

# Chris Raaen, Former Columbia Falls Mayor, Dies At 79

*D-20 Jan 1970*  
*23 Jan 1970*  
COLUMBIA FALLS — Chris Raaen, 79, former mayor and a resident of Columbia Falls died in Sheridan, Wyo., Tuesday.

Mr. Raaen was born in Norway Feb. 15, 1890. He later came to the United States as a young man and farmed at Inverness. He then served overseas during World War I and following his discharge came to Columbia Falls in 1920. He was a charter member of Columbia Falls VFW Post 5650.

Mr. Raaen had worked most of his life as a contractor and carpenter, and had built the Columbia Falls Post Office, which opened in 1953. He had served two terms as mayor.

Mr. Raaen was preceded in death by his wife and by one daughter. He is now survived by one son, Dennis Raaen of St. Paul, Minn., and two grandsons.

Funeral services for Mr. Raaen will be conducted Monday at 2 p.m. from the Van Leuven Funeral Home in Columbia Falls with the Rev. Douglas Thorkelson of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, officiating. Interment will follow in the Woodlawn Cemetery with military graveside rites.

## *5 Jan 1970* John Raitor Funeral Rites Announced

*D-3 Jan 1970*  
John A. Raitor, 78, died in Kalispell Saturday evening.

Requiem mass will be celebrated in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Ronan Wednesday at 11 a.m. Rosary will be recited Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Catholic Church at Ronan. Interment will be made in the family plot in the Calvary Cemetery in Ronan.

Mr. Raitor was born March 26, 1891 in Gailsborough, N. D., to Julia and Paul Raitor. He moved with his family to Choateau in 1900 and in 1905 came to Kalispell where he attended school. Upon graduation he went to Spokane, Wash., where he attended telegraphy school. He later was employed as a telegraph operator in Washington and Hedley, B. C. He was also employed as a relief operator and depot operator for the Great Northern Railway at Wolf Point, Kevin and Brady until his retirement.

Mr. Raitor was a veteran of World War I.

He is survived by a brother Frank Raitor of Ronan and a sister, Anne Raitor, of Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. Raitor's body was forwarded by the Waggener & Campbell Chapel to the Shrider Funeral Home in Ronan which will have charge of the services.

# *D-29 Aug 1970* Nellie Raiber, 73 Whitefish, Dies

WHITEFISH — Mrs. Nellie Catherine Raiber, 73, died at her home south of Whitefish Saturday morning.

Mrs. Raiber was born May 8, 1897, at Breda, Holland, a daughter of Jacob and Marie Voermans. In 1908, she moved with her parents to Calgary, Alta., where they lived until 1913 when they moved to Coram.

In 1914, they moved to the Voerman ranch east of Whitefish. In 1917, she was married to Herman Van Aken at Eugene, Ore. and in 1921, they established the Van Aken Gardens where she has lived since that time.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Aken were one of three growers of French

Endive which has been a feature product of the Van Aken Gardens and at the present time Van Aken Gardens are the commercial growers of French Endive on a commercial basis.

In 1932, she was preceded in death by her husband, Herr and in 1941, she was married to Matt Raiber who preceded in death in 1965.

Mrs. Raiber had made a trip to Holland this summer with sister and nephew to visit relatives there.

She was an ardent fisherman. She was a member of St. Charles Catholic Church and the Altar Society.

She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. J. (Mary) Vervoeke of Tiffin, five grandchildren, eight grandchildren; one sister Anton (Mary) Braig of Wolf Point and four brothers, Adrian, Joe, John and Jake Vervoeke all of Whitefish. She was preceded in death by one brother, Andy in 1967.

Funeral arrangements for Mrs. Raiber will be announced by the Austin Funeral

# Miss Rayson Rites in California

4 Jan 1970

An era in the Methodist Church passes with the death of Miss Beulah Rayson, 86. She died Jan. 4 at Robincroft Retirement Home, Pasadena, Calif.

Miss Rayson was Columbia Falls Methodist Church minister from June 27, 1950 until Jan. 2, 1952.

A Hungry Horse News editorial, Nov. 30, 1951, described her as follows: "Miss Beulah Rayson hasn't been here long, but she is leaving a definite imprint on the community. Miss Rayson is a down-to-earth individual, and her sermons presented in a strong, full voice, make sense.

"Now 68, and having completed 40 years in church work, Miss Rayson is leaving Jan. 2 for Pasadena, Calif., where she will enter "Robincroft," home for retired deaconesses and missionaries.

"We all assume that ministers preach the word of God. Yet the preacher comes a little closer Sunday morning, when the announcements from the pulpit include: "Will one or two of the brethren please get a ladder and look into the stovepipe and see if there are rags or something causing the stove to smoke."

Occasion was the 60th anniversary of the Methodist Church in Columbia Falls.

The temperamental stove which smoked many congregations and Sunday school students was an oil drum adapted to stove use. It had replaced the church's first stove, a cast iron one, arranged in order to send heat to the front of the church.

Miss Rayson lived in the old, large parsonage which has since been torn down and replaced by the Methodist Education Building. She was pleased when a congregation member provided her with an icebox for the kitchen.

Her interest in church and



Miss Beulah Rayson

congregation continued after retiring.

Columbia Falls ladies likewise retained an interest in their friend — remembrances for Miss Rayson's birthday anniversaries and Christmases were sent. Beulah Circle of the WSCS, now Beulah Study Group, was named for her.

She was born Dec. 18, 1883, in Eudora, Kansas, and was graduated from Kansas City National Training School in 1911. Miss Rayson went to Trinity Methodist Church, Denver, in 1915 and was church deaconess there for 22 years. She was pastor of the West Side Methodist Church, Kalispell, now used by Salvation Army, in 1940 to 1945. She also had served in Great Falls, Cuibertson and Bainville churches.

Miss Rayson referred to her years in Montana as "wonderful, unforgettable experience" and said she "wouldn't have missed those closing 14 years

of her 40 years service for anything."

There was reference to learning to drive a car at 61 years, shoveling snow, cutting wood, and learning to skate on ice.

Memorials to Robincroft Retirement Home have been suggested.

Jan 30, 1970

## Norman Reese Dies In Paso Robles, Calif.

Word has been received of the death of Norman E. Reese, 57, Paso Robles, Calif., formerly of Columbia Falls.

Mr. Reese was born Feb. 18, 1912 in Bemidji, Minn., son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe J. Reese, Kalispell.

Survivors in addition to his parents include his wife, Methyl and five children: Dalles, Norman, Jr., Darlene, Mrs. Joe (Jewel) Garcia and Mrs. Rudy (Joy) Martinez all of Paso Robles, and 20 grandchildren.

Also surviving are two sisters: Mrs. Ole (Beulah) Carlson, Columbia Falls, and Mrs. Sig (Mildred) Pedersen, Kalispell, and three brothers: Fred Reese, Paso Robles; Vern Reese, Quartzite, Ariz.; Joe Reese, Jr., Anaconda.

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28 Jan 70

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## Reichenbach Rites To Be In Nebraska

Mrs. Geneva Frances Reichenbach, 80, 1100 East Idaho, died in Kalispell Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. Reichenbach was born May 21, 1889 at Roseland, Neb., a daughter of Anderson and Mary McCoy. She had attended schools in DeSota, Neb.

Dec. 6, 1906, she was married to Morris Reichenbach at Logan, Iowa. The couple returned to Nebraska where they continued to live. Mrs. Reichenbach had resided in Lincoln, Neb., from 1919 until 1963 when she came to Kalispell.

She was a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was a 50-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star 148 of Lincoln.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Morris, in 1948 and is now survived by five sons, Glen of Pasadena, Calif., Fred of Chicago, Ill., Charles of Omaha, Neb., Donald of Nebraska City, Neb. and Jack Reichenbach of McCook, Neb.; two daughters, Mrs. Arling (Ruth) Delhay and Mrs. Lawrence (Mary) Trumble, both of Kalispell.

The body is being forwarded by the Johnson Funeral Home to the Metcalf Funeral Home in Lincoln for services and interment.

9 June 1970

## Robert Rich Dies; Rites Pending

Robert Henry Rich, 67, died Tuesday in Kalispell.

Mr. Rich was born April 22, 1903, in Butte to Robert and Edna Rich. He attended Butte schools and came to the Flathead about 1942 and had resided here since. He worked as a cook in lumber camps and the Forest Service.

May 22, 1948, he was married to Ella Kraft in Kalispell and she survives him. He is survived also by a stepdaughter, Edith Olson, Evergreen.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by the Waggener & Campbell Funeral Home.

## Mrs. Ridpath Dies; Rites To Be In Columbia Falls

COLUMBIA FALLS - Mrs. Grace C. Ridpath, 82, died in Bozeman where she had been making her home since last fall.

She was born at Custer, Mich., November 25, 1887. In June 1905 she was married to George W. Ridpath at Sandusky, Mich., and in 1912 she with her family moved to Coburg, Mont., where in the spring of 1913 they engaged in farming. They farmed there until coming to the Flathead Valley in 1936 to make their home at Columbia Falls.

Mrs. Ridpath was preceded in death by her husband in 1962 and is now survived by one son, Roland K. Ridpath of Columbia Falls; one daughter, Mrs. W.O. (Jane) Forsgren of Bozeman; one brother, Arthur Kenny of Seattle; three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Mrs. Ridpath will be announced by the Van Leuven Funeral Home of Columbia Falls.

1970

## John Roberts, Hungry Horse, Dies At 63

COLUMBIA FALLS - John Price Roberts, 63, died at his home in Hungry Horse Wednesday afternoon.

He was born at Dadaway County, Missouri, June 6, 1907. He grew to manhood in Missouri and then moved to Anaconda. From there he moved to Spokane where he was employed by Kaiser Aluminum until moving to Hungry Horse in 1956 and had been employed by Anaconda Aluminum Co. at Columbia Falls.

Mr. Roberts was a member of Columbia Falls Lodge 89 AF&AM and also a member of Eagles Aerie 2 of Spokane.

May 15, 1957 he was married to Alice M. Cowan at Columbia Falls and is now survived by her at the family home in Hungry Horse; two sons, Maj. Donald J. Roberts with the U.S. Army at Boston, Mass., and Willis D. Roberts of Seattle; two brothers, Stanley Roberts and Wayman Roberts, both of Stanberry, Mo., and one sister, Mrs. Crystal Anderson of St. Joseph, Mo.

Funeral services for Mr. Roberts will be announced by the Van Leuven Funeral Home. Memorials to the Shrine Crippled Childrens Hospital have been suggested by the family.

## R. Robinson Dies; Rites 18 Pending Aug 70

11 Aug 1970

**WHITEFISH**— Robert Martin Robinson, 42, died in Lincoln, Ill., Tuesday morning.

Mr. Robinson was born Oct. 7, 1927 at Peoria, Ill. He had attended schools and spent his entire life in Illinois. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Robinson of Happy Valley, Whitefish; and one sister, Mrs. Frank (Louise) Phillips of Whitefish.

The body is being forwarded to the Austin Funeral Home where funeral arrangements will be announced.

**WHITEFISH** — Funeral services for Robert Martin Robinson were conducted from the Austin Chapel Monday with the Rev. Robert Laird of the First United Presbyterian Church officiating. Whitefish Lions Club members who served as casket bearers were: Harry Grover, Gene Hedman, Ted Lund, Ted Mickle Sr., John Peterson and Eskil Swanson. Interment was made in the Whitefish Cemetery.

## Mrs. Robischon, 77, Dies; Rites Set 9 Sep 70

8 Sept 1970

Eugenia A. Robischon, 77, died Tuesday in Park Place Nursing Home at Great Falls.

Mrs. Robischon was born Feb. 3, 1893, in Staples, Minn. and grew to womanhood and received her early schooling there.

On April 13, 1915, she was married to Frank J. Robischon and who now survives her at the family home. The couple came to Kalispell in 1918.

Mrs. Robischon was a member of St. Matthew's Catholic Church for 52 years and a member of the Altar Society. She was preceded in death by a son, Franz, in Reno, Nev. in 1967.

Mrs. Robischon is now survived by her widower, Frank; three sons, Thomas G. of Los Angeles, Calif., James A. of Butte, and John M. of Olympia, Wash.; three daughters, Mrs.

M.F. (Mary) Kekker of Great Falls, Mrs. J.A. (Jean) Koppang of Great Falls and Mrs. J.J. (Gertrude) Anderson of Seattle; 26 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; a brother and a sister in Minnesota, a brother in Wisconsin and a sister in Seattle, Wash.

Requiem high mass will be celebrated Thursday at 10 a.m. in the St. Matthew's Catholic Church with the Rev. J.B. Plummer as celebrant. Rosary will be recited tonight at 8 o'clock in the Waggener & Campbell Chapel. Interment will be in the Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

D-12 Aug 1970  
14 Aug 70

## Stilden Roll Funeral Rites Announced

Stilden A. Roll, 64, died in Kalispell Wednesday evening.

Mr. Roll was born April 8, 1906, at English, Ind., a son of James and Louise Roll. He had attended schools in Indiana where he had received his Life Teachers Certificate. In 1950, he moved to the Flathead Valley where he had taught school at Hungry Horse and Essex until his retirement. He moved to Kalispell about 9½ years ago and has resided here since that time.

He was a member of the St. Matthew's Catholic Church.

He is survived by two sons, Arlen Roll of Missoula and Dale Grant Roll of North Bend, Wash.; one daughter, Mrs. Gloria McMichael of Kalispell; two brothers, Charles of Custer, and William in Indiana; three sisters, Mrs. Belvia King, Mrs. Lida Nash and Mrs. Martha Haycox, all in Indiana, and eight grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Grover, Henry and James.

Rosary for Mr. Roll will be recited in the Johnson Chapel at 7:30 this evening. Requiem high mass will be celebrated in St. Matthew's Catholic Church at 10 a.m. Saturday with the Rev. Bruce Plummer as celebrant. Interment will be in the Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Spilden A. Roll, 64, Kalispell, was found dead in his room at the Kalispell Hotel at 8:20 p.m. Wednesday.

Flathead County Undersheriff-Deputy Coroner Charles Rhodes said Roll apparently died of natural causes.

Funeral arrangements for Roll are pending at the Johnson Funeral Home.

**Rose Funeral**  
*15 Aug 1970*  
**Rites Set For**  
**Wednesday**  
*17 Aug 70*

**COLUMBIA FALLS** — Funeral services for Crynus S. Rose, 51, who died Saturday afternoon of injuries sustained in an automobile accident Friday night, will be conducted Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the Van Leuven Funeral Home. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Mr. Rose was born at Dagmar Dec. 18, 1918, where he made his home until moving to Plentywood. After moving to Plentywood he entered the U.S. Army where he served during World War II. Following his discharge from the service he returned to Plentywood and was engaged in construction work as a truck driver which he continued to follow most of his life.

In 1951 he moved to Conrad and in 1965 moved to the Conram and Hungry Horse area.

Mr. Rose was married to Ann Harshbarger at Plentywood in June 1946.

He is now survived by two sons, Gordon Rose with the U.S. Marine Corps stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif. and Daniel Rose of Hungry Horse; two daughters, Vicki and Julia Rose, both of Hungry Horse; three brothers, Bud Rose and Tony Rose, both of Great Falls, and John Rose of Big Sandy; six sisters, Mrs. Ethel Myles of Plentywood, Mrs. Ella Wolf of Great Falls, Mrs. Maybelle Gleason of Puyallup, Wash., Mrs. Addie Hamilton of Dillon, Mrs. Betty Niemi of Fargo, N.D., and Mrs. June Hamilton of Underwood, Minn.; and several nieces and nephews.

**Mrs. Ruhnke**  
**Dies; Rites**  
*24 Apr 1970*  
**Pending**

Mrs. Gertrude Ann Ruhnke, 72, Rt. 1, Bigfork, died in Kalispell Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Ruhnke was born May 6, 1897, at Winona, Minn., a daughter of Peter and Ann Steffes. She had spent her early life in Minnesota and in 1917 she moved to Wolf Point.

In 1936, she was married to Clarence Ruhnke at Scobey. The couple had lived at Glasgow until September of 1969 when they moved to Bigfork.

Mrs. Ruhnke was preceded in death by one daughter, June Peterson, and is now survived by her widower, Clarence; three daughters, Mrs. Ross (Patricia) Perkins of Bigfork, Mrs. Rachel Berry of San Diego, Calif., and Mrs. Kathryn Bays of Studio City, Calif.; two sisters, Miss Florence Steffes of Madison, Wis., and Mrs. Margaret Fortier of Little Falls Minn.; several grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral arrangements for Mrs. Ruhnke will be announced by the Johnson Funeral Home. *20 Apr 70*

Funeral services for Mrs. Gertrude Ruhnke will be conducted in the Johnson Chapel at 11 a.m. Wednesday with the Rev. H. Peder Waldum, pastor of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, officiating. Interment will be in the Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

*2-11-1970*

**Penny Jo Rowsey**

Funeral services for Penny Jo Rowsey were conducted Friday in the Waggener & Campbell Chapel, Rev. Ronald Pierce officiating. Interment was in the Glacier Memorial Gardens. Pallbearers were Merlin Luckow, Dwight Hogue, Joseph Lawrence and George Kahn. Penny Jo, 7-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Rowsey, Swan Lake, died Tuesday from injuries sustained in an accident while sledding.