

Bakers mark golden anniversary

Neal and Helen Baker of Kalispell and Yuma, Ariz., will celebrate their 50th anniversary today. The Bakers were married on Dec. 23, 1951, in Yuma.

They spent much of their married life in Kalispell where Neal worked at C & C Auto Supply and drove truck for Petrolane.

Helen worked as a teacher's aide at Elrod School. After retiring, they spend their winters in Yuma and their summers in Montana working for the forest service as campground hosts.

They have three children, Robin Hagadone and husband Dan of Columbia Falls, Dana Coughlin and husband Jack of Caldwell, Idaho, and Joel Baker and wife Kelly of Yakima, Wash.

They are grandparents to



NEAL AND HELEN Baker were married on Dec. 23, 1951.

Rachael Hagadone, and Kelcee and Connor Coughlin.



THE BAKERS mark their 50th anniversary today.

A reception is planned next spring in the Flathead.



HOWARD AND MARION Benson were married on March 8, 1941; they recently marked 60 years of marriage with a reception for friends and family.

Bensons celebrate 60th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Benson of Whitefish, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on March 25, at the Moose Lodge in Evergreen. A reception followed, hosted by their children and grandchildren. Mr. Benson and his two sons, Ken and Gerry, together with members of the senior citizen's band, played for the guests.

The couple were married on March 8, 1941, in Whitefish.

He was in the Army during World War II. Later, he was a trucker hauling lumber and logs and later employed by American Timber of Olney.

She worked for many years in the Flathead High School and junior high cafeterias.

They enjoy camping and traveling, and he plays in a

band for Columbia Falls senior citizens.

The Bensons have five children: Robert Benson of Whitefish, Ken Benson of Sweet Home, Ore., Cheryl Cave of Kalispell, Terry Benson of Williston, N.D., and Gerry Benson of Rockford, Wash.

The Benson family would like to thank everyone for joining them in their celebration.

Eckerts celebrate golden anniversary



BILL AND ELLEN ECKERT

Bill and Ellen Eckert celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception at Village Greens Park on Aug. 11.

The reception given by their children was attended by numerous relatives and friends.

The Eckerts were married on April 14, 1951, in Ellendale, N.D. They traveled while working with the telephone company. Bill retired from U.S. West after 33 years and Ellen retired from AT&T after 30 years.

They are the parents of Jerry and Nancy Eckert of Littleton, Colo., Marina Sears of Ale-

do, Texas, and the late Brad Lee Eckert. Their children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, are grateful for the many life experiences they have enjoyed with them.

"It is the prayer of all who know Bill and Ellen, that the Lord continue to bless them and give them many more years of joy."

Fredenbergs mark golden anniversary



Dale and Jean Fredenberg of Kalispell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at the Eagles on Feb. 10, 2001.

They were married on Feb. 10, 1951, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

They are the parents of seven children, Alan Fredenberg, Virgil Fredenberg, Hazel Riebe, Connie Bush, Anson Fredenberg, Harlan Fredenberg, Nina Fredenberg and Emily Fredenberg.

DALE AND Jean Fredenberg were married on Feb. 10, 1951.

AN OPEN house was recently held in the Fredenbergs' honor for their golden anniversary.

Gieseys celebrate 50th anniversary

Roscoe and June Giesey will celebrate 50 years of marriage today with their daughters, Ruth Falk of Wenatchee, Wash., and Mary Goemaat of Holland, Mich., family and friends. They were married March 18, 1951, at the First Presbyterian Church in Kalispell.

Charles Grant and Virginia Tasick were married in 1951; they will celebrate their anniversary with a family reunion.

Grants mark anniversary

Charles Grant and Virginia Tasick were married on April 10, 1951 at St. Thomas Church in Peoria Heights, Ill.

The Grants will celebrate their 50th anniversary in July during a reunion with their six children and families in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

The couple retired in Montana in 1984.



FAYE AND BILL Hegland were married June 19, 1951.



THE HEGLANDS celebrated their 50th anniversary by attending their granddaughter's June 19 wedding.

Heglands celebrate golden anniversary

Faye Manley Hegland and Alman "Bill" Hegland of Lakeside celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 19. They celebrated by attending their granddaughter Amber Altic's marriage to Travis Sienknecht, on the same day of the year, at the same location where they were married.

The bridegroom's brother, the Rev. Norval Hegland of Lakeside, married the Heglands at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

She was raised in Kalispell and he grew up in Plentywood. The Heglands met in Missoula where he worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad as a timber cruiser and she was teaching elementary school.

The Heglands have four children, David Hegland of Alexandria, Va., Mark Hegland of Lakeside, Lynne Maximoff of St. Ignatius and Gayle Hegland of Lakeside.

The couple's children and grandchildren helped to celebrate the event.

Kauffmans celebrate golden anniversary

Joe and Ruth Kauffman of Kalispell celebrated their 50th anniversary at an open house hosted by their children on the evening of July 18.

They were married in Raton, N.M., on July 18, 1951.

The Kauffmans have spent many years serving their community by providing foster care for more than 60 children from northwest Montana. He recently retired from more than 45 years as a teacher, and still substitute teaches. She

provides day care for several neighborhood children.

Both are active members of the Mountain View Menonite Church near Creston. Ruth is known for her baking and cooking skills and Joe enjoyed many years coaching and playing a variety of sports. The Kauffmans still live at the family ranch near Lake Blaine.

They are the parents of Kristina Krabill and Brent Kauffman, both of Lebanon,



JOE AND Ruth Kauffman were married on July 18, 1951; an open house was held in their honor on July 18, 2001.

Ore., Doug Kauffman and Raymond Burland, both of Kalispell, Kelli White (deceased), Scott Carlson and David Kauffman, both of Mis-

soula, Tracy Drury of Libby, Sandra Cannon of Ogden, Utah, Amy Borntreger of Goshen, Ind., and Charles Upham (deceased).

Kruckenbergs celebrate golden anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Butch Kruckenbergs of Kalispell hosted a dinner party on Sept. 8 at the Elks Lodge in Kalispell to celebrate 50 years of marriage.

Their three children, all of Kalispell, were in attendance, Brad Kruckenbergs, Rhonda Gibbs and Jeff Kruckenbergs. The dinner was also attended by all but two of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The couple was married on Sept. 9, 1951 in Chester. Members of the bridal party able to attend the anniversary celebration were Allen Riebe of Kalispell, Betty Jean Davis of Great Falls and Elaine Davis of Billings. Elaine presented the program and pictures. On display were four generations of



BUTCH AND LILA Kruckenbergs were married on Sept. 9, 1951 in Chester.

wedding dresses. Butch and Lila's wedding clothes were



THE KRUCKENBERGS celebrated 50 years of marriage with a recent dinner party.

modeled by their grandchildren: Mike Gibbs modeled his grandfather's suit and Megan Petersen modeled her grandmother's wedding dress.

Megan, a bride of three weeks, also modeled her own wedding dress.

Friends and relatives traveled from California, Washington and North Dakota and Montana to add to the book of wonderful memories.

Butch spent two years in the Army during the Korean Conflict and the couple moved to Chester and farmed on the Hi-line for 10 years, then moved back to Kalispell to log and highway haul. They also were in Alaska during the building of the pipeline. Butch has been retired for several years and the couple spends most of their time involved in local activities, with family and friends, and on occasional trips south or traveling with friends.



ROBERT AND Mary Lou LaStofka were married in 1951 in New Jersey; they have spent much of their married life in Montana.

LaStofkas celebrate golden anniversary

Robert LaStofka and Mary Lou Hodgson were married on May 26, 1951, in Passaic, N.J., where he was in the Army and she was studying music.

He later worked on his father's mink ranch in Wisconsin and then did road construction in Montana. He worked for the county road department in Kalispell, retiring

from the department in 1988.

She worked at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell for 30 years, retiring in 1995.

They have four children, Connie Lakes of Hamilton, Ohio, Robin Carson of Cedar Park, Texas, Mark LaStofka of White Salmon, Wash., and Juli Hindahl of Kalispell. They also have 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Lees mark 50th anniversary

Eugene and Delores Lee of Bigfork celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 7 with an open house at the family farm. The event was hosted by their children: Cameron and Debbie Lee of Hungry Horse, Kevin and Margie Lee of Beulah, N.D., Bruce and Judy Funk of Bigfork, and their six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

The couple was married on Oct. 7, 1951, in Fargo, N.D. Eugene was born and raised on the family farm at Kindred, N.D. Delores was born and raised in Fargo. When she was nine years old her father died while working in a defense plant on the West Coast during World War II.

Eugene received his draft notice in September 1951 and he and Delores were married Oct. 7. Ten days later he was off to basic training. He was in the Far East for 18 months and she worked for Bell Telephone at that time.

They returned to the family farm for two years after



EUGENE AND DELORES Lee of Bigfork were married on Oct. 7, 1951 in Fargo, N.D.; an open house was hosted by their children to celebrate their golden anniversary.

the Korean War. They started and operated Lee's Resort at Garrison, N.D., for 17 years. This was the first resort on Lake Sakakawea after Garrison Dam was built. He learned to fly in 1968 and 1969, and came to Montana looking for a hunting cabin. He purchased a vacant outfit-

ting business at Spotted Bear instead.

It was a family run business, and was sold in 1987. Starting in 1974, they accumulated hay and pasture land south of Creston. They have lived there since 1990. He is an active pilot and has logged over 6,000 hours.

Lunds mark golden anniversary

Nina and Buzz Lund of Kalispell and Sun City West, Ariz., spent a week in Washington, D.C., celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

They were accompanied by their daughter and son-in-law, Tamara and Bob Lincoln of Somers, and their son and daughter-in-law Jeff and Jeannine Lund of Kalispell, and their grandson, Jeremiah Johnson, a senior at Montana State University-Bozeman.

The couple hosted a dinner at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., on April 28, 2001.

The Lunds were married in Paso Robles, Calif., on April 28, 1951. He was serving in the U.S. Army and she was an executive secretary to the



NINA AND Buzz Lund were married in California on April 28, 1951.

base commander. They moved to Kalispell in 1958 where they owned a Conoco Petroleum jobbership and the Valcon-Valtrans trucking

THE LUNDS celebrated 50 years of marriage with a family trip to Washington, D.C.

company. They were both active in many civic groups before their retirement.

Miciewiczzes celebrate golden anniversary

Frank and Margie Miciewicz of Kalispell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a potluck picnic at the Lawrence Park Pavilion.

The potluck was hosted by their children Diane Brooks, Debbie Royal and Dave and Daniel Mic



FRANK AND MARGIE Miciewicz were married on June 17, 1951; they recently marked 50 years of marriage with a potluck picnic.

The couple was married on June 17, 1951, at the home of Fred and Marie Alton, the bride's parents, in the Egan community.

Best man was Bob Peters and maid of honor was Carlene Peters.

They were introduced by the bride's cousin. Margie was an elementary school teacher and Frank worked with his brother, Joe, as a

lumberjack and later for Pacific Power as a telephone lineman. They raised their family in the Flathead Valley and now have six grandsons and two granddaughters.

Their daughter Debbie and her husband Chuck reside in Bastrop, Texas, but daughter Diane and husband Randy, son Dan and his wife Tammy and son Dave all live in Kalispell.

Potters mark 50th anniversary

Dean and Alice Potter celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house on Aug. 18 in the Woodland Park Pavilion.

The occasion was hosted by their son, Dave Potter, his wife Angela, and their children Amanda and Ashley of The Dalles, Ore.; their daughter, Janet Leland, her husband Orland, and their son Sam Nunnally and his wife Krista, all of Kalispell.

Dean and Alice were both born in Crosby, N.D., and were delivered by the same country doctor. Dean then moved to Dooley when he was two weeks old. Alice was raised in Crosby and moved with her family to Kalispell when she was 16 years old.

They met two years later, dated three months and then married in Kalispell on Dec. 30, 1950. He taught school in Marion and Kila in the 1950s before going to work for Anaconda Aluminum in Columbia Falls. In 1968, he went to work for BPA and moved to Anaconda for two years and then to Wenatchee, Wash., for another two years before coming back to Kalispell. He retired from



DEAN AND ALICE Potter were married on Dec. 30, 1950; an open house was held in their honor at Woodland Park last month.

BPA in 1993.

She has been a hospital volunteer since 1976 and was also the volunteer coordinator at Kalispell Regional Medical Center from 1990 through 1995 when she retired and went back to volunteering. They both enjoy

their volunteer work at the hospital as well as volunteering with the "Golden Reruns." Dean entertains through music in many area nursing homes throughout the valley. They are also very active in their church home, Bethel Baptist.

Stefanatzes mark 60 years together

Agnes and Rudy Stefanatz celebrate their 60th anniversary in June.

They were married in Wibaux on June 9, 1941. They are long time residents of Kalispell, moving here in the late 1940s where he was employed by the Flathead Electric Co-op.

They have continued to reside in Kalispell since his retirement and they are active members of the local senior citizens group.

A family reunion and picnic will be held later this summer to honor their 60 happy years together. Their family and friends extend best wishes to them on this momentous occasion.



AGNES AND Rudy Stefanatz were married June 9, 1941; a family reunion will be held this summer to celebrate their 60th anniversary.

Stoicks mark anniversary



BETTY AND JERRY STOICK

Jerry and Betty Stoick of Bigfork, and Green Valley, Ariz., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at an open house in Woods Bay hosted by their children.

The Stoicks were married on Aug. 9, 1951, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Missoula.

The couple met while attending high school in Missoula. After their marriage, they lived in Kalispell for 36 years where they owned and operated Stoick Drug.

Jerry retired in 1987 and the store is now owned by their sons, David and Greg.

Other children include Carol Lechner and Judy Wetham, also of Kalispell.



MARY AND AMOS Svennungsen were married in June 1951; a 50th anniversary celebration was recently held for them in Shelby.

Svennungsens mark 50 years of marriage

Mary L. Gestring and Amos W. Svennungsen were married on June 16, 1951, in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Kalispell. His father, the late Rev. David Svennungsen of Big Sandy, performed the ceremony.

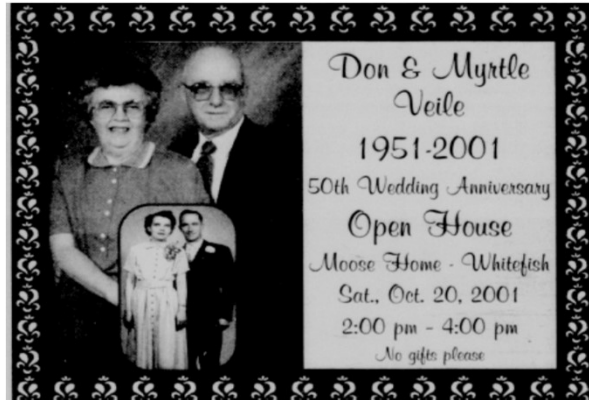
On July 21, 2001, friends and family honored them with a 50th anniversary celebration in Shelby.

Amos practiced optometry in Shelby and Chester for nearly 30 years, and in Sono-

ma, Calif., for eight years. Mary was a teacher.

The couple now lives in Palm Desert, Calif., in the winter and in Whitefish during the summer.

Their children are Dr. Rock Svennungsen of Shelby, the Rev. Ann Svennungsen of Fargo, N.D., and Brad Svennungsen of Elk Grove, Calif. They have 10 grandchildren including Kara Svennungsen, Miss Montana 2002.



Wards celebrate 60 years

Arthur "Bud" C. Ward and Margret "Louise" L. Ward celebrated 60 years of marriage on Sept. 27, 2001, at the Back Room Restaurant in Columbia Falls. They enjoyed a comfortable dinner with their four children and their spouses: Terry and Margie Ward, Janice and Chuck Knudson, J.C. and Kathy Plummer and Nancy Ward. The couple thanks Steve, Cheryl and Cassie for making the dinner extra special.

Together, the Wards have survived the Great Depression and three years of separation during World War II. They raised four children and now enjoy their 14 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. When asked how they do it, they answer, "With love, combined strength and forgive-



BUD AND MARGRET Ward enjoyed dinner with family for their 60th anniversary.

ness. It has been 60 years of magnificence." Their favorite song is "The Blue Skirt Waltz."

Their children congratulate and thank them, and wish them many more great years together.