AZ. and Della (Ron) Wolery of Joplin; 1 son, Kenneth (Lila) Heydon of Post Falls, ID; 5 grandchildren, Cory Heydon, Kelly (Kevin) Dunne, Jana (Troy) Hansen, Joni (Jason) Larson, and Joel Wolery; 4 great-grandchildren, Taylor and Tristan Hansen and Jaidyn and Jaxon Larson; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted at 11:00 a.m. Friday (April 23rd) at Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin by Pastor Arden Barden. Scriptures were read by granddaughter, Kelly, and a personal poem entitled “Grandma’s Hands” was read by granddaughter, Joni. Vocalist, Mary Ann Zorn, performed “The Wind Beneath My Wings” and “Borning Cry”. The congregation sang “Amazing Grace”, accompanied by pianist, Sharon Spicher. Daughter, Darlys, shared the eulogy and a poem entitled “Gone From My Sight". Ushers were Ted Zorn and Gary Hadford. Pallbearers were Joel Wolery, Jason Larson, Kevin Dunne, David Hadford, Kenneth Broadhurst, and LeRoy Green. Following burial at the Joplin Cemetery, a luncheon was provided by WELCA at Kjos Hall. Arrangements were Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester. Memorials may be given to Bethel Church or donor’s choice.
HELEN M. (HORNE) HERRON
Born: March 14, 1918 – Died: April 30, 2010
Great Falls Tribune
May 2, 2010

Helen M. Herron, 92, of Great Falls, a homemaker who raised exotic birds, died of natural causes Thursday at Peace Hospice. Her memorial service will be held at a later date.

Schnider Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Helen Herron passed away peacefully at Peace Hospice with family at her side.

Helen was born March 14, 1918, in Deer Lodge, one of nine children born to Walter and Bertha Grace (Brown) Horne. Her family farmed in the Canyon Valley north of Townsend, and she attended Broadwater County High School and met the love of her life, Delbert Herron, there. They were married May 2, 1936, and enjoyed 73 years together.

Helen loved to cook, and at one time owned the Townsend Bakery, which was renowned for her banana-cream pies. She was also famous for her bread and popcorn balls, as well as her canning, pickling, smoked fish and jerky.

Helen was a very devoted wife and mother, always making life interesting and exciting. Whether it was designing and creating her beautiful dolls, bedspreads and tablecloths, or caring for her hundreds of exotic birds, Helen was passionate about her hobbies.

Survivors include her two sons, David Herron of Chester, and Gary Herron of Great Falls; three grandsons; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Delbert Herron; her parents, Walter and Grace Horne; daughters Carolyn Kaye Herron and Ilene Heppner; sisters Grace Babcock and Bessie Reynolds; and brothers Warren, Bill, Wes, Leroy, Charles and Jack Horne.

Condolences may be posted online at www.schniderfuneralhome.com and/or www.gftribune.com/obituaries.
Reverend David Hofer

Reverend David Peter Hofer was born March 28, 1923 at the Rockport Colony near Mitchell, South Dakota. He was one of thirteen children born to Peter Hofer and Anna Kleinsasser. David was nine years old when his family moved to the OK Colony at Raymond, Alberta. It was there he received his formal education.

On November 12, 1946 David married Elizabeth A. Wurz. They began raising their family of six. In 1951 they moved to the Miller Colony near Choteau, Mt. where David worked as the poultry man.

In 1961 the Hofer’s moved to Sage Creek Colony, located 32 miles north of Chester. In May of 1963 David became the colony minister, a position he held for 46 years. He also served as a German school teacher during those early years at Sage Creek.

After David’s retirement in 2009, he enjoyed good health and remained an active member of the colony.

Following lunch this past Friday (February 26, 2010), David died peacefully while napping at his residence. He was 86 years old.

David was proud to come from a long line of family ministers. An avid reader, he especially loved the scriptures of the Bible. He also enjoyed singing and had one of the best melodic voices at the colony. In addition David was an all-around “handyman”, who could fix or build most anything.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter (Elizabeth Hofer in 1985), 7 brothers (Jacob, John, Peter, Sam, Joseph, Mike, and Andrew Hofer), and 4 sisters (Anna, Susie, and Rachel Hofer and Anna Wipf).

David was survived by his wife of 63 years, Elizabeth Hofer of Sage Creek Colony; 2 sons, Peter (Esther) Hofer and Ben (Barbara) Hofer; 3 daughters, Justina (John) Wurz, Anna Hofer, and Susie (Jonathan) Kleinsasser, all of Sage Creek; 13 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; 1 brother, Paul Hofer of Plainview Colony (Foremost, Alberta); and many nephews & nieces.

David’s funeral was held at 11:00 a.m. Monday (March 1st) at the Sage Creek Colony. Burial followed at the colony cemetery. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester.
SISTER MARLEEN HULL (SISTER ANTHONY) SP
Birth: September 22, 1930 – Death: February 18, 2010
Liberty County Times
March 3, 2010

Marleen Hull was born Theresa Marleen Hull on September 22, 1930 to the family of Anslem Joseph Hull and Mary Ann Friel in Havre, Montana. She was the youngest of nine children and joined

#pragma #pragma
Sister Marilyn Hull, SP

Sister Marleen Hull (Sister Anthony) died on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at Sacred Heart Medical Center, Spokane, Washington at 79 years of age, after 61 years as a Sister of Providence. The Vigil Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2010 in the Chapel at Mount St. Joseph, 12 West Ninth Avenue, Spokane, Washington, and the Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at the same location.

Cremation preceded the services. Interment will follow at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Great Falls, Montana. Hennessey-Smith Funeral Home, Spokane, Washington is in charge of arrangements.

St. Marleen Hull was born Theresa Marleen Hull on September 22, 1930 to the family of Anslem Joseph Hull and Mary Ann Friel in Havre, Montana. She was the youngest of nine children and joined

 Commodities, Montana (1956); Two-year Elementary Teaching Certificate, State of Montana (1958); Diploma of Nursing, Sacred Heart Hospital (now Sacred Heart Medical Center), Spokane, Washington (1960); B.S., College of Great Falls, Montana (1961); B.S. in Elementary Education, College of Great Falls, Montana (1966); M.H.A. in Hospital Administration, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri (1973); Credo Program, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington (1987). She also attended many management training workshops, numerous state and national hospital association meetings and conventions.

Sr. Marleen’s teaching ministry assignments included: Mary Immaculate School, DeSmet, Idaho (1950-51); St. Thomas Orphans Home, Great Falls, Montana (1951-53); St. Gerard’s School, Great Falls, Montana (1953-54); Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Wallace, Idaho (1954-55); St. Raphael’s School, Glasgow, Montana (1955-57).

She then entered the healthcare field and served in the following facilities and capacities: Providence Hospital, Wallace, Idaho, a nurse in medical, obstetrics, and pediatrics departments (1960-65); St. Ignatius Hospital (now Whitman Community Hospital), Colfax, Washington in surgery, medical departments, and nursing services (1965); Columbus Hospital (now Benefis Healthcare), Great Falls, Montana, supervisor in surgery and obstetrics (1965-66), assistant in nursing services and surgical supervisor (1966-68), assistant in nursing services (1968-69), and nursing services director (1969-71); St. Vincent Hospital, Portland, Oregon, Assistant Administrator (1973-79).

She served as Provincial Councilor, Sisters of Providence, Provincial Administration, Spokane, Washington (1979-83) and, during this time, she also served as Acting Administrator of St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula, Montana and St. Mary Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington.

In 1983, she was appointed Administrator of St. Mary Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington and served in that capacity until 1986. She served as Assistant Superior of Mount St. Joseph, Spokane, Washington (1998-1999).

She volunteered at St. Aloysius Parish in Spokane, Washington as a parish visitor to the sick and homebound, was a Eucharistic minister, and served on the Funeral Reception Committee.

Her hobbies included crocheting and embroidery.

Her parents and siblings preceded her in death. She is survived by several nieces, nephews, grandnephews, grandnieces, cousins, and her community of Sisters of Providence.

Memorial contributions may be made in her honor to the Sisters of Providence Retirement Fund, 1801 Lind Avenue SW, #9016, Renton, WA 98057-9016.
FRANCES KNUTSON
Birth: April 9, 1918 – Death: January 22, 2010
Havre Daily News
January 26, 2010

FRANCES KNUTSON obituary
Frances Knutson, 91, died Friday, Jan. 22, 2010, in Chinook, Mont., at the Sweet Memorial Nursing Home, of natural causes.
Cremation has taken place, and a celebration of Frances' life will be held at a later date this May in Havre, Mont.
Memorials are suggested to Sweet Home, P.O. Box 1149, Chinook, MT 59523.
Funeral arrangements are in care of Holland & Bonine Funeral Home in Havre, Mont.
Frances was born April 9, 1918, in Havre, Mont. She married the love of her life, Kenny Knutson, in 1939, and they lived on the family farm north of Gildford during their early years of marriage. Later they moved to the town of Gildford to raise their sons.
After retiring from farming, she and her husband spent many winters in Phoenix. Frances kept busy as a homemaker and did sewing and mending for many friends in Gildford. Crocheting and knitting were a favorite pastime. She made numerous blankets for her kids and grandkids. She also enjoyed her big garden in Gildford.

Frances was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 62 years; and her daughter-in-law, Betty.
She is survived by her two sons, Ron Knutson of Havre and Rick (Joan) Knutson of Bozeman.
She also had three grandchildren and one great-grandchild: Jacinte (Chris) Kasallis, and their daughter Hailee of Chicago, Nathan (Jaylin) Knutson of Seattle, Wash., and Jacob Knutson of Bozeman.
Please remember to hold your loved ones closely. Find that place in your heart, where even in middle of the deepest chaos, you can find peace. Let go of ego, and above all celebrate the present moment.
PAULETTE JEAN (STANDLEY) LINABARY
Born: October 2, 1942 – Died: April 5, 2010
Great Falls Tribune
April 7, 2010

Paulette Jean Linabary

Paulette Jean (Standley) Linabary, 57, of Great Falls, died of natural causes Monday at a local hospital.

Cremation has taken place under the direction of Croxford Funeral Home and Crematory. A memorial service with Eastern Star rites is 1:30 p.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church, followed by a celebration of her life at Black Eagle Community Center. Burial of ashes will take place at a later date in Casper, Wyo.

Paulette was born Oct. 2, 1942, in Helena, Mont., to Lester and Bertha (Fraser) Standley. The family moved to Cascade, Mont., in 1944. Paulette received her grade-school education at Travis School and graduated from Cascade High School in 1960. She attended the University of Montana in Missoula, and transferred to Northern Montana College in Havre, where she received a two-year teaching degree.

After receiving her two-year teaching degree, Paulette taught at Augusta for one year. She attended summer school and took a year off from teaching to complete her four-year degree at Eastern Montana College in Billings. She taught at Collins School in Black Eagle, and Sunnyside schools in Great Falls.

Following her retirement from teaching after 37 years, in 1999, Paulette enjoyed attending meetings of the many organizations to which she belonged: Christ’s Church on the Hill, where she was organist and a deacon and served on many committees for the betterment of the church; the Christian Women’s Club, the Cascade Chapter No. 101, OES as organist and many other offices including worthy matron; Delta Kappa Gamma sorority; the Retired Educators Organization; Nile Club and the Black Eagle Civic Club. She wrote the Castner Falls News for the Cascade Courier, and also was very diligent in sending cards to friends and family for birthdays, illnesses and sympathy.

Many young people learned the basics of piano-playing from Paulette. She always was willing to chauffeur nondrivers and others to church and meetings, and time spent playing pinochle with a group of ladies was thoroughly enjoyed by her.

Paulette also worked part-time at the family business, the Udder Co., to help with billing and other necessary items. She especially loved spending time with family and friends, and took pride in her grandchildren accomplishments through the years. She was instrumental in planning celebrations for milestone birthdays and family reunions.

Paulette is survived by one son, Jeff (Trina) Linabary of Great Falls; three sisters, Jan (Jerry) Albright of Shelby, Louise (Bob) Falk of Great Falls, and Kathy (Doug) James of Billings; two granddaughters, Jasmine (and fiancé Nate Chute) of Bigfork, and Jenaveve Linabary of Idaho Falls, Idaho; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by parents Lester and Bertha (Fraser) Standley; two sisters, Elaine Schuchard and Becky Olsen; brothers-in-law Don Schuchard and Mike Webster; and nephew Kirby Albright.

Paulette suffered from a fall in her home earlier this year and entered the hospital for surgery to repair a broken hip. After being in and out of intensive care, she was transferred to Advanced Care Hospital in Billings and was released March 31 to receive therapy at Missouri River Manor. She was very happy to be able to attend church on Easter Sunday and to enjoy dinner and visiting with family in the afternoon. Early in the morning on Monday, April 5, she suffered a setback and passed away.

Paulette is greatly missed already, and we remember her with much love and thankfulness for having her in our lives.

Memorials in Paulette’s name are suggested to Christ’s Church on the Hill, 809 Smelter Ave., Great Falls, MT 59404; or the donor’s choice.

Condolences may be posted online at www.croxfordfuneralhome.com and/or www.gftribune.com/obituaries.
ROSEMARY JOY (SORENSEN) MANSFIELD

Birth: April 13, 1930 - Death: February 5, 2010

Liberty County Times
February 10, 2010

ROSEMARY JOY (SORENSEN) MANSFIELD

She is survived by 1 daughter, Cheri (Scott) Swank of Florida, and a son, Mike (Shirley) Mansfield of Billings; Bruce (Trudy) Mansfield of Joplin, and Dean Mansfield of San Diego, CA.; 10 grandchildren, Ani (Doug), Nathan, Laura (Jason), Kris (Terry), Jennifer, Jeremy (Lindsay), Melissa (Ryan), Katie, Michael, and Jean (Greg); 14 great-grandchildren (inc. Paige & Brooke; Mallory, Gavin, & Halle; Kellen & Kavan; Kyle & Quinn; Secret, Kyla & Sebastien; and Aden & Abigail); 2 sisters-in-law, Ruth Sorensen of Seattle, WA. and June Sorensen of McCabe, MT; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday (Feb. 9th) at Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin. Pastor Dale Worely officiated. Special vocal music by Carol Bangs included “Amazing Grace” and “In the Garden”. Christy Fossen served as pianist and the congregation sang “How Great Thou Art”. Ushers were Doug Moore and Larry Olson. Pallbearers were Jeremy Mansfield, Michael Swank, Jason McKee, Ryan Wickum, Terry Heit, and Micheal Alley. Honorary bearers were Rosemary’s grandchildren & great-grandchildren. Following burial at the Joplin Cemetery, a luncheon was held at Kjos Hall. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester. Memorials may be given to the Great Falls Peace Hospice, the Joplin Memorial Park, or donor’s choice.

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ROSEMARY JOY
(SORENSEN)
MANSFIELD

Born: April 13, 1930 at Los Angeles, California
Died: February 5, 2010 at Great Falls, Montana
Age: 79 years ... 9 months ... 23 days

DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP...
In those quiet moments in the still of the night
Remember to rejoice and celebrate life -
Do not think of me gone and weep;
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glints on snow
I am the sunlight on the grain
I am the gentle autumn’s rain.

When you awaken in the morning hush -
I am the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds in flight.
I am the soft stars that shine.
You will hear my gentle voice
and remember to rejoice...
Never give up your fight -
and remember always to Celebrate Life!
Author unknown.

Funeral Services: 11:00 a.m. Tuesday (Feb. 9th, 2010)
at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Joplin, Montana

Officiant: Pastor Dale Wolery

Pianist: Christy Fossen...
Congregational Hymn: “How Great Thou Art”

Vocalist: Carol Bangs...
Vocal Tributes: “In the Garden” & “Amazing Grace”

Ushers: Doug Moore and Larry Olson

Pallbearers: Jeromy Mansfield, Michael Swank, Jason
McKee, Ryan Wickum, Terry Heit, and Michael Alley

Honorary Bearers: Rosemary’s loving grandchildren
and great-grandchildren...

Interment: Joplin Cemetery

... Luncheon to follow at Kjos Hall...

Memorials: Great Falls Peace Hospice, Joplin Memorial Park, or donor’s
choice...

Arrangements: Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester, Mt.

Rosemary’s Family: 4 sons, Lanny/Mary, Mike/Shirley, Bruce/Trudy, and
Dean; 1 daughter, Cheri/Scott; 10 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren
JOHN JAMES MAY
Born: August 17, 1927 – Died: April 21, 2010
Liberty County Times
April 28, 2010

John J. May
John James May was born August 17, 1927 on the family farm north of Inverness, MT. He was one of four children born to George and Anna (Peterson) May. John attended country schools near the farm, then finished his secondary education in Inverness. He graduated from Inverness H.S. in 1945.

Later that fall John enlisted in the U.S. Navy to serve his country during World War II. He became a Seaman 1st Class and specialized in mechanics. As the war wound down, he was awarded an honorable discharge and returned to Montana.

John continued his schooling at Northern Montana College in Havre for a short while, then began working as an auto mechanic for Louis Lineweaver. When the Korean Conflict broke out in 1951, John re-enlisted into the military, this time to the U.S. Army. While serving in the combat infantry in Korea, John was wounded in action and received the "purple heart". He attained the rank of Sergeant and received his second honorable discharge after two years of faithful service.

John returned to Montana and began farming for Bud Freeman at Inverness. Within a few years he obtained some specialized equipment and went into the construction business.

He married Gay M. Johnson on December 20, 1957 in Great Falls. They lived in Rudyard and raised their family of two. John continued to work in construction and home-building throughout the Hi-Line. In addition he operated a small farm north of Inverness (near the Canadian border). In 1980 the Mays moved to Inverness. John retired in 1995, but continued to help his son whenever he could. His health remained relatively good until July of 2009, when he had open-heart surgery. His condition slowly declined from that time on and he was recently diagnosed with cancer. Just three days after being admitted to the V.A. Hospital at Fort Harrison, John died on the early morning of Wednesday (April 21, 2010). He was 82 years old.

John was a longtime member of the V.F.W. Post in Havre. He was proud of his military service and remained a patriot throughout his life. One of his "claim to fame" was that he met Nat King Cole when he was in the service. John loved the American flag and always flew it with pride at his home. He was also a member of the Havre Elks Lodge and was active in the Hi-Line Basketball Men's League for many years.

During their early years the May and Bakke families enjoyed their annual July 4th trip to Glacier Park and the Bigfork Playhouse, where they made many good memories.

John enjoyed woodworking and cabinetry. He loved the music of the "Big Band" era and enjoyed watching old westerns on television. He was also an avid reader and a lifelong fan of ice-fishing & hunting.

John was preceded in death by his parents, his 2 sisters (Dorothy Lineweaver and infant Katherine May), and his brother (Uriel May). He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Gay May of Inverness; his daughter, Katherine (Shawn) Albright of Havre; his son, John A. May of Rudyard; 6 grandchildren, Jason, Josh, Kelly, Glenn, Dallas, and Aubrey; 3 great grandchildren, Brenden, Jessica, and Adrianna; and numerous nephews and nieces.

It was John's wish to be cremated and that his ashes be interred with his parents in Havre. A graveside service will be 3:00 p.m. Friday (May 7th) at the Highland Cemetery in Havre. Cremation and arrangements are by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester. Undesignated memorials will be given to the Havre V.F.W. Post.
HAVRE — Uriel Ephraim May, 95, a Havre resident from 1949-2004, who served in the Army Air Corps and enjoyed woodworking, mechanics, camping and reading, died of natural causes Tuesday at his daughter's home in Missoula.

A combined memorial service for him and his wife will be in May. Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include daughters, Margaret Ritter of Dearborn Heights, Mich., Judy Lopez of Brookings, Ore., and Denise May of Missoula; sons, John May of Billings and Don May of Missoula; a brother, John May of Inverness; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Margaret, on Dec. 24, 2009; a son, Robert May; and daughters Rose Macchia and Gail Poglase-Stevens.
ISABELLE ‘ISY’ (FORZLEY) MOLL
Born: July 22, 1916 - Died: February 25, 2010
Great Falls Tribune
February 28, 2010

Isabelle ‘Isy’ Moll

CASCADE — Isabelle “Isy” (Forzley) Moll, 93, of Cascade, a lifelong Montana resident, died of natural causes Thursday at Peace Hospice. Her memorial service is 1 p.m. Monday at Hillcrest Lawn Chapel, with inurnment at a later date in Highland Cemetery. Schnider Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Isy was born July 22, 1916, in Joplin, Mont., to Sophia and Abraham Forzley. Enduring tough times in 1920, the family moved by truck from their Joplin homestead to Black Eagle, with their cow in tow. Four years later, they acquired and lived at the Sunnyside Grocery on the south side of Great Falls. Isabelle and her family operated the store.

Isy attended public schools and Great Falls High School, graduating in the class of 1935. She continued to work at the family grocery store until 1950, when she made the move to Cascade, her home for the last 50 years. Isy married Pete Moll Jr., on Aug. 12, 1954, and they lived and worked in Cascade. In 1969, Isabelle took over and managed the Montana State Liquor Store, where she remained until her retirement in 1981. She then stayed on part time at the store for a few more years. Isy and Pete loved to travel together. Though she told of her love of cards and dancing, Isy’s great love was Pete, her husband of only 17 years. Pete passed away before his time, suffering a heart attack in 1971.

She leaves behind numerous adoring nieces and nephews, and some very special friends. The companionship and growth of her many nieces and nephews gave her great joy. She also greatly enjoyed her group of wonderful friends. She was a tiny woman with an enormous heart. She was greatly loved by everyone in her life and was somehow able to give more than she received. She was Aunt Isy to all and will be greatly missed.

Isabelle was preceded in death by her husband Pete; her parents, Abraham and Sophia Forzley; her older sister, Victoria Shikany Holst; and her brothers, John, George and Joe Forzley.

Memorials may be made to Peace Hospice, 1101 26th St. S., Great Falls, MT 59405 or the Cascade Seniors Center, Cascade, MT 59421.

Condolences may be posted online at www.schniderfuneralhome.com and/or www.gftribune.com/obituaries.
Jean H. Neilsen

SHELBY — Jean H. (Denison) Neilsen, 99, a retired Shelby secretary who was active in her community, died of natural causes Sunday at the Teton Medical Center. Visitation is 1 to 8 p.m. Thursday, with the family receiving friends from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at Whitted Funeral Chapel. Her funeral is 1:30 p.m. Friday at the United Methodist Church in Shelby, with burial in Mountain View Cemetery. A lunch will be held at the church after the burial.

Survivors include her daughters, Emile (Stan) Kimmet of Choteau and Cheryl Kinyon of Kalispell; sons, Kenneth (Martha) Neilsen of La Place, La., and James (Rosemary) Neilsen of Great Falls; 18 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a daughter, a sister, three brothers, one great-grandchild and two great-great-grandchildren.

Jean was born May 15, 1910, in Sherwood, N.D., to Frank and Fannie (Wrigley) Denison. The family moved to Chester and then to Kalispell, where she grew up and was educated. She then attended one year of secretarial school in Great Falls.

She married Emil Neilsen on July 3, 1928, in Great Falls; they later divorced.

She moved in 1951 to Shelby, where she lived, worked and raised her children. Jean worked as a secretary for Marias River Electric Co-op for 21 years before her retirement in 1975. She then became an active volunteer at the Shelby Senior Center, where she later became secretary of the Center's board. She was also always available to take her many friends, who did not drive, to church, medical appointments and shopping.

Jean was a longtime active member of the United Methodist Church, where she had served as secretary and treasurer and president of the United Methodist Women, was past worthy matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, and served as secretary of the local Toole County Chapter of the AARP when it was formed.

Jean was an avid cribbage player, along with pinochle, bridge and solitaire. She also enjoyed traveling, watching game shows, but mostly being with her family and friends.

Memorials are suggested to the United Methodist Church; Marias Heritage Center; or the Shelby Senior Center.

Condolences may be posted online at www.whittedfuneralchapel.com and/or www.gftribune.com/obituaries.
RALPH JOSEPH PEGAR
Born: Age: 53 - Died: March 23, 2010
Great Falls Tribune
March 26, 2010

Ralph J. Pegar
BIG SANDY — Lifelong Montana resident Ralph Joseph Pegar, 53, who farmed southeast of Big Sandy and enjoyed attending local auctions, socializing with friends and neighbors, and riding his motorcycle, died of internal injuries Tuesday in Big Sandy, after his motorcycle struck a large rock and he was thrown from the vehicle.

A vigil is 7 this evening at St. Margaret Mary’s Catholic Church in Big Sandy. Funeral Mass is 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Margaret Mary’s Catholic Church; with burial in Big Sandy Cemetery. A lunch will be held at the church after the burial. Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include his companion of 25 years, Karen Pelley Pegar of Big Sandy; siblings Victoria Nameth of Rhinebeck, N.Y., Roderick Pegar of Kenmore, Wash., Duane Pegar of Billings, Timothy Pegar and Ruth Pegar of Havre, and Clyde Pegar of Sacramento, Calif.
LESTER ‘BUD’ PETERS
Born: May 30, 1921 - Died: March 17, 2010
Great Falls Tribune
March 21, 2010

Lester ‘Bud’ Peters

CONRAD — World War II Army Air Corps veteran Lester ‘Bud’ Peters, 88, a longtime area farmer, died of heart failure Wednesday at his family farm east of Ledger.

From 1942-1945, Bud served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during WWII. His outfit was the 49th Combat Battalion and he served with the 7th Corps, 1st Army as automotive mechanic, rifle marksman and in the creation of roads/bridges. Bud was awarded the American Theatre Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and Purple Heart for participating in the battles/campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe.

After building his new army surplus truck, Bud hauled wheat for area farmers and also played piano/accordion for East Glacier/Cut Bank banks. Following his parents’ retirement, Bud started farming the Peters’ land and married his 18-year-old bride, Vivian Spooner, at the Methodist Parsonage on Jan. 11, 1947 in Shelby. They raised three daughters plus a son on the farm east of Ledger, all four attending the same country school that Bud attended during his childhood.

Bud Peters was a talented, charismatic person whose legacy is evident in the reservoirs he dug all over the neighborhood with his Caterpillar and scraper. He was the area’s ‘Model-T Godfather’, restoring Model-T’s for family and friends, and winning many Montana 500 Model-T Endurance Runs in his 30-plus year racing career. Bud was a Music Man playing piano, accordion and harmonica at school dances, rest homes and family gatherings.

Bud is survived by his wife of 63 years, Vivian (Spooner) Peters of Ledger; daughters Susan Thorp of Cut Bank, and her three children, Rhonda Grainger of Cut Bank, and Ryan (Crystal) Thorp and Richie (Janelle) Thorp, all of Seattle; Sandra Simons of Shelby and her three children, Patrick (Shelly) Simons of Bellingham Wash., and Marilee Simons and Heidi Simons of Salt Lake City; and Sally (Rick) Aschim of Sunburst and children, Rhett and Whitney Aschim, also of Sunburst; son Terry (Julene) Peters of Ledger and their children, Cassie Peters of Bozeman, and Steven and Brett Peters of Ledger; four great-grandchildren, Madison, Paige, Gage, and Ava; and sisters Agnes ‘Dot’ Schaefer of Livingston, and Rose Pester of Stanford.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters Helen Frank of Creston, and Amelia Schaefer of Chester; and brother Donald Peters of Conrad.

Memorial donations may be made to the Conrad Dollars for Scholars Program (Jim Meier, contact) or the Toole County Education Association (Dwayne Iverson, contact).

Special memories for the family may be e-mailed to tjandkids@3rivers.net or rsaschim@northernmt.net.

Condolences may be posted online at www.whittedfuneralchapel.com and/or www.gftribune.com/obituaries.
JERRY E. PUGH

Birth: December 3, 1932 – Death: January 12, 2010

Liberty County Times

January 20, 2010

MALTA-Jerry E. Pugh, 77, an Army Veteran and retired school teacher, died Tuesday, Jan. 12 at Peace Hospice in Great Falls of natural causes.

Rosary will be Thursday, Jan. 14, at 7:00 P.M. at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mass will be 11:00 A.M., Friday, Jan. 15 at the church. Interment will be 2:00 P.M. Saturday, Jan. 16 in the Riverview Cemetery at Fort Benton with Military Honors. Kirkwood Funeral Home and Hi-Line Crematory are in charge of arrangements. Condolences maybe left for the family at www.kirkwoodfuneralhome.com.

Jerry was born December 3, 1932 in Fort Benton to Clarence and Rose (Nagengast) Pugh. Jerry graduated from Fort Benton High School in 1953 and was drafted into the Army that same year. He served in the US 7th Army and was headquartered in Germany during the Korean Conflict. He was a lifetime member of the VFW Post 4047, Fort Benton, MT. Jerry worked for the Great Northern Railroad over a span of 10 years. He graduated from Western Montana College with a BS in Education in 1960. Jerry also attended Montana State University, University of Oregon and University of South Dakota over the years. Jerry taught business/PE classes and coached 8-man football, track and basketball in Inverness, MT 1961-1978, then Dodson 1978-1992. He married his wife Darlene in 1970. Jerry enjoyed football, track, hunting, fishing, reading and traveling. Some of his favorite memories were with his dog “Patch,” family reunions and being an Assistant Coach at the East-West Shrine Game in 1975. Jerry stated “I had a good life” and wanted to be remembered as such.

Jerry is survived by his wife Darlene of Malta, children Robert Pugh of Malta, Bart (Aurika) Pugh of Denver, CO, John (Vicki) Pugh of New Canaan, CT, TSgt Matthew Pugh of Grand Forks AFB, ND, Rebecca Pugh of Great Falls; siblings Norma (Juan) Olivarez of Harlingen, TX, Jim (Shirley) Pugh of Coeur d’ Alene, ID, Cleo Pool of Waco, TX, Roger Pugh of Turlock, CA; three grandchildren Joey, Michael and Danielle, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Clarence and Rose Pugh, siblings Josephine Mulcahy and David Pugh. Memorials are suggested to Gift of Life Housing - Benefits Foundation, Great Falls, MT.
Clarence E. Ramberg was born April 19th, 1930 on the family farm in the Minneota community north of Inverness. He was the youngest of five children born to Carl and Albertina (Gustafson) Ramberg. At age six Clarence was treated for polio for six months at the Shriner’s Hospital in Spokane, Wash. He grew up on the farm and attended area country schools. He finished his formal education in Havre where he graduated from high school in 1949, then returned to the family farm.

Clarence married Marietta L. Jurenka on February 12th, 1950 in Havre. They lived on the farm and raised a family of three. In addition to farming and ranching (he raised angus cattle under the brand of “Bar VT”), Clarence kept busy with sideline ventures. He and his friend (Mel VanWechel) operated a spraying business called “C-&-M Flying Service”; Clarence handled the ground crew details and Mel did the aerial applications. During each harvest season, Clarence did custom cutting for Fresno area farmers for many years. From 1971-1976 he owned and operated the “Tip Tip Bar” in Chester. From 1978-1989 he owned the “Frontier Inn” at Dunkirk. In addition, Clarence was one of the original investors in the early development of the Meadowlake Golf Course in Columbia Falls.

The Ramberg’s retired in 1989 and moved to their home in Joplin. During their retirement years, Clarence owned numerous motor homes and enjoyed RV’ing. They traveled to Texas and Washington to visit family, but spent most of their time in Montana. They were especially fond of the Flathead Valley, where they spent many summers.

The Ramberg’s were fortunate to have relatively good health until 2008, when they moved to the assisted-living facility in Chester. Clarence and Marietta celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary with family and friends at the Wheat Country Estates this past February. In March they moved to the Liberty Medical Center for extended care. Clarence passed away at the Chester nursing home early morning on September 2nd. He was 80 years old.

Clarence had been a member of the Havre and Shelby Elks, the Montana Tavern Association, the Good Sam’s Club, and had served on the board of the Minneota Hall. In the 1960’s he successfully earned his private pilot’s license.

Clarence had many interests. In his younger years he enjoyed hunting. Throughout his life he enjoyed playing pool and cards (mainly, poker, pinochle, and whist). He loved to read mysteries and westerns, and he looked forward to the daily news on FOX. Clarence appreciated good food (he loved lobster and pork-n-beans and enjoyed a good breakfast, but hated cheese!). He took pride in his yard at their Joplin home. Even though Clarence retired, he still loved to go to the farm to enjoy the activities there.

Clarence was a very social guy. He loved to hear stories as much as he loved to tell stories, and he had an excellent memory for people, places, and events. He was also an intelligent man who was always looking for new ideas or ways to solve problems. Clarence truly loved his grandchildren and enjoyed teasing them. He always exhibited a “tough persona”, but he was actually a “softie at heart” – a loving and generous man who would give you “the shirt off his back”. During the past few years Clarence appreciated when family and
friends visited, and he always thanked them for stopping by.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers (Clifford, Lawrence, and Harold), and a grandson (Travis).

Survivors are his wife, Marietta Ramberg of Chester; 3 children and spouses, Helen (Cliff) Wickum of Chester, Lynda (Mel) Fretheim of Shelby, and Ray (Lori) Ramberg of Joplin; 7 grandchildren, Ryan (Melissa), Roy, Scott, Mariann, Zach (Courtney), Kord, and Cody; 8 great-grandchildren, Paige, Brooke, Leighla, Madison, Marrisa, Raina, Jayden, and Ryan; 1 sister, Ethel Jurenka of Boise, Idaho.; 2 sisters-in-law, Doris Ramberg of Houston, Tx. And Helen Morrison of Kalispell; 1 brother-in-law, Virgil (Martha) Jurenka of Rudyard; and numerous nephews and nieces.

It was Clarence’s wish to be cremated. His family is planning a service at a later date. Arrangements are by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester.
BARBARA JEAN (MURPHY) RATHBUN
Birth: February 27, 1932 – Death: January 7, 2010
Liberty County Times
January 13, 2010

Barbara Jean Rathbun was born February 27, 1932 in the
Rutland-Berkeley community south
of Chinook, MT. She was the
third of four children born
to Elin and Cecelia (Pasma)
Murphy. Barb grew up on the
family farm near Cleveland.
When she was growing up her
siblings affectionately called
her “Bobbi”. She received her
formal education in Chinook,
where she earned her G.E.D.
Barb continued her schooling
at Northern Montana College
in Havre, majoring in education.

In 1951 Barb enlisted in the
U.S. Army during the Korean
Conflict. She served stateside in
the Women’s Army Corps and
received her honorable dis-
charge after a 2-year military
assign. Barb returned to Mont-
ana to finish her education.
Following her graduation from
Northern Montana College,
Barb moved to Bakersfield,
California in 1956 to accept
a teaching position. While
there she met Frank Zaba-
leta, and they were married in
Las Vegas, NV in 1958. Barb
worked as a teacher in Bakers-
field for many years. During
that time she continued
her schooling at Fresno State
College, where she eventually
carried her Master’s Degree
in English. In addition to
working as a homemaker and
mother of two, Barb assisted
her husband in the operation
of the historic Bakersfield
nightclub called “Blackboard”
(at this nightclub many singers
got their early starts to be-
come successful recording ar-
ists). Barb’s husband, Frank,
died in 1976.
The following year Barb re-
united with an old Montana
friend, Robert “Bob” Rathbun, who had
recently lost his wife to cancer.
They were wed on October 3,
1980 and made their home in
the Gildford community.
Barb finished raising her two
children and became a loving
mother and grandmother to
the Rathbun family.

Barb’s third marriage was to
a Hingham area farmer, Rob-
ert “Bob” Rathbun, who had
recently lost his wife to cancer.
They were wed on December 23,
1985 and made their home in
the Hingham community.
Barb finished raising her two
children and became a loving
mother and grandmother to
the Rathbun family.

Barb’s health began to fail
the past few years and she
stayed close to home. On
Christmas Day she suffered a
stroke and was admitted to the
Hospital in Havre. She
transferred to the Northern
Montana Care Center, where
she died peacefully on Thurs-
day morning (January 7,
2010). She was 77 years old.

Over the years Barb de-
nveloped many friends in the
Hi-Line. She enjoyed attend-
ing community auction sales,
where she loved to shop for an-
tiques. She traveled throughout
the northwestern states
to antique shows to exhibit,
buy, and sell interesting relics.
Barb also became a member of
the local Cowboy Poet’s Club,
where she shared her poetry
and writings. In addition she
loved to paint landscapes, ani-
mal, and other media. There
wasn’t any challenge that Barb
wouldn’t take on, for example,
she learned welding, plasma-
cutting, and exceptional com-
puter skills. She was an avid
animal lover, especially of
dogs, cats, and horses (dur-
ing her years in California
she loved riding and showing
horses). In her quiet time at
home Barb enjoyed reading and
crossword puzzles. She was
also a good cook; her
family will remember her deli-
cious pies and chimi-changas.

She was a wonderful hostess
at family Thanksgiving din-
ers. In recent years she had
become a “sweet tooth”. Barb
enjoyed her many collections
of trinkets and memorabilia.
She served on the K-G School
board for several years and
was a strong advocate of ed-
cation.

Her philosophy for our
youth was “Give them wings
so they can fly!” She will be
remembered as a very gener-
ous and caring woman.

She was preceded in death
not only by her parents and
two husbands, but also by
a brother (Guy Murphy), a
sister (Dorothy Abbott), and
a grandson (Jason Grose-
close).

Barb is survived by her hus-
band of 29 years, Bob Rathbun
of Gildford; 2 children, Frank
(Katie) Zabaleta of Redlands,
CA and Kitty Zabaleta of
Long Beach, CA; 2 step-chil-
dren, Bill (Mariah) Rathbun
of Hingham and Bev (Ron)
Grose close of Hingham; 8
grandchildren (inc. Allyson,
Lauren, Katelyn, Brandee,
William, Larra, Zachery,
and Jeff); 1 brother, Ronald
(Penny) Murphy of Spokane,
WA; many nephews and nie-
ces; and her loving pets (dogs,
“Lilly” and “Rosie” and cats,
“Jerald” and “Jenny”).

Memorial services were
11:00 a.m. Monday (Jan.
11th) at the Gildford Baptist
Church. Pastor Eddie Fallo
officiated. A scripture reading
was shared by Will Rathbun,
the obituary was read by Jeff
Grose close, a poem entitled
“Memories of Mother” was
read by Allyson Zabaleta, and
a poem entitled “The Great
Beyond” (written by Barb) was
read by Bill Rathbun. Organ
music was provided by Sha-
ron Spicher. Vocalist, Terry
Stevenson, performed “Hymn
of Promise”. Zach Rathbun
served as greeter. A luncheon
followed the service at the
church. Barb’s ashes were
buried at the Highland Cem-
eter in Havre later in the af-
fternoon. Arrangements were
by Rockman Funeral Chapel
of Chester. Memorials may
be given to “Kitty Keepers” in
Havre or donor’s choice.
Wilbur Wesley Rolston

KREMLIN — Wilbur Wesley Rolston, 97, died of natural causes Sunday at a Havre care center.

His funeral is 10 a.m. Thursday at the Van Orsdel United Methodist Church in Havre, with burial in Highland Cemetery.

A fellowship lunch will be held at the church after the burial. Holland & Bonine Funeral Home of Havre is in charge of arrangements.

Wilbur was born May 31, 1912, in Verndale, Minn., to Charles and Ivy (Hill) Rolston. In 1917, he moved to Kremlin with his family, who settled on a homestead near there. In 1932, he began farming south of Kremlin, where he lived until he moved to the Eagles Manor in Havre.

He married Hazel Twedt on June 27, 1935, in Havre.

Wilbur served on the Kremlin School Board for many years, and helped organize the Kremlin Commercial Club, Kremlin Fire Department and the Hill County Weed Control District; he also was a member of the Hill County Planning Council and the Kremlin Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Hazel, on July 22, 1988; a brother, Floyd Rolston; and sisters Myrtle Rolston and Marlys Danell.

Wilbur is survived by his daughters, Margaret Leonard of Sammamish, Wash., and Edna Gregory of Kremlin; a son, Charles Rolston of Shoreview, Minn.; six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions in Wilbur’s honor may be made to the Kremlin Fire Department or to the new building projects at the Havre Agricultural Experiment Station.

Condolences may be posted online at hollandbonine@q.com and/or gftribune.com/obituaries.
DORNE RUTTER
Birth: February 14 1931 – Death: January 7, 2010
Havre Daily News
January 29, 2010

DORNE RUTTER obituary

She is survived by her four children, Chuck, Larry, Rodger, and Wendy; and many grandchildren; and two remaining sisters, Lorena and Jeanie.

Services were held at the Yelm Cemetery in Yelm, Wash., on Jan. 21, 2010, where both Dorene's and her husband Gene's (who died many years previously) ashes were laid to rest together.

"Grandma Dorene" was much loved and will be greatly missed.
CHOTEAU — Nevaeh Rose Bouma Scott, infant daughter of Kami Bouma and John Scott of Choteau, was born and died of complications from an untreatable neural tube defect, anencephaly, Wednesday at a Great Falls hospital.

Private family graveside services are Monday in Choteau Cemetery. Gorder Funeral Home of Choteau is handling arrangements.

Nevaeh was born March 10, 2010, in Great Falls, to Kami Bouma and John Scott of Choteau. She weighed 4 pounds, 7 ounces, and was 16-½ inches long. Nevaeh, whose name is an anagram of "heaven," was born with an untreatable neural tube defect, anencephaly, that allowed her to live only a few hours, but she spent that time warm, safe, comfortable and surrounded by the love of her whole family. She looked adorable in her little onesie that said "Mommy Loves Me," and with little pink booties on her feet knitted lovingly by her auntie Kyra. The gaze of her deep blue eyes and her soft cooing captured the hearts of everyone whose lives she touched.

In her brief time here, she brought immeasurable joy to her parents, who are so very proud of her fighting spirit and her beauty. In addition to her parents, Nevaeh is survived by her grandparents, Jim and Barb Bouma of Choteau, and Raymond and Kathy Scott of Fairfield; her great-grandparents, Ralph and Cornelia Bouma of Conrad, Betty Nickol of Ledger, John and Lorna Kennedy of Great Falls, and Mary and Cecil Seright of Fort Benton.

Memorials are suggested to the March of Dimes or the National Anencephaly Foundation.

Condolences may be left online at www.gorderfuneralhome.com and/or www.gftribune.com/obituaries.
Fredrick Alexander Smith
Birth: June 2, 1957 – Death: February 15, 2010
Liberty County Times
February 24, 2010

Fred graduated from MSU-Northern in 1999 and went to work in the Water Plant in Chinook. They first moved to Sun Prairie near Great Falls and then to Carson City, Nevada. They then moved to the Los Angeles, California area before settling into Vallejo, California where he has lived for the past several years.

Chris gave his father his first grandchild, Jasmine Marie. She was born in Havre on November 22 of 1999. Chris fathered another child, Tristan Alexander, on December 12, 2008. The child was born in Great Falls. He and his family presently live in Loveland, Colorado.

Fred sent Sussie back to Korea on several occasions to visit her family. Sometimes he accompanied her and sometimes he did not, depending on their financial situation at the time.

Fred was preceded in death by his father Henry Alexander Smith, Jr.; grandparents Marion F. and June Amy Kelley, and Henry Alexander Sr. and Bessie May Smith.

Survivors are his wife, Suzanne Smith of Vallejo, Calif.; sons, Christopher Alexander Smith of Loveland, Colo., Henry Adam and Michael Timothy of Vallejo; mother Amy Belle of Chinook; brother, Shelby Edward of Havre; sisters, Becky Schaffner (Virgil) of Casper, Wyo., Betty Jean Philp of Havre; grandchildren, Jasmine Marie and Tristan Alexander of Loveland; and many aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins.

Fred was born on June 2, 1957 in the army hospital in Germany. He traveled around with the family as his father, a career soldier, was moved from one duty station to another. A couple of times during his youth those stops brought him to Chester to live near his grandparents. His family settled in Havre when he was still in school and Havre is where he would eventually meet his first wife, June Marie Dion, who went by the name of Tami.

Fred joined the Army September 3, 1974 and was given a compassionate discharge July 2, 1976 due to his father’s failing health. He and Tami were married October 23, 1976. The couple moved to Bozeman where Fred attended college while Tami worked at the Bunn.

Fred attended college in Napa, Calif. in 1984, then moved to Fort Carson, Colorado where he has lived for the past several years.
James Stores

Our brother, father, husband, and grandpa, James Marvin Stores passed away January 17, 2010 after losing his life to cancer.

Jim was born March 13, 1948 in Shelby, Montana and spent his childhood on the family farm south of Chester. He moved to Idaho at the age of sixteen and lived there for many years, later moving to the Seattle, WA area where he is survived by his wife, Kim, three step-children, Trish, Ricki and Jessica. He is also survived by his daughter, Misty, his sons, Justin and Levi, all of Seattle. His daughter, Rhonda, sons Josh and Jeremy of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. His sister, Evelyn Eveland of Chester, his brothers Fred and Dennis - Seattle. His brother, John, sisters Joanne and Jeanne of Coeur d'Alene. He is survived by eight grandchildren, his aunts, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim was a big-hearted man who enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. One of his favorite things to do was to take his granddaughter to IHop for pancakes. He enjoyed working on old cars, and driving his John Deere tractor. He loved country music, and liked a lot of the old Elvis Presley songs.

We laid Jim to rest next to his mother. He is at peace, now.
PATRICIA ANN (BERKHOLTZ) SWANK
Born: March 17, 1928 – Died: April 11, 2010
Liberty County Times
April 21, 2010

Pat Swank
Patricia Ann (Berkholtz) Swank was born March 17, 1928 at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. She was one of four children born to Eleanor Weber and Edwin Berkholtz. Pat grew up in Wisconsin and received her formal education there. She graduated from high school at Juneau, Wisconsin in 1946.

In the mid-1950’s Pat came to Montana. She worked at the local telephone company before she met a Chester area farmer, Edward G. Swank. Pat & Ed were married in Havre on February 28, 1959. They lived & worked in the Chester community during their 45 years of married life. Ed died of cancer on August 24th, 2004. Pat remained in their Chester home and continued to be active in the community until 2006, when deteriorating health took her to the Wheat Country Estates. She resided at the assisted-living facility until September of 2009, then transferred to the local nursing home. Pat died at the Liberty Medical Center on Sunday evening (April 11, 2010) from complications of COPD. She was 82 years old.

The Swank’s were longtime members of the Chester United Methodist Church. Pat’s personal hobbies included cross-stitching, reading, jigsaw puzzles, & collecting Hummel figurines. She enjoyed all animals; she kept many house pets and was known to adopt lambs, goats, peacocks, monkeys, & other barnyard animals. Last, but not least, Pat loved spending quality time with her children & grandchildren.

She was preceded in death not only by her husband & parents, but also by an infant son (Raymond), a son-in-law (Lawrence Powell), her sister (Rosemary Ketteler), and 2 brothers (Richard & Wallace “Bud” Berkholtz).

Pat is survived by her daughter, Sherill Powell-Balsley (and husband, “Fuzzy”) of Valier; her son, Scott Swank (and wife, Cheri) of Chester; 6 grandchildren, Richard, Jason, Edward, Adam (and wife, Nicole), Katie, & Michael; 1 great-granddaughter, Shayla; and many nieces & nephews.

Pat bequeathed her body to the University of North Dakota (School of Medicine) in Grand Forks, N.Dak. Following completion of anatomical studies at the university, she will be cremated and her ashes will be returned to Chester to be interred with her loving husband, Ed. Pat requested there be no formal funeral services; however, a reception & gathering of friends was held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday (April 17th) at the Roadhouse in Chester.

Memorials may be given in Pat’s memory to the Wheat Country Estates in Chester or the I.F.A.W. (“International Fund for Animal Welfare”), 290 Summer Street, Yarmouth Port, Mass. 02675.

Local arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester.
HAVRE — Kathryn “Katie” (Klenk) Velk, 87, died of natural causes Sunday at her home in Havre.

A memorial service will take place at a later date. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Holland & Bonine Funeral Home.

Katie was born Oct. 22, 1922, in Kischinev, Romania, to Samuel and Helen (Butuk) Klenk. She was raised and educated in Romania and Austria. She obtained her LPN nursing certification and traveled around Europe.

She met William Velk during World War II, and they married Sept. 24, 1947, in Inverness, Mont. Together they settled and farmed in Inverness, and later moved to Havre and farmed north of Havre.

Katie was a friendly person who loved people. She enjoyed reading, English horseback riding, ballet and cooking. She was a devoted wife, mother and wonderful grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Katie is survived by her husband, William “Bill” Velk of Havre; daughters Sandy (George) Price of Vonore, Tenn., and Patty (Bill) Schulz of Great Falls, Mont.; sons Vic (Candace) Velk of Havre, Steve (Jackie) Velk of Minot, N.D., and Lauren (Mary) Velk of Ronan, Mont.; 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Memorials in Katie’s name may be made to St. Jude School or St. Jude Church, 430 7th Ave., Havre, MT 59501.

Condolences may be posted online at hollandbonine@q.com and/or gftribune.com/obituaries.
MARGARET "PEGGY" LULU (ANDERSON) WICKS
Birth: August 4, 1927 – Death: January 23, 2010
Liberty County Times
February 3, 2010

Peggy Wicks

Margaret “Peggy” Lulu (Anderson) Wicks was born August 4, 1927 in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. She was the third of four children born to William and Mabel (Lefley) Anderson. Peggy’s parents homesteaded east of Milk River in the Kippenville District, where she spent her childhood years and graduated from ninth grade. After graduation she moved to McGrath, Alberta where she found employment at the cannery and the Golden Fleece Mill. She worked on the lines at the mill making wool blankets to support the war effort.

In 1947 Peggy met Bertram E Wicks at a dance in Coutts, Alberta. They were married on July 20, 1948 in Elko, Nevada and enjoyed 66 years together until Bert’s death on November 20, 1994.

The Wicks made their first home in Eureka, where they farmed. Their first four children (Barbara, Charlene, Norma, and Roxy) were born during those years in Eureka. In 1953 Bert and Peggy returned to the Wicks family homestead in the Minnesota community 35 miles north of Inverness. Children Cindy, Susan, Rhonda, Sharon, Norma Jean, Mark and grandson Kelly were born during this time. Peggy & Bert farmed until 1984, when they retired and moved to Rudyard.

In 1988, on the 50th anniversary of Peggy’s arrival in the United States, she passed her citizenship test. For the first time in her 50 years of residence in the U.S., she was able to call herself an “American Citizen” (and could finally VOTE!).

Peggy was a long time Minnesota Friendly Club member and an avid supporter of 4-H; she always encouraged her children to try many different 4-H projects and supported them in many events. She enjoyed her activities at the Rudyard Senior Center where she served on the board. She was very proud of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, always willing to share the latest photographs with friends and family. She was pleased to be a part of their lives and support their many achievements.

Peggy spent 26 years in Rudyard enjoying good health, her family, and the senior center. In the spring of 2009 she was diagnosed with cancer. Peggy lost her battle on Saturday evening (January 23, 2010) at the Liberty Medical Center in Chester. She was 82 years old.

Peggy was preceded in death by her parents (William & Mabel Anderson), her husband (Bertram Wicks), and infant daughter (Norma Jean Wicks).

She is survived by her brothers, Harold (Kay) Anderson of Milk River, Alberta and Darrel (Jan) Anderson of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; her sister, Mildred Thompson of Milk River, Alberta; and a sister-in-law, Pearl Wicks of Chester.

Peggy and Bertram raised nine children and one special grandson. Survivors include Barbara (Gary) Cady of Joplin, Charlene (Lloyd) Mandeville of Bozeman, Norman (Joan) Wicks of Twin Bridges, Roxy (Wayne) Gillespie of Kevin, Cindy Davis of Morrisstown, MN, Susan (Gary) McDonald of Kalispell, Rhonda (Dean) Richardson of Belgrade, Sharon (Ronny) Reed of Chinook, Mark (Beth) Wicks of Inverness, and grandson, Kelly Wicks of Rudyard. Peggy is also survived by 25 grandchildren, Christopher and Jon (Joanna) Cady; Kristen, Ryan, and Erin Mandeville; Lacey (Chris) Roberts and Kari Gillespie; Terri Medina; Stacy and Kim Wicks; Nicholas and Nicholas Davis; Kory and Jeremy MacDonald; Amanda (Kyle) Haller, Lindsey Thompson, and Victoria Richardson; Mary, Tracy, Anne and Ross Reed; Hunter, Choral and Jewel Wicks; 7 great-grandchildren, Huston Mandeville, Kailyn Forsberg, Juliana Cady, Hannah Haller, Landon Haller, Kyle Haller Jr., and Janae Roberts; and numerous nieces & nephews.

Funeral services were conducted at 11:00 a.m. Saturday (Jan. 30th) at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Rudyard by Pastor Arden Barden.

Christy Fossen provided piano music and played for the congregational hymn, “The Old Rugged Cross”. A vocal duet of Joshua and Traci Sherwood performed “Amazing Grace” with accompaniment by Wendy Brown. Ushers were Ken Brown (active) & Gary LaValley (honorary). Pallbearers were Kelly Wicks, Kory and Jeremy McDonald, Christopher Cady, Christopher Roberts, Kirt Thompson, and Michael & Aaron Brown. Honorary bearers were Peggy’s grandchildren & great-grandchildren. Burial followed in the Rudyard Cemetery. A luncheon was provided by Our Savior’s WELCA. Undesignated memorials will be given to the Rudyard Senior Citizen’s Center. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.
MARGARET LULU "PEGGY" (ANDERSON) WICKS

Born: August 4, 1927 at Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada...
Died: January 23, 2010 at Chester, Montana, Liberty County...
Age: 82 years ... 5 months ... 19 days

A Mother’s Love...
A mother’s love is something that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice & pain;
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may,
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away.
It is patient and forgiving when others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking...
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation...
A many splendored miracle man cannot understand;
And another wondrous evidence of God’s tender guiding hand.
Helen Steiner Rice

Funeral Services: 11:00 a.m. Saturday (Jan. 30th, 2010)
at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Rudyard, Montana

Officiant: Pastor Arden K. Barden
Pianist: Christy Fossen
Congregational Hymn: “The Old Rugged Cross”...

Vocal Duet: Joshua & Traci Sherwood
Vocal Tribute: “Amazing Grace”...
Accompanist: Wendy Brown
Ushers: Ken Brown (active) & Gary LaValley (honorary)
Pallbearers: Kelly Wicks, Kory & Jeremy McDonald,
Christopher Cady, Christopher Roberts, Kirt Thompson,
Michael Brown, and Aaron Brown
Honorary Bearers: Peggy’s loving grandchildren and
great-grandchildren

Interment: Family plot at the Rudyard Cemetery

...A luncheon will follow in the church basement...
Memorials: Rudyard Senior Citizen’s Center...
Arrangements: Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester, Mt.
Richard Melvin Wickum

Birth: December 25, 1926 – Death: January 23, 2010

Liberty County Times
January 27, 2010

Richard Melvin Wickum was born on Christmas Day, December 25, 1926 at Lothair, Montana. He was the youngest of four children born to Richard and Boelah (Standiford) Wickum. He grew up on the family homestead near the Sweetgrass Hills south of Haystack Butte. Richard started his formal education at the Wickum country school, finished his schooling in Chester, and then began working on the family farm.

He married Betty Lou Verstegen on September 21, 1950. Four days later Richard left Montana for military service in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Japan during the Korean Conflict. He served two years, then received his honorable discharge.

Richard returned to Montana to farm and ranch with his brother. In the years that followed they expanded their farming operations with the acquisition of the Porseh & Hutcheson farms. Richard officially retired in 1989 and leased his place to his sons, but continued to live on the ranch to offer advice and assistance when needed.

Richard and Betty moved to the Sweetgrass Lodge in November of 2008. They enjoyed quality time with family and friends and looked forward to their daily lunches in downtown Chester. Richard's health recently deteriorated, so he transferred to the Liberty County Nursing Home for extended care on December 22nd. On his 83rd birthday his family took him to the ranch where Richard thoroughly enjoyed the sights, sounds, smells, and spirits of Christmas Day. He continued to reside at the rest home, where he died peacefully on Saturday morning (January 23, 2010).

Richard was a lifelong member of the Trinity Lutheran Church north of Lothair. Past memberships included the VFW. Post in Chester and the Eagles Club in Great Falls. The Wickums loved to dance and had been active in an area square-dancing club. They also enjoyed traveling in their RV and made many trips throughout the United States, including Alaska and Mexico. They also made a memorable trip to Hawaii, where they cruised the Islands.

Richard was proud of his ranch and loved working with cows and horses. He frequently reminisced about those trail drives in the early years and often spoke of his favorite horses, "Babe" and "Honey." In later years he enjoyed snowmobiling and 4-wheeling. His other interests included hunting, fishing, and golfing. Richard loved being outdoors so gardening, yardwork, and rock-hounding were relaxing pastimes. During his quiet time at home he enjoyed reading farm and ranch publications or watching "old westerns" and golf on television. Just for the fun of it, he spent endless hours polishing his special collection of belt buckles and rings. And he never passed up a chance to enjoy his favorite meal, chicken fried steak!

Richard was a quiet and reserved man who was loved and respected by his family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Betty Wickum of Chester; 4 sons, Steve (Tonia) Wickum of Chester, Mark (Elayne) Wickum of Chester, Rick (Deb) Wickum of Chester, and John Wickum of Shelby; 1 daughter, Sherry Wickum of Sheridan, Wyoming; 10 grandchildren (inc. Justin, Chad, Jason, Garrett, Delaney, Rachel, Wyatt, & Libby Wickum and Cassie & Becka Stone); 4 great-grandchildren (inc. Emma, Lily, Gunnar, and Grace); his brother, Roy (Maxine) Wickum of Chester; his sister, Nellie Diemert of Chester; and numerous nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister (Marjorie Sutton), and a granddaughter (Magen Wickum).

Funeral services were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday (Jan. 26th) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester. Pastor Val Metropoulos officiated. The obituary was shared by family friend, Ken Jeppesen. Prelude and postlude music was provided by pianist, Karen Stack, and fiddlist, Ben Ish. The vocal duet of Mary Ann Zorn and Stefani Wanken performed "On the Wings of a Snow White Dove" and "In the Garden". Vocalist, Bryan Oswood, sang "Amazing Grace". A congregational hymn was "The Old Rugged Cross". Ushers were nephews: Dennis Diemert, Jim Sutton, and Cliff Wickum. Richard's grandchildren served as pallbearers. Graveside services followed at the Chester Cemetery.

Grandson, Jason Wickum, made the veteran's flag presentation after military "taps". A luncheon was held at the church. Arrangements were by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester.
RICHARD MELVIN WICKUM

Born: December 25, 1926 at Lothair, Montana
Died: January 23, 2010 at Chester, Montana
Age: 83 years ... 0 months ... 29 days

When I must leave you for a little while,
Please go on bravely with a gallant smile.
And for my sake and in my name,
Live on and do all things the same –
Spend not your life in empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways –
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer,
And I, in turn, will comfort you and hold you near.

...Helen Steiner Rice

Richard’s Loving Family: Wife, Betty; 4 sons, Steve, Mark, Rick, & John; 1 daughter, Sherry; 10 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; 1 brother, Roy; 1 sister, Nellie; and many in-law’s, nephews, & nieces. Richard was preceded in death by his parents (Richard & Buelah), sister (Marjorie), and granddaughter (Magen).

Funeral Services: 2:00 p.m. Tuesday (Jan. 26th) at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Chester, Montana

Officiant: Pastor Val Metropoulos

Obituary Reading: Ken Jeppesen

Musicians: Organist, Karen Stack... Fiddler, Ben Ish... Soloist, Bryan Oswood... Vocal duet, Mary Ann Zorn & Steffani Wanken

Ushers: Nephews, Dennis Diemert, Jim Sutton, and Cliff Wickum

Pallbearers: Grandchildren, Justin Wickum, Chad Wickum, Jason Wickum, Cassie Stone, Garrett Wickum, Wyatt Wickum, Becka Stone, Delaney Wickum, Rachel Wickum, and Libby Wickum & Great-Grandchildren, Emma, Lily, Gunnar, & Grace

Interment: Chester Cemetery...
Committal Prayers by Pastor Val...
Military flag presentation by grandson, Jason...

...A luncheon will follow at the church...

Arrangements: Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester, Mt.
Rawlin M. Zell

Rawlin M. Zell, 91, a lifelong farmer from Shelby, died of natural causes Monday at his home. Visitation is 1 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Whitted Funeral Chapel. His funeral is 11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral chapel, with burial in Mountain View Cemetery. A reception will follow at the First Baptist Church in Shelby's fellowship hall.

Survivors include his wife, Deloris (McDonough) Zell of Shelby; daughters Lucille (Larry) Smith of Shelby, Helen (Steve) Leck of Galata, and Colette (Duane) Zimmerman of Wolf Point; son Hank (Wanda) Zell of Shelby; brother Raymond Zell of Shelby; 10 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; stepdaughter Pam (Tom) Bogan of Cheyenne, Wyo.; stepsons Dennis McDonough of Jackson, Mich., Michael (Patty) McDonough of Cut Bank; and Pat (Jeanne) McDonough of Shelby; 12 stepgrandchildren; eight step-great-grandchildren; and one stepgreat-great-granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Betty; a son, Larry; sisters Anneta (Meech) McDowell and Alta Schiess; brothers Russell, Wilbur, Rubin and Benji; and one great-granddaughter.

Rawlin was born June 21, 1918, to Henry and Celia (Allen) Zell on the family farm, where he grew up and attended Shelby schools. He married Betty McDermott in 1941, and, after 49 years of marriage, she passed away in 1990. He then married Deloris McDonough in 1995.

Family and farming were the main things in Rawlin's life. He was a farmer up to the day he died. He enjoyed Montana history, riding horses in the Sweet Grass Hills, fishing, traveling, hunting and dancing. Rawlin was also very musically inclined and played guitar, clarinet, sax and piccolo, and he yodeled.

Memorials are suggested to the Tree of Life at the Marias Medical Center.

Condolences may be posted online at www.whittedfuneralchapel.com and/or www.gftribune.com/obituaries.