

# Aurands celebrate 50 years together

The Daily Inter Lake

Charles Aurand was delivering Western Union telegrams in Kalispell in January of 1949 when he met Peggy Heindel. He was 24 years old and she was 18. It was the beginning of their 50 years together.

Lifelong residents of the Flathead area, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 5 at the A & W Restaurant in Columbia Heights.

Charles and Peggy Aurand were married on March 5, 1949, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell. The couple moved to Essex after the wedding and he worked for the Great Northern Railroad. They had three children, Janet, Daniel and Charlene, and now have two grandchildren, Christopher and Keegan.

They stayed in Essex until the flood and then they moved to West Glacier in 1965. Charles worked for the Burlington Northern Railroad there for 34 years.

In 1983 the couple moved to



CHARLES AURAND met Peggy Heindel when he was delivering telegrams in Kalispell in 1949.



THE AURANDS, shown here in a western-style photo studio, say their belief in God and good communication have made their marriage last.

Columbia Heights. A lasting marriage needs to include the presence of God, said Peggy. The couple attends First Christian Church in Columbia Falls. "You have to have God in

your marriage. God and good communication. And get plenty of exercise!"

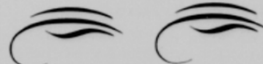


Bob and Joan Beck  
1949 - 1999

The children and families of Bob and Joan Beck would be delighted if you could join them in a fun filled afternoon celebrating their parents' 50th Wedding Anniversary.

An open house with food and refreshments will be held at Mom and Dad's home, 119 3rd Avenue East, Columbia Falls from 2 pm - 6pm on Sunday, July 25, 1999.

Your presence is your gift to our parents.



Roger and Kathy

Gordy and Patti

Lorraine and Bert

### **Bud & Zelma Block of Kalispell will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**



**Bud & Zelma 1948  
Bowman Lake**

Bud Block and Zelma Clapper were married on July 30, 1949 at the First Baptist Church in Columbia Falls, MT. Bud's brother Dan and wife Gerane of Dillon, MT, were best man and matron of honor. The reception was at the Clapper home in Columbia Falls. They spent their one month honeymoon on the Thelma Lookout watching for forest fires.

Zelma was born and raised in Columbia Falls, the daughter of W.O. and Lottie Clapper. Bud was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. During World War II he was a motor machinist in the U.S. Navy from 1942 until 1946. He then moved to Trailcreek, up the North Fork, with his parents Ethel and Walter Block. While on the North Fork he worked for the U.S. Forest Serv. and Doc McFarland. He met Zelma on the Jack McFarland Ranch in Glacier Park. They lived on the North Fork in a log cabin after they were married. They loved the North Fork and lived there for 1 1/2 years before moving to Kalispell. Bud worked for Art Rasmussen at Main Street Furniture for 25 years before buying the Service and Appliance business. In 1987 he sold Bud Block's Service & Appliance to his son Wally Block, who still owns and operates the business.

Bud and Zelma moved to Mission View Terrace on Flathead Lake in 1986, and have enjoyed boating and fishing on the lake, as well as hunting, and helping their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren every chance they get. The Blocks have two daughter, Carol O'Neil and husband John, Judy Weekly and husband Ed, and son Wally Block and wife Cindy, all of Kalispell. Bud and Zelma have seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



**Bud & Zelma 1998**

**There will be a 50th Anniversary Reception  
for all family and friends at the Vista Linda  
Restaurant Pavilion on Flathead Lake in  
Somers, on Saturday, July 31, 1999. Cake will  
be served from 2-4pm. Deli Lunch and  
Buffet served at 4pm.  
No gifts, please!**

# Clarks celebrate 50 years together

The children of Allan and Phyllis Clark of Kalispell hosted an open house buffet reception and program to honor their parents on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary Nov. 25, at the Elks Club in Kalispell.

The program portion of the reception got off to a good start with the costumed "Clark Family Farm Marching Band," consisting of various farm and shop instruments, marching to the tune of "Stars and Stripes Forever." A special "Oldy Wed" game was played to check the honored couple's response to special events during the past 50 years. A poem written by Judy Clark was also acted out by family members. There was a champagne toast following the program.

All of their children and three of their grandchildren were present for the golden anniversary celebration. Members of the original wedding party attending the occasion were Donna Pacheco, sister of the bride who was matron of honor, Lew Anderson, brother of the bride, both of Kalispell, and Bill Byrne from Missoula. The oldest guest at the reception was 100-year-old Hank Byrne of Kalispell, who attended the wedding of Allan's parents in 1924. Phyllis' 93-year-old aunt, Velma DeWeese of Kalispell, was also present.

It was love at first sight when the couple met in 1948, at a New Years Eve dance at the old Odd Fellows Hall in Bigfork. They were married Nov. 20, 1949, at Central Christian Church in Kalispell. They have lived in Kalispell since their marriage, with the exception of four years in Missoula while attending the University of Montana. Allan was a CPA until retiring in



ALLAN AND Phyllis Clark were married in 1949 at the old Central Christian Church in Kalispell.



THE CLARKS recently celebrated their golden anniversary with family and friends.

Regional Medical Center for 19 years.

The Clarks still live on the family farm in the Lake Blaine area, across the road from where Allan was born.

1997. Phyllis had a varied career during the past 50 years as a mother, Family page editor for the Inter Lake in the 1970s, and an employee at Kalispell

## Crohns mark 60 years together

Louis and Irene Crohn of Bigfork met in 1938 at the Echo Lake Store when it was owned and operated by his sister Helen Grilley.

At the time Helen was busy with another job and Irene was helping with store duties during her junior year at Bigfork High School. One day Louis walked into the store, and said he was Helen's brother. Irene was expecting an older brother and his family and, confused, asked, "Where are all your kids?" A courtship followed this initial misunderstanding and continued for the next year.

The Crohns celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Oct. 15.

They were married in Missoula in 1939, while he was in the Army, stationed at Fort Missoula. All the wedding arrangements were coordinated by Louis while Irene traveled to Missoula from Bigfork. Once she arrived, he discovered that he was short on cash due to the nuptial plans and had to borrow the money for rings from his fiancée.

A wedding celebration that followed the ceremony was held at a private home in Missoula, with dinner at the Missoula Hotel and a movie afterward. Louis had to report to the base the next day, so there was no honeymoon.

Soon after their marriage in Missoula, Louis was mustered out of the Army. The two of them moved back to Bigfork, which became their home base for their 60 years of marriage.

Louis worked a variety of heavy construction projects beginning with the Fort Peck Dam. He traveled through the



LOUIS AND Irene Crohn met when she was working at the Echo Lake Store owned by his sister.

Pacific Northwest working at major dam and bridge projects and house construction until he retired. Meanwhile, Irene remained at their home in Bigfork while raising their two daughters, Rita and Kathy.

Louis and Irene will be cele-



THE CROHNS will celebrate their 60th anniversary with a trip to Washington to visit friends and family.

brating their anniversary in December with an extended trip to Gig Harbor, Wash. They will stay with their daughter, Rita, visit old-time friends in the area, and greet the new millennium before returning to their winter home in Quartzsite.

## Grahams celebrate 50 years together

James and Ramona Graham of Kalispell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 26 with an open house at Cavanaugh's.

The event was hosted by their four children, Glenn Graham, Cathleen Graham and Mary Beth Seaman, all of Kalispell, and Colleen Graham of Helena. Jim's brother, Byron Graham, and his wife, Marge, attended the celebration from Ft. Worth, Texas.

The couple met at a country dance during Ramona Saurey's junior year of high school. Their first date was at a Columbia Falls

basketball tournament.

After a year and a half of courtship, they were married on May 28, 1949, at the First Presbyterian Church in Kalispell. Frank B. Hillis presided over the ceremony.

They built their first home on LaSalle Road, where they lived for 15 years before moving next door, where they presently live.

Jim graduated from Flathead High School in 1944. He served in the Air Force as an aerial engineer for two years. He and his twin brother, Bob, worked on the

construction of Hungry Horse Dam. After the dam project they shared the same work bench at Columbia Falls Aluminum Co., formerly Anaconda Aluminum Co., for 35 years, retiring in 1991.

Ramona was born and raised in Columbia Falls, and graduated from Columbia Falls High School in 1949. She was a Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader, and is active in various organizations.

The couple enjoys spending time with their grandchildren and tending to their garden and flower beds.



# Griepps mark 50 years together

Fred and Helen Griep of Kalispell, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 5, at the Christian Center and will again today with a family reunion at Woodland Park.

The celebrations were hosted by their children, Mary Jo Wheeler of DeWitt, Mich.; Joyce Tucker-Weyrauch of Spokane; Janice Griep, Ronald Griep and Ronda Neitzling, all of Kalispell; Colleen Nolan of Hillsboro, Ore.; Theresa Empie of Lewistown; and Tammy Griep of Kalispell.

Fred was born and raised on a dairy farm in Shawano, Wis. After graduation, he served in the occupation troops in Japan after World War II. After the war he moved to Montana, where he was self-employed as a builder of "Homes of Enchantment" for about 35 years.

Helen was born and raised in Kalispell. She graduated from Flathead High School in 1944, and went to Northwest Bible College in Seattle for three years.

After college she returned to Kalispell, where she met Fred at church. She was the junior choir leader and worked in the chil-



FRED AND HELEN Griep met and married at the Assembly of God Church in Kalispell.



THE GRIEPPS celebrated their golden anniversary with a church reception and a family reunion.

dren's church.

Since their marriage on June 8, 1949, at the Assembly of God Church in Kalispell, both Fred and Helen have been actively involved in church work.

In their 50 years together they

raised their eight children, and now have 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

They live in Kalispell, where Fred loves to garden, fish and hunt, can fruits and vegetables, bake pies and care for his wife, who has been in a wheelchair for 17 years. They both care for their youngest child, Tammy.

# Hannons mark 50 years together

Roland Hannon was working at the railroad depot in Malta when he saw his bride-to-be for the first time. Irma Jean Tatchell was walking to work at the nearby school when she caught his eye.

They were married on June 15, 1949, in Medicine Lake. The Kalispell couple recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a dinner hosted by their son, Keith Hannon, at Rocco's.

Roland was born in Sunburst and was raised and received his education in Havre. He served in the United States Army for three years, from 1943-1946, and was stationed in Burma.

He then worked for 46 years for the Great Northern Railway and Burlington Northern Railroad, retiring in 1981.

Irma Jean was born in Malta, attended grade school in Antelope and graduated from high school in Malta. She received her teaching certificate from Northern Montana College, and taught school all over



ROLAND HANNON met Irma Jean Tatchell in Malta when he was working at the railroad depot.



THE HANNONS celebrated their golden anniversary with a dinner at Rocco's.

the state of Montana. She retired from Hedges School in 1980.

They enjoy camping, traveling and fishing together and are also active in several organiza-

tions. He belongs to the American Legion and Retired Railroad Veteran Association and she belongs to the Retired Teacher's Association. They are members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

# Howards mark 60 years together

After 60 years of marriage, Robert and Eunice Howard celebrated their anniversary in the community where they have lived for their entire married life — Birch Grove. An open house potluck was hosted at the Birch Grove Community Center by their daughter, Marilyn Edwards of Meridian, Idaho, and their son and his wife, Bob and Faith Howard of Martin City. Over 100 people attended, said Eunice. "The party was a complete success."

Robert was born and raised in Whitefish, and Eunice was born in Kalispell and raised in the Birch Grove community. They met when Robert was a radio operator in the Civilian Conservation Corps, and were married on June 18, 1939, at the bride's parent's home on Trumble Creek Road.

They moved to their property in the Birch Grove area immediately after their marriage, and built their present home there in 1950.

Robert worked at Kalispell Lumber and Superior Building Co., while Eunice was employed



ROBERT AND EUNICE Howard were married at her parent's home on Trumble Creek Road on June 18, 1939. They celebrated their 60th anniversary with an open house potluck at the Birch Grove Community Center.

by Polson's Electric and Bitney's Furniture.

Robert enjoys fishing, hunting and gardening. He belonged to the Amateur Radio Club, and is still an avid radio operator.

Eunice has been a member of the Willing Workers Club for over 65 years, and has held every office. She loves to make quilts and ceramics, among her other hobbies and loves flowers.

# Ingrams celebrate 50 years together

Ray and Doris Ingram of Bigfork, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a 10-day family campout at their home on Montana 83. A barbecue dinner in their honor on July 14 was hosted by their children, Elaine Smith of Kalispell, Les Ingram of Bigfork, Yvonne and Bill Ward of Vancouver, Wash., and Doug and Rhonda Ingram of Plano, Texas, and the children of June and Lee Rowsey.

Special guests at the dinner

were the couple's brothers and sisters, and the best man and maid of honor at their wedding — Dan and Bess Lynch of Kalispell.

Ray and Doris were married May 15, 1949, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell, and have lived most of their married life in the Swan area. In addition to their four children, they have 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.





LEE AND BETTY JANNI

## Couple celebrates golden wedding anniversary

Lee and Betty Janni were married on Oct. 22, 1949, in Richland, Wash., and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

They moved to the Flathead Valley in 1962, and have resided in the Lake Blaine area since. They have four children, Scott and Joyce of Whitefish, Faye of Hot Springs, and Audrey of Modesto, Calif.

Upon moving to the valley, Lee was initially employed on

the Hungry Horse Dam project. He also worked for Anaconda Aluminum Co. and ultimately for the Army Corps of Engineers on the Trego tunnel and Libby Dam.

Betty was employed as a legal secretary in Kalispell, for Murphy, Robinson, Heckathorn and Phillips and later for Meer Katz Court Reporters.

The couple plans to take a celebratory cruise in Mexico in February.

## Krachers celebrate golden anniversary

Cliff and Grace Kracher of Kalispell, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a dinner party at Rocco's.

The event was organized by their friends from Columbia Falls. Grace's brother, Giles Gregoire, and his wife, Ann Marie, of Havre, attended the dinner.

The honored couple was married Aug. 27, 1949, at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Havre.

Their children are Steve Kracher of San Luis Obispo, Calif., and Jim Kracher and grandsons Chad and Matthew Kracher, all of Plymouth, Minn.

Cliff and Grace previously observed their anniversary with a tour of Spain.



CLIFF AND GRACE Kracher were married on Aug. 27, 1949, in Havre.



THE KRACHERS celebrated their 50th anniversary with a trip to Spain and a dinner party.

## Lynches celebrate golden anniversary

Dan and Bess Lynch, longtime Kalispell residents, celebrated their 50th anniversary on May 26 with a reception at their home.

"We had a party, let me tell you!" said Bess Lynch. "Everything was just plain perfect."

Over 200 family members and friends attended, and the weather even cooperated, she said.

The reception was hosted by their children, Wanda Hinzman and Wes Lynch of Columbia Falls and Charlene Lynch of Seattle. A poem that highlighted their marriage was written for the occasion by their nephew, Steven Bauska, and was read by their niece, Lorraine Bauska Graham. Music for the reception was provided by Bev and Ed Triplett and Dean Potter.

Dan Lynch grew up in the Trego area, and then moved to Kalispell. He served in the Navy during World War II, on the USS Kershaw in the South Pacific.

When he returned to Kalispell he met Bess Lund. He was driving a yellow cab, and she was a telephone operator at the time.

They were married by the Rev.



DAN LYNCH met Bess Lund in Kalispell after he returned from World War II.

Klug at Trinity Lutheran Church on May 26, 1949.

Bess attended schools in Kalispell, graduating from C & C



THE LYNCHES marked 50 years together with a reception for over 200 at their home.

Beauty School. She worked at the S & H Green Stamp Store for 15 years.

Dan worked on the Hungry Horse Dam and then as an electrician for the Anaconda Aluminum Co. in Columbia Falls. He retired after 32 years there.

## Mc Alpins mark 50 years together

Ross and Mary Lou Mc Alpin spent the weekend of Aug. 28 and 29 in Polson, with family and friends who came to help them celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Relatives came from Iowa, Nebraska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

On Saturday a family picnic was held at Boettcher Park on the south end of Flathead Lake.

Sunday, Aug. 29, the couple's children and grandchildren hosted a reception at Polson Senior Citizen Center, with about 175 relatives and friends in attendance. Alice Grilley made their wedding cake 50 years ago, and she made a six-tiered anniversary cake for the Mc Alpins.

Relatives joined Ross and Mary Lou at a dinner Sunday evening at The Ponderae Restaurant. Five of their grandchildren gave a talk about their grandparents, and the Mc Alpins' children and grandchildren presented them with the anniversary gift of an Alaska cruise.

Their children are Bob and Jeannie Mc Alpin of Fairbanks, Alaska, Judy and Larry Fitzpatrick of Cut Bank, Wes and Betty Mc Alpin of Arlee, and Sue and Gary Jackson of



MARY LOU Groves and Ross Mc Alpin were married in Polson on Sept. 16, 1949.

Issaquah, Wash. They have seven grandchildren, Jay Mc Alpin of Washington, D.C., Crystal Mc Alpin of Oregon, Sean and Amy Jackson of Issaquah, Justin and Larissa Fitzpatrick of Cut Bank, and Reese Mc Alpin of Arlee.

Ross Mc Alpin and Mary Lou Groves were married on Sept. 16, 1949, at Polson Christian Church by the Rev. Charles Durston.

They farmed at Polson from



A FAMILY celebration was held in honor of the Mc Alpins' golden anniversary.

1949 to 1963. In 1963, Ross went to work for the U.S. Forest Service. In 1964, the year of the big flood, they both worked for the U.S. Forest Service at Java Ranger Station.

In 1980 they moved to Bigfork, and he worked for the Department of Highways. He retired in 1990.

They have been spending the past nine winters in Yuma, Ariz., where they have a home.

*Golden  
Wedding  
Anniversary  
Celebration!*

*You are invited to a  
reception in honor of*

**Dallas and Edna Munter**

**Friday, July 23, 1999**  
6 p.m.-8 p.m. (Program 7 p.m.)

**Central Bible  
Church**  
**902 1st Ave. E.**  
**Kalispell**




## Nelsons celebrate 50 years together



ALICE AND Charles Nelson were married on Sept. 18, 1949 in Outlook.



THE NELSONS celebrated their golden anniversary with an open house at Eidsvold Lutheran.

Alice and Charles Nelson of Kalispell, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at Eidsvold Lutheran Church in Somers, on Sept. 19. Their children, Charlene Kranitz and Dale Nelson, both of Great Falls, Clayton Nelson of Havre, and Debra Conaway of Kalispell, hosted the event.

The Nelsons were married on Sept. 18, 1949, at Highland Lutheran Church in Outlook, Mont. Charles was a farmer and rancher in the Plentywood rural area and Alice worked at Sheridan Memorial Hospital in Plentywood until 1992, when they retired to Kalispell. Alice continues to work in the health-care field through Home Options.

# Netherlys mark 50 years of marriage

With seven children, family has played a large role in the story of Dave and June Netherly's marriage. Accordingly, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a barbecue for family and friends at the home of their daughter Vickie Engle.

Dave Netherly and June Bockoven first met in high school in Ohio, when he was a senior and she was a junior. Following graduation, he enlisted in the Navy.

They later met again at a New Year's Eve celebration, and this time romance blossomed. They were married at the United Brethren Church in Dayton, Ohio, on April 30, 1949.

They moved to Kalispell about 30 years ago, and built the family home near Foy's Lake, where they lived until recently.

Dave was a machinist at ARCO, now Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. He retired from the company in 1992. June raised their seven children, Tim Netherly of Puyallup, Wash., Bruce



DAVE NETHERLY and June Bockoven were married on April 30, 1949, in Ohio.



THE NETHERLYS celebrated their 50th anniversary with a barbecue for family and friends.

Netherly of Seattle, and Mike Netherly, Dona Netherly, Vickie Engle, Barbara Dickey and James Netherly of Kalispell, and worked as a cook and waitress at several valley restaurants. The

couple also has 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

June Netherly's advice for a lasting marriage is to give and take. "Stay with it," she said, laughing. "It's worth it."

# Orrs renew vows for golden anniversary

Paul and Jean Orr Sr. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Reiner. Special music was provided by their son, Paul Orr Jr., who sang "Amazing Grace" and their son-in-law, Jim Rowe, who sang the Lord's Prayer.

Following the renewal ceremony, an open house was hosted by their children, Louise Keith of Great Falls; Paul Orr Jr. of Kalispell; Marlene and husband, Bill Sevesind, of Columbia Falls; Darlene and husband, Bill Landsidel, of Spring Creek, Nev.; and Ellen and husband, Jim Rowe, of Kalispell.

Paul Orr Sr. met Jean Sindt of Bigfork after he returned to Kalispell from his service in the Army in World War II. They



PAUL AND JEAN Orr were honored with an open house reception after renewing their vows to mark 50 years together.

were married on June 15, 1949, at the Flathead County Courthouse in Kalispell.

They lived most of their married life in Kalispell, where they raised their children.

**Golden Wedding Anniversary**  
 In honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of  
 Jerry & Janice Schnell,  
 a reception will be held  
 in the First Presbyterian Church in  
 Kalispell on 6th Ave. and Main.  
**Saturday, June 26, 1999**  
**2 pm - 4 pm**  
 The presence of their friends  
 will add to their joyous day.

## Sloans celebrate 50 years of marriage

Tom and Carol Sloan joined family and friends to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house reception at the Vista Linda Restaurant in Somers, on June 12. The Flathead Ragtime Band performed in their honor and they dined together afterward.

Tom Sloan and Carol Fry met at Kalispell's Central Junior High School, where he was removed from art class for sticking her with a pen. He was a close friend of Burt Fry, Carol's brother, and spent time with the family.

During Carol's sophomore year at Flathead High School, the romance began. Two years later, on June 12, 1949, they were married at Central Christian Church in Kalispell.

One year later they found themselves in California, where Tom worked for the aerospace industry and they started their family. In 1962, they moved their family of four children, Jeri, Rob, Cathy and Suzy, back to Kalispell, and settled in to raise their children.

Tom worked for Equity Supply, Kelly Main Street Furniture and Columbia Falls Aluminum Co., where he retired in 1992. Carol kept busy with their children, and worked as the secretary at Central Christian Church until 1967.



TOM SLOAN and Carol Fry met in junior high school and married on June 12, 1949. An open house reception was held in honor of their golden anniversary.

The family still enjoys many vacations and outings at Ashley Lake, where Tom and Carol have created a haven for their family. They spend much of their time enjoying and babysitting their 17

grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, when they are not motorcycling or driving one of Tom's classic cars around town.

Their advice: "Don't sweat the small stuff, and have fun!"

## Sorensons mark golden anniversary



GILE AND DELORES Sorenson were married 23 days after they met in Olney in 1949.



THE SORENSONS make their home in Kalispell after 50 years of marriage.

Gile and Delores Sorenson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary surrounded by four sons and one daughter on Jan. 31, 1999, at their son Russell's home.

The celebration was a special occasion complete with visiting and reminiscing, with cake and refreshments as well. The day commenced with a dinner for 20 family members at The Montana Grill in Somers.

Gile Sorenson and Delores DeRosier met on Jan. 8, 1949, in Olney and were married after a whirlwind courtship on Jan. 31 of the same year. They were married at the home of Gile's brother and sister-in-law.

The couple farmed for many years in the Egan area and have made their home in Kalispell since leaving the farm.



## Couple celebrates 60 years together

On March 25, 1999, Roy and Irene Waters of Kalispell celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at the home of their daughter Nancy Bowman, in Somers. They had a small family celebration.

Over the years, family has played a large role in their lives. Irene Halvorson first met her husband-to-be when she was 12 years old and he was friends with her brother. They started dating when they got older, and were married on March 25, 1939, at the Lutheran church in Polson. They has a small wedding due to the Depression, said Irene.

Roy served in World War II. They lived in Libby for three years and

then moved to Kalispell. He sold real estate and was a broker at the time of his retirement.

They have three daughters, Sandy Baden of Lewistown, LeAnna Hissong of Davenport, Wash., and Nancy Bowman of Somers. They also have eight grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

"We've been very fortunate. We have a very happy marriage," said Irene. "I guess my advice would be to always think of the other person. If you both give, it works out." The couple are Lutherans, and said that trust in God was also an important facet of their marriage.



# Vows renewed for golden anniversary

Friends and family of Duane and Frances Willis helped the couple celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at a buffet dinner June 12 at Stillwater Grange Hall. It was hosted by the Willis' children.

Harpist Peggy Young played during the dinner, which was catered by Chris and Shila Nestell.

Hosts and hostesses were Tom and Carol Willis of Billings, Linda Willis of Bakersfield, Calif., Doug and Kathy Willis of Billings and Alexis and Mike Meehan of Kalispell. Assisting were seven of their grandchildren.

The couple met in Butte, and were married June 11, 1949, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Butte. Lela Willis Lelacheur of Great Falls, Myrtle Christie of Buxton and Elva Thomas Walter of Red Lodge were members of the original wedding party, and were also present at the golden anniversary celebration.

The couple moved to Kalispell in 1959. Duane was a driver for



**DUANE AND FRANCES Willis** met and married in Butte; they moved to Kalispell 10 years later.

Eddy's Bakery and Snyder's Bakery. Frances was the parish secretary at St. Matthew's Catholic Church and then took a position at City Hall as the city attorney's



**THE WILLISES** were honored with a buffet dinner to mark 50 years together.

secretary. She worked as a judge from 1986 to 1993.

Immediately following the anniversary dinner, family and friends attended a mass at St. Matthew's Church, where the couple reaffirmed their marriage vows. The Rev. Kevin O'Neill and the Rev. Emmett Kelly officiated.