

Florence Elvira Slethaug, 97

Florence Elvira Slethaug, 97, a longtime resident of the Flathead Valley, died Oct. 29, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.



She was born at home Jan. 4, 1910, to Daniel Gustav and Christine (Absalonson) Dunham, who were homesteading a farm near Minnewaukan, N.D. She would be one of eight children who would live in the prairie home together with parents, a grandmother and an uncle for the first 14 years of her life.

The family moved to Kalispell in 1924 where Florence attended Flathead County High School, graduating in 1929 with a teaching certificate. After teaching in Evergreen and attending Dillon Normal College, she began teaching at the Swan River School near Bigfork, where she met and married Olander Slethaug on April 27, 1934. They lived for 61 years on a farm on Echo Lake Road until moving in 1995 to Buffalo Hill Terrace. She often remarked that she had gone from a life involving labor, organization and action for most daylight hours to one of luxury and leisure at Buffalo Hill Terrace; a bittersweet transition, because she loved her home, the mountains, the garden, the flowers, her family and friendships that were her place for most of her life.

Florence was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church,

originally located in Swan River and later in Bigfork and served as teacher, choir member, organizer, fundraiser, cook and local, state and national board member of ELCW, the Lutheran women's organization. She was an active Democrat who could explain the reason for her activism quite clearly, and knew most of the time when to discuss her opinions and when not to.

Florence is survived by two children, Sharon Schiltz and husband, Don, of Bigfork, and Gordon Slethaug and wife, Mary, of Hong Kong. She had seven grandchildren, Kris, Gavin and Darin Slethaug, Heather Fern, Mark Schiltz, Heidi Westmoreland and Cori Wellenstein; and 11 great-grandchildren. She would say proudly, as she surveyed the crowd of family gathered for celebrations, "Olander and I started all of this and not a bad apple in the barrel."

She was preceded in death by Olander in 1997, and all of her Dunham family.

Funeral services for Florence will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6, at the Bethany Lutheran Church, 8559 Montana 35, in Bigfork, with the Rev. Joe Strandjord officiating. Burial will be after services at the Bethany Lutheran Cemetery on Swan River Road in Bigfork. Friends are invited to join the family for coffee and cookies in the fellowship hall at Bethany after the service.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the Bethany Lutheran Church: P.O. Box 398, Bigfork, MT 59911.

Viola Eileen Slusher, 88

Viola Eileen Slusher, 88, longtime Whitefish resident, died peacefully Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2007, at the Heritage Place nursing facility in Kalispell. She was born Jan. 8, 1919, in Cawker City, Kan., to Roy and Lena Burger; she was the second of eight children.



Viola married Raymond Slusher on Aug. 23, 1939, in Wilson, Kan. Soon after they moved to California. After Raymond completed his service with the Army in World War II, they returned to Glen Elder, Kan., where they worked in the family bakery and restaurant. They moved to Limon, Colo., where they owned and operated a bakery until 1955.

They moved then to Montana, and owned and operated a bakery in Stevensville until 1961, when they settled in Whitefish, where they owned and operated Slusher's Bakery for more than 20 years.

Viola was very devoted to her family. She especially loved the visits from them and was always interested in how the grandkids were doing. She never missed sending birthday and other special occasion cards.

She was active in the community and participated in community events. She was a member of the United Methodist Church, Soroptimists International, and the Senior Center. She recently received an award from Soroptimists International for her volunteer work that helps to improve the lives of other women and makes their communities better places to live.

She enjoyed baseball and especially liked the Atlanta Braves. Her zest for life also included the outdoors. She liked to go fishing with her husband, Raymond, and her sons, spending many hours on the lakes around Whitefish.

Viola was blessed with a loving compassionate spirit that touched the lives of all who knew her. She was a descendant of the historical Boone family of Kentucky, which may explain the spirit she demonstrated so well in her life. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Her family would like to thank the special people at Heritage Place nursing home who loved and cared for Viola. They also would like to thank all her devoted church family, friends and the many health-care providers and volunteers.

She is now survived by her sister, Virginia Noble, of Palm-dale, Calif.; sons, Ron Slusher and wife, Carrie, of Bigfork, Terry Slusher and wife, Barbara, of Anchor Point, Alaska; grandson, Todd Slusher and wife, Joyce, of Las Vegas; granddaughter, Shelly House and husband, Ken, of Phoenix; grandson, Matt Bohannon of Anchorage, Alaska; great-grandchildren, Cilicia Waggoner Logan Slusher, Grayson Slusher, Noah Slusher, all of Las Vegas, Sheree Brock, Makayla House, Tanner House, all of Phoenix; and great-great-grandson, Jeffery Young, of Las Vegas.

Memorial services will be 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 24, at the United Methodist Church in Whitefish, with the Rev. Debra Schmidt officiating.

Arrangements and cremation are under the direction of the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish.

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Eunice Mary (Snyder) (Melby) Small

Eunice Mary (Snyder) (Melby) Small, died on Sept. 11, 2007, at home with her family. Eunice fought a courageous battle with brain cancer, as she did with everything she faced in her life, never giving up to the end.



Born Dec. 30, 1929, in Eau Claire, Wis., to Dewey William and Nora Caroline (Ross) Snyder. Eunice attended schools in Eau Claire, graduating from Eau Claire Senior High School in 1947.

Eunice married Robert Clark Ada Melby on Sept. 17, 1949; divorcing him in 1959.

Eunice married William "Willie" W. Small on Jan. 1, 1964, moving to Whitefish at that time. They were instrumental in helping start the First Baptist Church of Whitefish, donating the property for the first church building.

Eunice worked as a meat wrapper at Safeway in Whitefish, then in the new Kalispell store.

Her hobbies were crocheting, making so many beautiful afghans for her friends and loved ones; and baby afghans for all; ceramics, making prize-winning pieces that she enjoyed giving to anyone who admired them; shopping and thrift "saling" with her friend, Lois, and lunching and breakfast with her at Syke's.

Eunice was a loving mom and grandma to her family, with a witty sense of humor that kept everyone wondering. She always had a story to tell, never shy about giv-

ing advice to anyone she thought needed it; a strong, loving, gentle, loyal example to all who knew and loved her. She was a dedicated Witness to Jehovah, serving him in every chance she had.

Eunice (Mom, Grandma) will be missed by her entire family.

She is survived by her youngest son, Kenneth Melby, of Kalispell; her daughter, Barbara Kramer-Jarvar and Stan Jarvar, of Kalispell; Barb's children, Eunie's beloved grandkids, Robert Joseph Kramer, his children, Ashley, Alexis, Autumn, Kyle and Isabel, all of Cornell, Wis., Royanna Eunice Miller and Steve Thiessen of Portland, Garrett William Kramer, Minette Lee Kramer, Kendrick Ray Kramer and Mackenzie Aaron Kramer; her adopted grandchildren, Walter Carl Higginson and Shayla Mathieson, and adopted son, Don Stubbs, all of Kalispell.

She was preceded in death by her beloved first-born son, Steven Robert Melby, on July 21, 2007; her son-in-law, Frederick R. Kramer, in 1995; her first husband, Robert C.A. Melby, in 1996; her second husband and best friend, William "Willie" Small, in 1999; and her beloved mom and dad, Dewey William and Nora Caroline (Ross) Snyder.

Memorial services will be at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 14, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, located on Woodland Drive in Kalispell. A joint memorial for Eunice and her son, Steve, will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 20, at the First Baptist Church of Whitefish, located at 6232 U.S. 93, Whitefish.

Betty Lou Smith, 67

Betty Lou Smith, 67, of Columbia Falls, died Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007, at the Colonial Manor in Whitefish, after a long brave battle with

Alzheimer's. Betty was born Aug. 28, 1939, to Goldie Emma and Lyle Aerial Chapman in Columbia Falls where she was raised and educated.

In 1958, she married Leo Franklin Smith of Columbia Falls where they raised their four children and resided until illness made it necessary for them to be cared for at the Colonial Manor.

Betty was a devoted and dedicated wife and mother. She had a merry spirit within her generous and serving heart. Her family was formed by watching her live as well as the many lives she so unselfishly touched. Betty enjoyed being with her family above all, as well as gardening, camping, fishing and being outdoors. Betty spent many years picking huckleberries beside Leo as well as her children. She was known for her Betty's Huckleberry Pie. Betty enjoyed sitting with Leo on their deck watching the hummingbirds they attracted with their secret recipe for hummingbird food.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Leo; her parents, Lyle and Goldie Chapman; her mother and father-in-law, Helen and Frank



Smith; brother-in-law, Richard "Dick" Lindsley, Robert "Bob" Smith and wife, Barbara; and a nephew, Michael Smith.

Betty is survived by her four children, Sherry and Gary Burchett of Great Falls, Tami Sue Smith of Kalispell, Terry Smith and wife, Taryn, of Columbia Falls, and Tony Smith of Rapid City, S.D.; a sister, Delores "Laverne" Lindsley at Colonial Manor in Whitefish; brother-in-law, William "Bill" Smith and wife, Linda, of Marion; five granddaughters, Laci Smith, BriAnna Bukoskey and Betsy Bukoskey of Kalispell, Jordan Smith and Sydney Smith of Rapid City, S.D.; three grandsons, Levi Smith and wife, Karen, of Helena, Jayme Bukoskey of Kalispell, and Trevor Smith of Rapid City, S.D.; one great-grandson, Braden Winterburn-Smith of Helena; and many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 9, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Rev. David Merkel will officiate. Burial will be afterwards at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls. A reception will be after the burial at the Columbia Falls United Methodist Church.

The family has suggested that memorials be made to the Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, Montana 59901.

Doris Wilna Smith, 95

Doris Wilna Smith, 95, passed away peacefully at Immanuel Lutheran Home, in Kalispell, on Sept. 7, 2007.

Born July 12, 1912, as Doris Armstrong, in Elgin, Neb., Doris was the third of Edith and Burton Armstrong's 11 children. Doris grew up and went to school in Laurel.

She worked as physician's office assistant before marrying Haldon Smith in 1934.

She cooked for Forest Service fire crews and in restaurants of Ashland.

Doris and Haldon had four children, Howard "Howdy," Jim, Kay and Montee. The Smith family resided at several unique ranger stations during Haldon's career with the Forest Service.

After retirement in 1971, they settled in Whitefish.

In 1989 after Haldon's death, Doris moved to Columbia Falls. In



2003 she became a resident at the Immanuel Lutheran Home.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Haldon; and oldest son, Howard.

Doris is survived by her brother, Louis Armstrong, and sister, Eva Armstrong, both of Laurel; son, Jim Smith, and Sheryl of Joliet; son, Montee, and Linda of Columbia Falls; daughter, Kay Olson, of Spokane; and daughter-in-law, Verdie Smith, of Billings. Also surviving are several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Doris was the most loving and compassionate person you would ever meet. She never had a pessimistic word to say about anyone. Her passions were her family and cooking. She will be greatly missed by her loving family and friends.

A celebration of her life will be held at 1 p.m. on Sept. 17, at 7660 Farm to Market Road, Whitefish.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorial contributions to Women of the Moose, 230 West 10th Street, Whitefish, MT 59937.

Gilbert E. Smith, 80

Gilbert Smith, 80, died peacefully in the Kalispell Regional Hospital of an extended illness on June 25, 2007.

He was born Oct. 4, 1926, in Livingston, and grew up on a farm out of Clyde Park. He graduated from Livingston High School in 1944.

He enlisted in the Navy for three years and then returned to Bozeman to attend college. Gilbert was appointed by Mike Mansfield to attend Annapolis where he graduated in 1952.

Gilbert served in the Navy for more than 20 years, traveling abroad to many different countries. He retired as a lieutenant commander.

In 1962, Gilbert married Winona Freitag. He and his wife moved from California to Whitefish where they have enjoyed



the past 17 years.

Gilbert Smith was a member of the United Church of God. Ordained as a deacon in 1987, he set a sterling example of unselfish service, courageous faith, and quiet generosity.

Gil's love for the truth and ability to encourage others continued right up to the end. Like the Apostle Paul, Gil could say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." — 2 Timothy 4:7-8

He was preceded in death by parents Roscow and Edna.

Gilbert is survived by his wife of 45 years, Winona; brother, Gordon Smith; sister, Aileen Ward; stepdaughter, Karen Marasco; and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service and burial took place at Woodlawn Cemetery.

H. Everett Smith, 101

H. Everett Smith, 101, of Polson passed away May 5, 2007, at Evergreen Health and Rehabilitation Center. Everett was born July 7, 1905, in Fredericksburg, Iowa, to Rev. C.E. Smith and Clara (Somers) Smith.



He received his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Montana Wesleyan College in Helena. He taught high-school chemistry and was a restaurant owner and chef in Polson for 35 years.

Everett married Luella Herried on June 24, 1935, in Polson.

Everett was a city councilman for six years, a member of IOOF Lodge, where he served as noble grand of the local chapter and grand master of the state chapter. He also was elected repre-

sentative to the Sovereign Grand lodge meetings in New York, Cleveland, Vancouver, B.C., and Cincinnati.

He was also a Lions Club member for 25 years and headed up the local Salvation Army chapter for 20 years. He was a member of the Lake County Council on Aging, American Red Cross, Lake County Tax Appeals Board and was a past Polson Senior Citizens president.

He is survived by his daughter, Marjorie Reid, and her husband, Jerry, of Redding, Calif.; three grandchildren, Deborah White, Brian Reid and Theron Reid; and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 12, in the Polson Community Church, with the Rev. Richard Widerholdt officiating.

Cremation and arrangements are by Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory in Polson.

Helen L. Barrier Smith, 91

Helen L. Barrier Smith, 91, passed away May 27, 2007, in Gresham, Ore.

Helen was born in Poplar, on May 15, 1916, to Chester and Nanna Schram. She attended grade school in Seattle, where her dad owned a grocery store. They moved to Kellogg, Idaho, when she was in the first grade. She graduated from Kellogg High School at 16 years of age.

She loved piano and took lessons most of her school years.

During an ice skating party in Wallace in 1935 she met Marvin Barrier. They were married in 1938. They bought a soda fountain/candy store called the Buttercup in Wallace, Idaho. The couple had four children; Janice Marlene, James Marvin, William Arthur and Brenda Nan. They moved to Mullan, Idaho in 1950 where they operated the Morning Hotel for the Morning Mine. When the mine was closed in 1953 they moved to Kalispell. Where they again owned and operated a soda fountain/candy store called Marvin's.

In 1965 they divorced and Helen moved back to Kellogg, Idaho to care for her elderly parents. She went to work for the Bunker Hill Co. as a secretary to the manager of research. She worked there for 13 years and retired in 1979.

In 1975 she met and married

Stanley K. Smith. Together they enjoyed spending time on their boat, water skiing, picnicking and camping. In 1976 they built a home on a bill overlooking Osburn, Idaho. They lived there until 1992 when they moved to Gresham.

A highlight of Helen's life was being a member of P.E.O. She was initiated in Chapter AL in Mullan in 1952, then transferred to Chapter C in Kalispell, and then belonged to Chapter M in Kellogg, Idaho. While living in Kellogg she was elected to the State Board of Officers in Idaho in 1983. She served six years and was State President in 1989. In Gresham Oregon she belonged to Chapter DW. She was honored a few years ago as a 50-year member.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters; two brothers; and her beloved son, Jim in 2000.

She was very proud of Jim representing the U.S. in the 1960 Winter Olympics as a downhill ski racer.

Survivors include her husband, Stanley K. Smith of Gresham, Ore.; and her children, Bill Barrier and wife, Barbara, of Spokane, Brenda Probert and husband, Ed of Kalispell, and Janice Erickson of Gresham. She leaves seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Joann Marie Middleton Smith, 88

Joann Marie Middleton Smith passed away Dec. 14, 2007, at her home in Kalispell.

The daughter of Austin and Lucille Burt Middleton,

Joann was "born in a jail ..." in Miles City on Sept. 20, 1919, when her father was sheriff of Custer County, and was "... raised at the penitentiary" when he was appointed warden of the Montana Territorial Prison.

Joann received her elementary and secondary education in Deer Lodge, and spent her college years at Stephen's in Missouri and the University of Montana, where she became a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

It was in Missoula that Joann met local attorney Kendrick Smith. On Feb. 27, 1943, she married Kendrick, who had two daughters, Lorinda and Valerie.

Making their home in Butte, Joann became involved in Junior League, PEO Chapter AC, Homer Club, and the Presbyterian Church. She also was involved for many years with the Butte Sheltered Workshop, March of Dimes, The Heart Association, The Arts Chateau as a member and on the board of directors, and with the Butte Ski Club, where she was often pressed into service as the ambulance for the patient with the occasional broken leg. While raising daughters Lorinda and Valerie, Kendrick and Joann welcomed their third daughter, Blake, in 1946.

Joann was an exquisite seamstress, a gourmet cook, a fierce game player, and a wonderful "law" partner to her beloved Kendrick. Their travels through the ABA took them all around



the world, but she really delighted in being in her own country, in her own state, and watching her 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild grow.

Joann was preceded in death by her husband of 46 years; her parents, Lucille and Austin Middleton; and younger brother, Blu Middleton.

She is survived by her daughters and their spouses: Lorinda and Ray Moholt of Portland, Valerie and Jack Olson of Bozeman, Blake Smith of Kalispell, and close friend and "fourth daughter" Rita and Jim Morris of Portsmouth, Ohio; sisters, Tommie Lu Worden and Margaret Scariano, both of Missoula; sister-in-law, Susie Middleton, and Fred Samut of Hemet, Calif.; grandsons and their spouses: Jeff and Toni Olson of Lakewood, Colo., Jake and Amber Olson of Denver, Raymond Kendrick and Leslie Moholt of Lostine, Ore.; and granddaughters and their spouses: Jessica and Ifreme Koryoyale of Bozeman, and Kerri and Melissa Moholt-Siebert of Portland. Joann's great-grandchildren include: Austin and Lucille Moholt-Siebert, Annecy, Isabella Josie, and Siena Olson, Anna Helene Moholt, Kalo and Triton Koroiyale, Liam and Devak Olson, and Tristan Melody; and great-great-granddaughter, Isabelle "Bou" Perales, of Anchorage, Alaska. Twelve nieces and nephew and two cousins also survive.

Visitation will be at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, in Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home in Butte. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 21, at the First Presbyterian Church of Butte, Platinum and Excelsior.

Joann's daughters request memorials be sent to the Rialto Theatre in Deer Lodge or the Rough Rider's Museum in Miles City.

Jody Alene Smith, 46

Jody Alene Smith, 46, died tragically at her home in Hungry Horse on Dec. 9, 2007.

Jody is now "with the Lord" and will be greatly missed by her family and all her "Canyon" friends whom she considered family. She was well-known for her generosity, love and caring for so many around her.

Jody loved to sew and was especially known for the pillow quilts she made for family and friends. She also made her quilts and donated them throughout the Canyon. Jody loved her home in Hungry

Horse and Montana but she will be laid to rest, in peace, in Spokane.

Jody is survived by her only child, Joe Putman of St. Marie's, Idaho; mother, Marie Leming of Medical Lake, Wash.; sister, Linda Stahl of Peru, Ind.; brothers, Jim, Jerry and Danny Leming, all of Medical Lake, Wa.; and Bob Leming of Bend, Ore.; sister, Diana Milich and her husband, Dale, also of Medical Lake; nephews and nieces, Marcus, Carly, Lucas, Josh, Zach, Shiana and Bryce; and all her "Canyon" friends.

Joyce Nadine Smith, 79

Joyce Nadine Smith, 79, of Milwaukie, Ore., passed away Saturday, Nov. 10, 2007, at her home.

Joyce was born April 15, 1928, in Thompson Falls, to Gladys and Tracy Johnston. She attended schools in Thompson Falls, Plains and Kalispell, graduating from Flathead County High School in 1946.

She married James A. Smith in 1947, divorcing him in 1952, and marrying Ray McMillan in 1953 whom she divorced in 1977 then marrying James A. Smith again in 1978 and moved to Milwaukie, where James survives her.

Joyce was a homemaker and part time clerk at J.C. Penny and Hillstead's in Kalispell.

She enjoyed embroidery, cooking, gardening, watching old movies and following NBA games especially the Portland Trailblazers. She loved her family, Christmas time and going to

the beach in Oregon.

Joyce is preceded in death by her parents; an infant son; and her sister, Tryn Barnes.

Survivors include her husband, Jim, of Milwaukie; her daughter, Cheryl Amundson and her husband, Arvin, of Kalispell; her son, Robert Shane McMillan and his wife, Christine, of Milwaukie; three grandchildren, Kimberly Plum, Christopher Amundson and Stacy Atkinson; three great-grandchildren, Carter, Ethan and Brooklyn Plum; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial services for Joyce will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 17, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Joyce's family. You are invited to go to www.johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Joyce's guest book.

Lois G. Smith, 64

Lois G. Smith, 64, of Libby, died Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2007, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital from natural causes.

She worked at the Libby Care Center for more than 17 years and 4 years for Dr. Knecht.

Survivors include her husband, Walter Smith, of Libby; and her children, Tracy Murphy of Polson,

David Smith of Seattle, Kevin Smith of Spokane, Ellen Holzhauser of Libby, Tyler Smith of Boise, Idaho, and Peyton Smith of Seattle.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 22, 2007, at the Libby Christian Church in Libby. Visitation will be from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Local arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

Robert William Smith, 19

Robert William Smith, 19, passed away at his Kalispell residence on Nov. 2, 2007. He was born Jan. 7, 1988, in Weiser, Idaho, and was raised in Weiser and Kalispell.

Robert had worked as a lot attendant for Eisinger Honda.

Robert loved hunting, fishing, snowboarding, and being among friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Robert Lee Smith and Paul David Clagg;



and grandmother, Donna Clagg.

Robert is survived by his mother, Robin Dye and stepfather Bill Dye, of Kalispell; father, Todd Clagg, of Weiser; brother, Brandon Smith, of Miles City; sister, Crystal Leach, of Kalispell; stepbrother, Shawn Dye, of Kalispell; half sister, Angelia Clagg, of Oregon; and grandmother, Ronnie Morrison, of Weiser.

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday Nov. 9, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with Dr. Hal Irvine officiating. A reception will be held at the Ashley Lake home after the service. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Mary Z. Smith, 97

Mary Z. Smith, age 97, a former long time resident of Kalispell, passed away Jan. 3, 2007, in Spokane, Washington.

Graveside services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 10, 2007, at

the West Jordan City Cemetery, West Jordan, Utah. She is survived by her four children, 15 grandchildren, and numerous great- and great-great grandchildren.

Patty L. Smith, 63

Patty L. Smith, 63, of Libby, died Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

Survivors include her husband, Manley Smith, of Libby; children, Fred Chartier,

Tina Jenner, Manley Smith Jr., Murray Smith, and Della Smith, all of Libby.

Private family services will be held.

Arrangements are by the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

Roy James 'Smitty' Smith, 64

Roy James "Smitty" Smith, 64, was killed Feb. 15, 2007, in an accident in Missoula. He was born Sept. 27, 1942, in Anaconda to Chauncy M. and Elizabeth K. Smith.



Smitty graduated from Flathead County High School in 1960. He attended Montana State University in Missoula for one year before joining the U.S. Navy.

Upon returning to Kalispell, he was employed at Moose's Saloon. From there his adventures took him to Biby's Floor Coverings. He then made a career move to Creative Cabinets in Missoula and, after returning to Kalispell, opened his own business, Kalispell Countertops.

He was married to Neva Olson in Kalispell, on Oct. 8, 1966. They divorced in 1975.

One of the joys of his life consisted of speed -- snowcats, speed boats, and Corvettes -- he enjoyed them to the fullest.

Life was an adventure with all his friends and loved ones.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and son, Rase C. Smith.

Roy James is survived by his sister, Roberta, and brother-in-law, Peter Keyser; nieces, Vicki Davison, Karin Keyser and Kristi Keyser, grand-nephews, Kenneth and Kevin Downey, and one grand-niece, Kylie Keyser, all of Ventura, Calif.; and stepdaughter, Dawn Grant, and children, of Kalispell.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, at United Methodist Church, 329 Second Ave. E., in Kalispell.

Friends are invited to a celebration of life and reception for Roy at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Rainbow Bar. "Smitty would have loved it and don't forget to 'ease up' and 'maintain.'"

Su Song Smith, 65

Su Song Smith, 65, of Columbia Falls, suddenly was taken away from all who loved her on the morning of Wednesday, July 25, 2007.

Su Song was born May 5, 1942, in a small village in South Korea. In 1971, she came to the Flathead Valley, residing most of her time in Columbia Falls.

She is survived by her beloved husband, best friend and love of her life, Patrick C. Smith.

Pat would like to share with everyone some of the special things she enjoyed in her life. Su had her "Play Time" she shared with all who knew her.



She loved her garden, traveling, boating, special trips to Glacier National Park and most of all, she loved to play keno. Su Song touched many and put a song in every heart she met and will be greatly missed.

We love you Su, and we'll see you again on the morning run.

A visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, July 30, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 31, at the Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery near Kalispell. Pastor David Merkel will officiate.

Pat has suggested that memorials be made to the American Cancer Society or to the Diabetes Association.

Arrangements are with the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Wilma Naomi Lautaret Elliott Smith, 90

Wilma Naomi Smith was born Dec. 11, 1917, in Waggoner, Okla., to William and Zora (Kennedy) Lautaret. She was the fifth of six children, two of whom died in infancy. She went quietly and peacefully in her sleep "to be with the Lord" early on the morning of Dec. 30, 2007, at the age of 90.



Before she was 3 years old, the family moved to Hugoton, a farming community in southwest Kansas. She went to school there and completed the first five grades. Her parents were active in the Church of God, her mother being an ordained minister. Due to the ill health of her father, the family moved to Florence, Colo., where she attended sixth through 12th grade. She was popular, holding a class office all four years of high school, and was an honor student, being the salutatorian of her senior class.

She was married there to Marvin Elliott, and had one son, Kenneth. Then the family moved to western Oregon and on to Washington where a second son, Ray Gene, was born in Wenatchee.

In 1949, the family moved to Kalispell, where her two brothers, Harold Lautaret and his wife Sue, and Laurence Lautaret and his wife Maxine, and their families lived. She attended the Church of God (later Northridge Heights Church of God) and was converted to Christ in 1949. She was very active in the music department and held several different offices.

She worked at the Kalispell Mercantile Company for nine years as a bookkeeper. She tired of working with "dead" figures and wanted to work with "live" ones, so in the fall of 1960 she and a young widowed friend, Virginia (Meeks) VanderEnde, moved to Portland, where they both enrolled at Warner Pacific College. She worked part time, mostly in the college library, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1964 with an education and psychology major.

She spent a year working in Portland for an anesthesiology clinic, wondering what to do in the future. She applied to Oregon College of Education at Monmouth, Ore., and was accepted. She earned a master's degree in education of the deaf in 1966.

In June of 1966, she married LaRue R. Smith, who owned several rental properties in Netarts, Ore. She worked at the Oregon School for the Deaf in Salem in 1967 and 1968. She then remained in Netarts for a time and helped with the rentals. She missed the challenge and fulfillment of education, so she applied for work in the Tillamook school system and started on a part time basis Jan. 1, 1970, working with hearing-impaired children. The school year of 1981-1982 was the first year she worked full time. This involved working with a profoundly deaf girl in high school, and learning sign language, which was a real challenge and joy.

She attended the Friends Church in Netarts and was active in the music department, Sunday School, and women's activities. She believed, and exhibited in her life, that faithfulness and dependability were two of the best characteristics a person can have.

Following LaRue's death she moved back to Kalispell to be near her brothers, Harold and Laurence Lautaret. Since that time, she faithfully attended Whitefish Community Church of God where her nephew, Larry Lautaret, is pastor.

Following Laurence's death in 2003, Wilma was faithfully and lovingly cared for by her niece LaVonne (Lautaret) Ertz, and her husband Ralph Ertz, at the family home in Kalispell.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Zora Lautaret; her husband, LaRue R. Smith; and her brothers, Harold and Laurence Lautaret.

She is survived by her sons, Kenneth Elliott and his wife Adele of Hugoton, Kan., and Ray Gene Elliott and his wife Kathryn of Doylestown, Pa.; stepchildren Gary Smith of Portland, Greg Smith of Milwaukee, Ore., Marcia Smith Griggs of Happy Valley, Ore., and Lorraine Smith Kistler of Aloha, Ore.; her sisters-in-law, Maxine Lautaret and Sue Lautaret, of Kalispell; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service is planned at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3, at Whitefish Community Church of God. A memorial service in Portland, with interment in Tillamook, Ore., is still being arranged.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Whitefish Community Church of God, 5685 Highway 93 South, Whitefish MT 59937.

Mabel Rose (Holley) Smock, 79

Mabel Rose (Holley) Smock, 79, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007, at Brendan House in Kalispell. Mabel was born on June 8, 1927, in Cleveland, to Jeff and Martha (Houston) Holley. She attended school in Cleveland, where she graduated from high school.

Mabel began working for the AT&T Corporation in Cleveland in the late 1950s, and displayed effort and abilities that put her into management positions which she continued serving in until her retirement nearly 30 years later.

She was active in her church as a teacher with children's classes, and as a member of the choir, where she expressed her love of

music in an operatic voice.

Mabel had a deep appreciation for all forms of art, including the theater and classical or orchestra music. She enjoyed spending time with children and loved roses and swans.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters; and one brother.

Mabel is survived by her son, Jeff Alexander, of Kalispell; a brother, Charles "Chuck" Holley; and a sister, Helen Holley.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, at Buffalo Hill Funeral

Home.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Eleanor B. Snyder, 96

Eleanor B. Snyder passed away on Aug. 25, 2007. She was born in Kansas City, Kan., on March 1, 1911, the daughter of Roger B. Brewster, M.D., and Edith McCarty Brewster. Eleanor lost her mother in 1922.

Eleanor Brewster met her life-long sweetheart, James Snyder, while they attended school at the University of Kansas. She and Jim married Sept. 1, 1933.

In 1950, Eleanor and Jim moved to Colorado where they raised their family. Jim practiced law and Eleanor was a homemaker. She was devoted to



her husband and children. She was a kind, gentle, loving, and thoughtful wife and mother.

Eleanor was predeceased in death by her husband, Jim, in 2002; and by her beloved sister, Margaret Brewster McKinney who had lived in Siloam Springs, Ark., in 2001.

Eleanor is survived by three sons, Jim of Boulder, Colo., Howard of Cardston, Alberta, and Bob of Kalispell. She is also survived by five granddaughters and one grandson.

Her family expresses their gratitude to the staff of the Kalispell Regional Medical Center, Jason Schmidt, M.D., and especially the nursing staff at Brendan House who provided Eleanor with exceptional skilled care and compassion.

Harold E. Snyder, 80

Harold E. Snyder, 80, a longtime resident of the Pipe Creek area, died Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at his home.

He spent the majority of his working years as a logger.

Surviving him are his wife, Shirley, of Pipe Creek; and his children, Rod Snyder, Connie Swartzendruber and

Steve Snyder, all of Libby.

Graveside services with military honors will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at the city of Libby Cemetery. Family and friends may call from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home.

Dr. J. Philip Sohn, 35

Dr. J. Philip Sohn, 35, died Saturday, Dec. 15, 2007, in Kalispell.

He will be cremated and his ashes returned to his

home town of Rolling Hills Estate, Calif.

Buffalo Hills Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Scott O. Solem, 47

Scott O. Solem, 47, formerly of Libby, died Sunday, Oct. 28, 2007, in Spokane.

Survivors include his parents, John and Mary Ellen Solem, of the Yaak area near Troy.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Christ Lutheran Church in Libby with the Rev. Dan Heskett officiating.

Arrangements are under the care of Nelson and Vial Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Robert L. 'Bob' Sonntag, 87

Robert L. "Bob" Sonntag, 87, died Dec. 6, 2007, in Yuma, Ariz.

He was born July 20, 1920, to Frank Sonntag and Cora Hobson Sonntag in Wenatchee, Wash. He grew up in Wenatchee and graduated from Wenatchee High School in 1938. After graduation, Bob worked at Keyport Naval Torpedo Station in Bremerton, Wash., for three years.

On Sept. 8, 1944, he married Helen Metcalf. They spent the early years of their marriage in Wenatchee, where their first two daughters were born. It was there he built their first home.

Bob worked as a machinist for his father and later for the railroad.

The couple returned to the Flathead Valley in 1950, delivered their third daughter, and made Kalispell their home until Helen's death in 1997.

Bob was employed by Coca-Cola Bottling Co. for 17 years, and then by Industrial Supply Co. until his retirement in 1984.



Bob enjoyed golf and singing in the choir at the First Presbyterian Church, and he loved to dance and spend time with his family and friends. He was involved in the Masonic Order and Shrine Club.

He later met Phyllis Junor in Yuma, where they have since spent winters, and have summered together in the Pacific Northwest at her home on Puget Sound.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Helen; daughter, Kathy; and brother, Frank.

He is survived by Phyllis in Yuma; daughters, Bobbie Roberts and her husband, Bill, of Richland, Wash., and Carol Grosswiler and husband, Scott, of Kalispell; grandchildren, Bryan Roberts, Jennifer and Tim Samland, Stacie Apple and husband, Jason, Sarah Card and husband, Brent, and Jake Grosswiler; a sister, Gerre Rich of Wenatchee; and sister-in-law, Vera Minneri, of Olympia, Wash.; five great-grandchildren; and many wonderful friends.

A celebration of life service has been held in Yuma.

The family suggests memorial gifts be sent to the Shriners Children's Hospital.

John Edward Sorensen, 83

John Edward Sorensen, 83, of Bemidji, Minn., formerly of Kalispell, died Tuesday, July 3, 2007, at North Country Regional Hospital in Bemidji.

He operated his own drug store in Kalispell for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Lorraine "Lo" Sorensen, of Bemidji; and three sons, William of Strasburg, Ohio,

David of Duluth, Minn., and James of Burnsville, Minn.

Memorial services will be at 1 p.m., Saturday, July 7, at the United Methodist Church in Bemidji, with Rev. Eric Hucke and Marva Jean Hutchens officiating. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church.

The Cease Family Funeral Home of Bemidji assisted the family with arrangements.

Charles Ray Spangle, 69

Charles Ray Spangle, 69, passed away in Kalispell on April 9, 2007. Charles was born June 17, 1937, in Pendleton, Ore., and grew up there. He graduated from high school in Pendleton.



Charles worked as an insurance agent for Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Dorothy Spangle; and a son, Kenny

Spangle.

He is survived by his wife, Linda, of Kalispell; daughter, Shana; sons, Kevin, Kirk, Darin, Dustin and Damon; 11 grandchildren; and brothers, Jerry and Don Geister.

Visitation for Charles will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 12, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 13, at Valley Victory Church, with Pastor Bill Lewis officiating. Burial will be afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Donald Lee Spengler, 57

Donald Lee Spengler, 57, of Bigfork, passed away on Sept. 18, 2007, of natural causes at St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula. Don was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, June 4, 1950, to Don and Nancy Spengler.

He was an avid sportsman as well as a great compassionate friend, father, and husband to all who knew him. His storytelling and sense of humor was captivating and will be remembered always. He will be dearly missed by all.

Don is survived by his parents, Don and Nancy Spengler; his loving wife, and soul mate,

Pam; sisters, Diane and Darlene; brother, David; daughter, Vanessa; sons, Christian, Deric and Jesse; and grandchildren Tanner, Moriah, Natalie, Isaac and Amelia.

Following a private family service, a potluck celebration of Don's life will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Tall Pine Lounge in the Lake Hills Center, Montana 35, Bigfork. Phone 406-837-6714. Jerry Clemens will provide musical entertainment.

Funeral arrangements were provided by Foster & Durgeloh located at 216 Project Dr., St. Ignatius, MT 59865, 406-745-6789.

Patricia 'Pat' Elizabeth Spinosa, 80

Patricia "Pat" Elizabeth Spinosa, 80, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2007, at the Brendan House in Kalispell.



She was born July 2, 1927, in Cheyenne, Wyo., to Emmett and Elizabeth (LaFountain) Etchingham.

Pat was a homemaker most of her life, starting out in Wyoming, moving to New York, Texas, Las Vegas, and Montana. She moved with her family to the Flathead Valley in 2005, after working 15 years as a school crossing guard for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

Pat loved her family, cooking Italian cuisine and working in her gardens.

Pat was preceded in death by

her parents; three brothers; a daughter, Nicki; and her beloved husband of 40 years, Albert.

She is survived by her three sons and their spouses, Dan and Roberta of Tampa, Fla., Larry and Michelle of Kalispell, and Robert and Teresa of Las Vegas; her granddaughter, Rachel; and a brother, Joseph Etchingham, of Billings.

She will be missed by many. "We love you, Ma."

A Mass of Christian burial for Pat will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, 2007, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalispell, with Father Vic Langhans as celebrant.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 602 South Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Pat's family. You are invited to go to www.johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Pat's guest book.

Patrick M. Springer, 68

Patrick M. Springer, 68, loving husband, father and grandfather, left our world on June 10, 2007, after a long and courageous battle with prostate cancer. He was born on Feb. 5, 1939, in Mankato, Minn.

His passion for music led him to pursue a degree in composition and arranging of music from the University of Minnesota in Mankato. This same passion brought him to Montana in 1959 to play his music in Glacier National Park.

He returned to Minnesota to join the U.S. Army in 1961, serving in the special intelligence division.

On Oct. 16, 1965, he married Lorraine Jensen of St. James, Minn., and soon after returned to Montana to pursue a law degree, graduating in 1969 with his Juris Doctorate. He later settled in Kalispell, making a home for his wife and family.

He served as the County Attorney from 1974 to 1978, spent time as a Kalispell City Council member, was elected twice to the Study Commission and served on the Selective Service Draft Committee.

He was an active member of the community, participating in many organizations, includ-

ing serving as the voice of the Kalispell Lakers for many years. Glacier Park and music remained his passions throughout his life.

Patrick is survived by his wife, Lorraine; two daughters, Mikelle Wiley and Travis of Kalispell, and Erika Taylor and Charles of Missoula; five grandchildren, Colten, Cody, Cailey, Cade and Creed Wiley; his brothers, Michael P. Springer, Jr., and Marty of Gulf Shores, Ala., and Stephen Springer of Mankato; his sister, Marylea Lombard and Jim, of Athens, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews and their families.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Lucy Springer.

The family will be holding a short celebration of his life at 4 p.m. Friday, June 15, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Cremation and arrangements are being handled by Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Flathead Valley Home Options Hospice program that took such great care of this special man. Donations may be sent to 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell MT 59901.

Marion Alvira (Stober) Stansberry-Horn, 94

Marion "MeMe" Alvira (Stober) Stansberry-Horn, 94, of Whitefish, died July 14, 2007, at the Brendan House in Kalispell.

She opened the Modern Beauty Shop in Shelby where she did hair for many years.

Marion is survived by her

daughter, Darnell Joy Pionti, of Chicago Heights, Ill.

There will be a graveside service at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 19, at the Valley View Cemetery in Shelby.

Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish and Whitted Funeral Chapel in Shelby are in charge of the arrangements.

Elmer Sprunger, 87

Elmer Sprunger, 87, died Aug. 22, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, after a six-month illness with lung cancer caused



by exposure to asbestos. Elmer was born Sept. 23, 1919, in Kalispell, to Jerry and Mary Sprunger.

Elmer always referred to his childhood as "growing up in the cedar jungle on the shady side of Swan Lake" in and among the areas of abundant wildlife that would shape his perception of the world in which he lived. The world of his childhood was filled with wild animals that moved freely in nature giving them, and him, freedom.

Elmer got his formal education in schools in Swan Lake and Bigfork, with one year at Bulte High in the middle, followed by graduation from Bigfork High in 1938.

He told the story that his parents didn't want him to marry until he was at least 21, so he waited one day after his 21st birthday to marry Marie Svejovsky on Sept. 24, 1940.

The young couple moved to Seattle in 1942, where Elmer worked in the shipyard, drafting and doing layout on steel during World War II. It was at this period that Elmer began drawing his amazing cartoons, already filled with his singular commentary on politics and life. They later moved to Bremerton, Wash., where Elmer worked as a carpenter and logger.

Then in 1950, Elmer and Marie moved back to Swan Lake where he took a job as caretaker of one of the Copper King's estates. They moved to Bigfork in 1953, where Elmer lived the remainder of his life.

In 1956, Elmer took a job at the Anaconda Aluminum Company in Columbia Falls where he worked until 1971 as a painter and sign painter. Elmer left the plant to devote himself full-time to his artistic career. He continued to sell paintings in galleries and on commission. He always managed to find the time to draw his cartoons, choosing politicians, dignitaries, the human condition, and especially logging of public lands, as his favorite targets. Some of his cartoons were reprinted in national conservation publications. His

cartoons ran prominently in the Bigfork Eagle for 24 years.

He never missed an opportunity to share his analysis of current events, both local and international, with his fortunate readers. Many subscribers read the paper only to see his sharp wit in action every week. All the while his thousands of realistic oil paintings of wildlife and outdoor scenes attracted a huge national following. His work hangs in the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma and the Safari Club in Las Vegas. Elmer especially liked to paint wild birds, elk and bear. Examples of his work hang in galleries, public buildings and prominent homes throughout the West.

The Sprunger-Whitney Trail in the Swan Valley was named and established in 1995 after him and long time friend Jack Whitney, on behalf of their conservation efforts and vision to preserve this diverse forest. The trail was built and is maintained by Friends of the Wild Swan. His last completed painting, of a whitetail buck standing regally by the shore of the Swan River, was painted at the same place Charlie Russell chose to make his last painting.

Elmer was preceded in death by his wife, Marie, in 1993; and their daughter, Joyce, in 1965.

He is survived by daughter, Nancy Beardsley, and husband, Don, of Missoula; son, Jerry Sprunger, of Bigfork; granddaughter, Dawn Jackson, of Whitefish; grandson, Tim Rahrer, and wife, Sandy Carson, of Ottawa, Ontario; great-grandsons, Cory Jackson and Brandon Jackson, of Whitefish; and great-granddaughter, Coral Carson, of Ontario.

Memorial services for Elmer Sprunger are scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, at the United Methodist Church in Bigfork. A potluck reception will follow services at 2 p.m. at the Elks Lodge in Kalispell, where one of Sprunger's most famous works is a 5 1/2- by 12-foot mural of an elk herd that is so proudly displayed. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel.

The family suggests donations in lieu of flowers, to help defray his medical costs.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Elmer's family. You are invited to go to www.johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Elmer's guest book.

Betty Jean Anderson Stapley, 78

Betty Jean Anderson Stapley, 78, went to join her Lord and Savior" on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007, while a patient at Brendan House in Kalispell.



Born to Guy and Jennie (Smith) Anderson on June 24, 1929, in Great Falls, Betty was the sixth child of seven and the only girl. They moved to Columbia Falls when she was a young girl. Betty went to school in Columbia Falls, graduating from Columbia Falls High School in 1948.

She worked in Martin City as a waitress and met her future husband, Loran Stapley, while employed there. They were married Dec. 12, 1950. Betty and Loran had two children, losing one in infancy. Betty was a homemaker, mom, and grandmother.

Betty and Loran "Red," started doing reflexology in the 1960s. They practiced reflexology for more than 30 years and treated hundreds of people. Betty taught reflexology during the '80s and '90s and had students from all over the world. They enjoyed helping others and their home was always open to anyone.

They had a large garden and orchard. Betty could be found canning and preserving the fruits and vegetables that Loran harvested. She never wanted to run out of her special applesauce or canned fruit for her grandkids. Her homemade breads and meals were world famous, at least to her family.

Betty, along with prior generations, was a lifelong member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She loved to study the Scriptures and was always looking for new understanding. She took much comfort in her faith and was not afraid to share it. Betty and Loran held a monthly songfest and potluck at their home for years. She played her old pump organ and "had the angels sing along."

When they retired they spent their winters in Arizona and

made many lifelong friends through those travels. They still did reflexology during that time and Betty started painting. She truly enjoyed painting and taught several others to paint, including her brother Steve.

They moved to Wyoming for a couple of years and then to Boulder, Mont., for a couple more. They then moved back home to the Flathead about 10 years ago. It is the place Betty loved the most, close to family and friends.

Betty lived in the Elms Apartments the last five years of her life, where she had many dear friends. If there was a pinochle game or potluck, you could find Betty in the middle of it. Betty loved her family and always had time for her grandchildren. In her later life nothing gave her greater pleasure than her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was the last survivor of that generation. She always said she came from a "strong and vigorous tribe of people" and she was so proud of that fact.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Loran "Red" Stapley in 2000; an infant daughter; a granddaughter; her parents; and all six of her brothers.

She is survived by her son and his wife, Steve and Susan Stapley; a stepdaughter and her husband, Sally and Anson Barnes, both of Columbia Falls; grandchildren, Jeremy and Christian Stapley, Jacque Edwards and Harley Barnes, all of Columbia Falls, Wendall and Nona Barnes of Clinton, Rob and Christy Stapley of Helena, and Dan and Kristi Johnson of Stevensville; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and loved ones.

A celebration of her life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Her nephew Scott Anderson will officiate the service. Burial will be at the Fairview Cemetery. There will be a reception at the Columbia Falls Church of The Nazarene after the service.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Kenneth L. Stapley, 82

Services for Kenneth L. Stapley, 82, who died from natural causes on Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007, at the Libby Care Center, will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday. Interment will follow at

the Milnor Lake Cemetery in Troy.

Survivors include his children, Kenny Stapley of Kalispell, Gary Stapley of Missoula, Sandra Morkeberg of Troy, and stepson William Rodman of Yuma, Ariz.

Virginia Mildred Stephens, 76

Virginia Mildred Stephens, 76, was born April 27, 1931, in Bozeman to Dwight and Alice Pierce. She grew up in Belgrade.



She married Grant Stephens on June 11, 1948, and they lived in Belgrade, Twin Bridges and Plains before moving to Ronan in 1959. They resided there for 17 years, raising their family of nine children while running a dairy farm.

In 1976, the family moved to Kalispell, where she has resided ever since.

She died June 29, 2007, at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center, surrounded by her loving family.

Virginia had boundless love for her own children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She had a day-care center in her home for more than 20 years, and was loved and known at "Ginnia" by many children.

Virginia accepted the Gospel as a teenager and her number one joy was the fellowship meeting in her home, and showing special love and care for the many friends and ministers she knew. Until the day she died,

Virginia reached out to the needs of others and opened her heart and home. Her family will always cherish her love and example in these things.

Virginia was preceded in death by her husband, Grant; her parents, Dwight and Alice; one brother, Marvin Pierce; and a son-in-law, Ben Coles.

She is survived by nine children: Anne Coles of Melstone; Larry of Finland; Dale (Marie) of Helena; Linda (Roger) Benjamin of Fort Benton; Bonnie (Dale) Braaten of Kalispell; David (Karl) of Cody, Wyo.; Lloyd (Nancy) of Plano, Texas; Betty (Dennis) Figarelle of Great Falls; and Dicie (Fred) Jangula of Missoula.

She is also survived by her brothers: David (Peggy) Pierce, Maurice (Marian) Pierce, and Jack (Jan) Pierce; sisters: Linda (Allen) Stephens and Mary (Everett) Parsons; 23 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and many friends and relatives.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday, July 2, 2007 at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 3, in the Expo Building at the Flathead County Fairgrounds. Burial will be afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Guy Gary Gordon Stephenson, 57

Guy Gary Gordon Stephenson, 57, passed away at his mother's home near Whitefish on Thursday, March 29, 2007. He was surrounded by family when "he went to meet Jesus."



Guy lived at assisted living on Liberty Street in Kalispell. He was a longtime member of the Summit Health Club. He made many friends there and served as unofficial greeter and door opener. It was his favorite place to be, and he will be missed by all.

He is survived by his mother

and stepfather, Ruby and Glen Zimmerman, of Whitefish; daughters, Krista Rook of Arizona and Tonya Gutierrez of California and Cody Stephenson of Texas; siblings, Mark Stephenson, Julie Hirschi, and Brenda Hesel, all of Whitefish; Richard and Mitchell Graeber of Billings, Jessica Flamm of Helena and Brian Zimmerman of Boise, Idaho.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 7, at the Four Square Church of Kalispell on U.S. 93 followed by a reception gathering of friends and family at the Zimmerman family home, 1428 KM Ranch Road, Whitefish. Details and maps will be posted at the Summit Health Club and also at the Four Square Church in Kalispell.

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Sylvia Mae Stenzel, 62

Sylvia Mae Stenzel, 62, passed away Sunday, May 20, 2007, at Health Center Northwest in Kalispell.

Sylvia was born Oct. 12, 1944, in Bertha, Minn. Her mother, Verna Chase and her older sister, Jeanne, were living with Verna's sister and brother-in-law, while her dad, Harris Chase was in the Philippines.

Harris did not see his daughter, Sylvia, until she was 14 months old because he was in the Army during World War II. When Harris returned home in 1945, the family lived in Otter Tail County with Harris's folks, Ben and Nancy, before moving to a small farm near Lyman Store. The Chases moved to Deer Creek when Sylvia was in elementary school and there she grew up and graduated from high school.

She married Roger Stenzel on Feb. 7, 1970, in St. Mary's Basilica at Minneapolis. They moved to Montana in October 1976, where she worked as a telephone operator and then as a housewife. Their son, Joseph Benjamin, was born in 1980.

Sylvia will be remembered as a loving compassionate wife, mother, sister and friend. She had lived her life with optimism, never complaining. Her caring always put others before

herself. To her, life was like a song. She would come up with a line from a song in the middle of conversations. As she sang through life, her sense of humor brought everyone a lot of joy.

Sylvia and Roger have enjoyed traveling since retirement and developed many friendships in Arizona and along the way. She loved people and writing. Her unending positive attitude, joyous spirit, and struggle with cancer the past two years have made her an inspiration.

She has left everyone she touched in life with happy memories and "hope for the peace she now finds in God's presence."

Sylvia is survived by her husband, Roger Stenzel; her son, Joe Stenzel, and his wife, Sara; her sister, Jeanne Everhart, and her husband, Doug; her brothers, Michael Chase and his wife Neila, and Jeffrey Chase and his wife Lynn; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, May 25, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Rev. David Merkel will officiate. She will be laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Charlene Faye Sterner, 53

Charlene Faye Sterner, 53, died Friday, June 8, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Survivors include her stepmother, Sherry Sterner.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today, June 14, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Kenneth Charles 'Ken' Sterner, 75

Kenneth Charles "Ken" Sterner, 75, passed away Saturday, April 21, 2007, in Kalispell, following a lengthy illness. Ken was born March 9, 1932, in Ambrose, N.D., to William and Vella Belle Sackett Sterner. He moved to Fort Peck in 1936, then to Kalispell in 1940, where he resided and attended schools.

Ken enlisted in the Navy, where he served with the Naval Construction Battalion for 27 months during the Korean conflict.

After being discharged from the Navy, Ken went to work as a heavy-equipment operator in Northwestern Montana. He also worked for several years with the Montana Power Company, until retiring in 1988.

In 1977, Ken married Sherry Ruth Van Bommel in Kalispell.

He was a member of the Operating Engineers Local No. 371 and Local No. 400.

He loved raising flowers, fishing and horse racing.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Marjorie Canavon Sterner; two daughters, Cindy Kay Sterner and Terry Lynn Sterner; a brother, Deleno "Jack" Sterner; and two sisters, Charlotte Sterner and Naomie Sterner Shaw.

He is survived by his wife, Sherry Sterner, of Kalispell; a daughter, Charlene Faye Sterner, of Kalispell; and a brother and his wife, Claude and Carol Sterner, of Moses Lake, Wash.

Visitation will be from 3 to 5 p.m. today, April 25, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 26, at Glacier Memorial Gardens, with Steve and Mary Svenson of the Salvation Army officiating. Military honors will be provided by United Veterans of the Flathead Valley.

Memorials are requested in Ken's name be given to the Salvation Army.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Jerry D. Stevens, 73



Jerry D. Stevens of Hamilton passed away Friday, May 18, 2007, at his home after a courageous battle with lung cancer. He was comforted until the end by the love of his family. Jerry's greatest joy and inspiration in life was always his family.

Jerry was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, on Jan. 30, 1934, one of eight children of William and Ethel Stevens. He was educated in Redding, Calif., graduating from Shasta High School in 1952.

On May 12, 1956, he married Patricia Emery in Reno, Nev., and they recently celebrated their 51st anniversary. Pat and Jerry were blessed with three children, Wendy, Jerry Jr. and David.

While living in California, Jerry was employed in various areas of construction. In 1969, he moved his family to Hamilton, where he built custom homes. After 10 years, he specialized in concrete construction and continued for 30 years. Although he claimed to be retired, he continued to "help" his partner, Rick Lubke, until the age of 72. Jerry's work ethic, commitment to customer satisfaction and expert craftsmanship earned him great respect all across the Bitterroot, and gained him many friends. Several of his closest friends began as clients.

Jerry was a member of the Hamilton B.P.O.E. No. 1651 for 37 years, the Hamilton Golf Club for 18 years, and he dedicated many years to youth baseball, coaching his sons from Pee Wee League through Babe Ruth.

Jerry's passions were any activities that involved his children and grandchildren. Some of his best times were spent fishing, gold prospecting, camping and attending all the kid's sporting events. Jerry was fortunate to enjoy numerous trips with friends and family, including Hawaii, Europe, New England, Mexico, Disney World, Canada and Arizona. His most memorable trips were to Disney World with his grandchildren, prospecting on the Yukon River with Jerry Jr., touring the British Isles with Wendy and Tony, and fishing in British Columbia and Alaska with his sons and friends.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia; his children and their spouses, Wendy and Tony Riehl, of Billings, Jerry and Julie Stevens, and David and Colleen Stevens, all of Kalispell; eight grandchildren, Jennifer Riehl (and Wayne Brackney) and Steven Riehl of Billings, plus Alex, Emma, Luke, Quin, Shea and Ellie Stevens, all of Kalispell; his sister, Amber Laus, of Redding; and several nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers; and two sisters.

A memorial celebration will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, at the Daly-Leach Chapel in Hamilton, conducted by Sister Margaret Hogan. A reception will be afterward at the St. Francis Pastoral Life Center.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials may be sent to Marcus Daly Hospice Endowment Fund, 1200 Westwood Drive, Hamilton, MT 59840, or to the Hamilton Babe Ruth Baseball Association, P.O. Box 1077, Hamilton, 59840.

Jerry Lewis Stevens, 66, of Fortine, died of natural causes Thursday, Aug. 9, 2007, in Florence.

Jerry Lewis Stevens, 66

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by the Whitesitt Funeral Home in Stevensville.

Lois Olive (Urban) Stevens, 82



Lois O. Urban Stevens, 82, died peacefully surrounded by her family on Tuesday, May 29, 2007. Lois was born Sept. 2, 1924, on the family homestead in Epping, N.D., the seventh of 10 children born to Evangeline (Kingston) and Rudolf A. Urban. She came to the Flathead Valley when she was 16 to live with her Aunt Hattie and Uncle Alva Ulrich in Somers. She graduated from Flathead County High School in 1942 with high honors.

She worked for Mountain States Power after graduation.

She married Lloyd R. Stevens on July 25, 1942, in Polson. He had been a bus driver for her uncle.

They started married life in Somers where she raised big gardens and three kids. After a year in Malta, they returned to the Flathead and settled in Evergreen, in 1952, adding three more children to the family.

Lois continued raising big gardens and preserving the harvests.

She participated in Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, 4-H and Pee-wee Baseball with her children. She also expected her children to excel in school.

She helped with the Evergreen school census for several years before becoming a volunteer listener in the oral reading program at the Evergreen

Junior High. Later she accepted an aide position in the primary grades, retiring in 1984.

Lois will be remembered for her dedication to her family and great gardens, beautiful flowers and homemade bread. She made the best potato salad, which we all enjoyed. She loved reading and doing crossword puzzles. Lois taught herself to play the piano. She collected glassware of all sorts and loved finding new pieces at the many yard sales that she and her husband frequented.

Despite the many years she lived in the Flathead Lois never lost her love of the prairie.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Pearl, Elsie, Della, and two sisters Agnes and Alice, in infancy; and brothers, Cecil and Jesse.

Lois is survived by her husband, Lloyd, at the family home in Evergreen; two brothers, Robert Urban and wife, Marian, of Oklahoma, and Lawrence Urban on the family farm in North Dakota. She is also survived by three daughters, Phyllis and Tex Manus of Evergreen, Wanda and Jim Taylor of Polson, and Juanita and Don Evans of Libby; three sons, Phillip and Maureen of Ogden, Utah, Warren of Los Angeles, and Clifford and Laurie of Rockton, Ill.; 27 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

There will be a celebration of her life 1 p.m. Monday, June 4, at the Moose Lodge in Evergreen after a family graveside service.

Ronald Ray Stillman, 50

Ronald Ray Stillman was born Jan. 25, 1957, and passed away Sept. 28, 2007. Ron died peacefully in his sleep at the Rexburg Nursing Home.



Ron was born to Theron J. Stillman and Maybelle E. Munter Stillman in Kalispell. He attended grade school at Demersville and graduated in 1975 from Flathead High School in Kalispell.

Ron was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Ron was working at Drug Fare in Montana, where he met Kathy. Ron and Kathy Richards were married July 22, 1981. They have one son, Daniel Joseph Stillman.

Ron enjoyed spending time with his family. He had an amazing sense of humor and an excellent memory for people, places and things that were important to him and those he loved.

Ron had a passion for Dodge cars. He loved Mopars and was a member of the Upper Valley Mopar Association.

Ron is survived by his wife, Kathy Stillman, and his son, Danny Stillman, both of Sugar City, Idaho; his mother, Maybelle E. Stillman, of Sugar City; his brothers and sisters, Ted and Claudia of Highland, Utah, Larry and Loydene of Ogden, Utah; Gary and Jeanine, Joanne and John Hender, Melanie Morrison, all of Salt Lake City, and Tim Stillman of Idaho Falls, Idaho; and 43 nieces and nephews.

Ron is preceded in death by his father, Theron J. Stillman; his sister, Vicki Stillman; his brothers, Daniel J. Stillman and Robert J. Stillman; and his niece, Jennifer Stillman.

Funeral services will be held at noon Wednesday, Oct. 3, at the Sugar City LDS Stake Center. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Flamm Funeral Home in Rexburg, Idaho, and from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Wednesday at the church prior to services. Interment will be in the Sugar City Cemetery.

Lucille Sweet Bossler Stocker, 66

Lucille Sweet Bossler Stocker, 66, a homemaker from the Shelby/Conrad area, passed away Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007, at the Pondera Medical Center Extended Care Unit after a lengthy illness.



A graveside service will be held in Kalispell at a later date. Whited Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements. Condolences for the family may be sent to www.whitedfuneralchapel.com.

Survivors include daughters, Kari and Roy Brown of Billings, and Michelle Stocker of Conrad; sons, Robert and Lisa Stocker of Litchfield, Ill., and Raymond Stocker of Shelby; brother, Dr. David

Bossier, of Lakeside; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a sister Barbara, and a granddaughter Elizabeth.

Lucy was born Feb. 2, 1941, at Miles City to Louis and Edna (Sweet) Bossler. She grew up in Kalispell and graduated from Flathead County High School. Lucille married Lloyd Robert Stocker on June 29, 1960, in Great Falls. She had lived in the Conrad/Shelby area since 1980.

She loved her family and always was interested in hearing how her grandchildren were doing. She also enjoyed visiting with her friends and playing cards.

The family suggests memorials be given to the Peace Hospice or the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

George Edgar Stocking, 74

George Edgar Stocking, 74, passed away peacefully at his home in Whitefish on Sept. 17, 2007.

He was born to Ruth and Dallas Stocking on Feb. 10, 1933. He was raised and educated in Whitefish and attended grade school and high school, graduating in 1951.

He attended the University of Montana, graduating with a bachelor's degree in physical education and a minor in history. He went to work for Ryan

Aeronautical in San Diego. While there, he met his future wife, Alice Lare. They were married Aug. 2, 1958, in San Diego.

After they were married, they moved to Eugene, Ore., where Ed was a first aid and water safety instructor for the American Red Cross. Later, they moved to Great Falls, where he continued his work for the American Red Cross and became director of the Red Cross blood program. They lived there until 1979, when they moved to Whitefish.

Ed owned the A & W Restaurant in Columbia Heights for 10 years. He then went to work for

Rocky Mountain Transportation and drove a school bus for 14 years. He loved the children and they loved him. It was an important part of his life. He retired in spring 2007.

Ed was a long time member of the Whitefish Golf Club and past member of the Moose Lodge. He was an avid fan of the Bulldogs and University of Montana Grizzlies (His wife Alice referred to them as The Puppy Dogs and Teddy Bears).

He is survived by his wife, Alice; son, Brian; and grandchildren, Skylar and Sasha; son Brad; daughter-in-law, Karen, and grandchildren Matthew and Kristina, of Reno, Nev.; daughter, Sue, and son-in-law, Ray, of Reno; sister, Connie Olson, of California; and aunt, Barbara Stocking; and cousins, Flossie and Jack Fletcher.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the North Valley Hospital Foundation and the First Presbyterian Church.

There will be a wake (barbecue and potluck) at the First Presbyterian Church in Whitefish at noon on Saturday, Sept. 22.

Willard Allen Stockwell, 84

Our beloved husband, father and grandfather, Willard Allen Stockwell, 84, passed away on Monday, Oct. 22, 2007, at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center from severe trauma and injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. He was born on July 14, 1923, to Walter Emmet and Minnie Catherine (Ersenhower) Stockwell.



Willard was drafted into the United States Army in 1942. He served active duty in the European Theater as technician fourth grade in the 138th Ordinance Heavy Maintenance Field Army company. He received the American Theater Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the European/African/Middle-Eastern Theater Service Medal. He was honorably discharged from the Army in March of 1946.

He then returned to Kalispell and went to work for the Montana State Highway Department for 30 years, retiring in 1982.

Willard faithfully served his community as fire marshal at South Kalispell Volunteer Fire Department for 18 years, after which time he had to retire from his position due to lung and breathing difficulties. During the mid-1980s, Willard also served as a school bus driver for Flathead Valley School District No. 5, where he transported students on various bus routes as well as to many sporting events and other school-related activities around the state.

Willard was an avid hunter and outdoorsman. Firearms and hunting were his favorite pastimes. He taught Hunter's Safety for more than 30 years, where he passed on his vast knowledge of guns and hunting as well as the importance of honorable sportsmanship to hundreds of young people in the Flathead Valley.

Willard had a unique and humorous ability to transpose letters and words in a way that endeared him to all who knew him. On one occasion upon returning from a hunting trip he said, "I didn't see any bucks, just a Foe and a dawn!" Because of this a new acquaintance once asked a family member what nationality Willard was! He was a devoted and loving husband and father, a beloved brother and a friend to all. He will be greatly missed.

Willard is survived by his wife, Phyllis, of Kalispell; three sons, Frank Stockwell of Spokane, Bob Long of Seattle, and Michael Long of Kalispell; and two daughters, Linda Long and Lisa Burton, both of Kalispell. He is also survived by three siblings, Howard Stockwell and Patricia Nelson, both of Kalispell, and John Stockwell of Las Vegas; along with numerous grandchildren.

Funeral services for Willard will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 25, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Pastor Jim Davey officiating. Burial will follow in the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Willard's family. You are invited to go to www.johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Willard's guest book.

Sharron Daugharty Stompro, 61

Sharron Daugharty Stompro, 61, died Aug. 12, 2007, due to a single car accident near Helmville.

She is survived by her mother, Anita Daugharty, of Kalispell; and sons, Scot Becker, Mark Becker, Lt.

Col. Paul Becker, Rogue Becker and Troy Becker.

Services were held Aug. 16 at Smith West Chapel in Billings. A memorial service will be held in Clark's Fork, Idaho, at a later date.

Bradley S. 'Brad' Stone, 48

Bradley S. "Brad" Stone, 48, passed away Wednesday Aug. 8, 2007, in Marion. Brad was born Nov. 22, 1958, in Burns, Ore., to Boyd and Mary (Lawrence) Stone. He was raised in Portland, where he graduated from Madison High School class of 1977.

Brad married Denise Hosack on May 16, 1981, in Carver, Ore.

He was a man with an entrepreneur spirit, who ran several small businesses over the years. Brad prided himself in being self-employed and working hard to provide for his family.

He had an adventurous spirit, loved life and would try just about anything



once. He was passionate about cars, including restoration and rebuilding them. He loved hunting, and especially spending time with his sons.

Brad was preceded in death by his father, Boyd Stone; and sister, Debbie Stone-Smith.

He is survived by his wife, Denise Stone; mother, Mary Baxter; two sons, Alex and Jeffery Stone; siblings, Greg and Deb Stone, David and Renee Stone, and Steve Stone; other relatives include nieces, Kristina and Tracy Stone, Amanda Smith; nephews, Kevin and Adam Stone.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15, at Gospel Light Baptist Church in Kalispell. Interment will be after the service at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Carol Jean Stout, 45

Carol Jean Stout, 45, passed away Thursday, Aug. 23, 2007, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell. Carol was born Nov. 26, 1961, in Plentywood to Wallace and Eleanor (Slater) Johnson.

She married John Stout in 1983 in Glasgow.

She enjoyed taking long drives in the country, playing on the computer and playing games with her family and friends.

Carol is survived by her husband of 24 years, John Stout, of Kalispell; father, Wallace Johnson, of Plentywood; mother, Eleanor Knapp, of Nahsua; father-in-law, Clyde Stout, of Kalispell; children, Nathanael

Stout of Glasgow, and Sylvia Stout of Kalispell; siblings, James Johnson of Columbia Falls, Valerie Johnson Lloyd of Nashua, Anna Johnson Keller of Glasgow, Skip and Remy Stout of Kalispell, and Mark Stout of Glasgow; grandchildren, Levi Jocelyn and Kamillah Stout; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

A family gathering will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28, at the home of John Stout. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28, at Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Gertrude Julia St. Onge, 86

Gertrude Julia St. Onge, 86, a longtime Whitefish resident, died of natural causes Monday, Feb. 26, 2007, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.



She was born Feb. 28, 1920, in Hammond, Ind., the daughter of Steve and Alice Panko. She lived in Michigan until 1948.

She married Roy Daniel St. Onge on June 14, 1939, and the couple had four children, and in 1948 came to a ranch in Trego, and then came to Whitefish from 1961 to 1999.

Gertrude enjoyed sewing and traveling, and was involved in clubs and organizations in her community. She was a member of the Catholic Church.

After the death of her hus-

band, Roy, in 1979, she worked at Alpine Touch.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Roy; and a son, Larry St. Onge, in 1982.

She is survived by two sons, Ron and Carolyn St. Onge in Bigfork, and Ed and Ginger St. Onge in Polebridge; a daughter, Betty Ann and Lowell McKee in Spokane; 14 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren; and by many other relatives and friends.

Viewing will be from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 3, at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 3, also at the funeral home, with the Rev. Ron Pierce officiating. Burial will be afterward at the Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell.

The family suggest that any memorials be made to the Brantsberg Wing of the Immanuel Lutheran Home.

Henry Stricker, 83

Henry Stricker passed away on March 16, 2007, at Health Center Northwest in Kalispell due to lung cancer. He was born in Scottsbluff, Neb.,



on March 8, 1924, to Fred and Margaret Stricker. He received his schooling in Scottsbluff and had 16 siblings.

In his early years he did various farming, worked in a mortuary and worked in the Hardin seed factory, where he met and married Neva E. Fly, on Nov. 24, 1946. They resided in Hardin and started their family there. They had three daughters, Linda, JoAnne and Susan.

He then worked in a clothing store in Hardin which led to an opportunity to move and own his own clothing store in Eureka. There he and his wife had two more daughters, Debbie and Penny. They raised their family there and were active members in their community and First Baptist Church in Eureka and he helped in building the new church.

Henry was a Eureka retired volunteer fireman, and a member of Eagles Lodge No. 234 in Kalispell.

He was an avid outdoorsman and had many favorite hobbies that included fishing, bowling, hunting, huckleberry picking, woodworking, playing cards and time spent with family.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by

his wife, Neva, of 45 years, and second wife, Elnora, of seven years.

Surviving are his five daughters, Linda Pershall and husband, Allen Pershall, Kalispell; Penny Brinton and husband, Robert Brinton, Kalispell; Susie Middlestead and husband, Glenn, Helena; JoAnne Dotterweich, Bellevue, Wash.; and Debbie Wicks, Livingston.

Surviving brothers and sisters include Victor Stricker and Robert Stricker of Billings; Rosie Deer and Lydia Jackson of Morrill, Neb.; Lillian Backer of Lodi, Calif.; Alvina Bennett of Wheatland, Wyo.; and Martha Leikam of Riverton, Wyo.

Also surviving are grandchildren, Eric Brinton of Kalispell; Lacey Middlestead of Helena, Mary Elliott of Great Falls, Amy Buckmaster of Dillon, Henry John Wicks of Norfolk, Va., and AC and Justin Dotterweich of Pullman, Wash.; stepgrandchildren Jodie and Josh Brinton of Kalispell; great-grandchildren, Alexandria and Quincy Elliott of Great Falls, and Caleigh and Colton Buckmaster of Dillon; and stepgreat-grandchildren, Spencer and Mia.

Also surviving is his companion of five years, Ann Bell, of Kalispell.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24, 2007, at First Baptist Church in Eureka, with Pastor Pat Lovett officiating. Burial will follow at Tobacco Valley Cemetery under the direction of Nelson Vial Funeral Home.

The family suggests that memorials be made to First Baptist Church, Eureka.

Patricia Johnston Strife, 99

Patricia Johnston Strife, 99, of Bigfork passed away Monday, Jan. 8, 2007, at her home. Mrs. Strife was born June 6, 1907, at Cartersville, Ga., to Susan Sybert and Charles W. Johnston Sr. of Pembroke, Ky.



She attended the University of Oklahoma where she studied music education. A retired school teacher and choral director from the Riverside, Calif., school system, Mrs. Strife served the Bigfork Methodist Church as a piano accompanist for several years.

Mrs. Strife was the wife of Sherm Strife, who preceded

her in death. The couple were involved in many community projects in Bigfork, including the establishment of the Senior Citizens Center in Bigfork.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews in Alaska, Washington, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Florida. She leaves behind many friends in the Bigfork area who enjoyed her outgoing personality and exceptional musical talents.

Funeral services for Patricia will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, in the Johnson Mortuary chapel. There will be no visitation. The burial will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15, in the Victor Cemetery in Victor.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Patricia's family.

Alan Stringer, 62

Alan Stringer, 62, formerly of Libby, died Feb. 24, 2007, in Oak Harbor, Wash., after a battle with cancer.

He was the general manager of the W.R. Grace vermiculite mine in Libby from the late 1980s through the early 1990s, and later was put in charge of reclamation after the mine.

He is survived by his wife, Donna; and his daughters, Ann Marie Hadley and Dana Brennan.

A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 2, at the Saint Augustine Catholic Parish, 185 North Oak Harbor St., in Oak Harbor. A memorial will be held in April in Libby.

Fay S. Sullivan, 85

Fay Sullivan, 85, of Helena and Rollins, passed away Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007, at her daughter's home, in Helena, surrounded by her family. Fay was born



the youngest of seven children on Sept. 26, 1921, to John L. and Emma I. Swanson at the family homestead in Wallace County, Kan.

Fay grew up on the Kansas prairie. Fay graduated from high school in Sharon Springs, Kan. in 1939, and later attended St. Margaret's School of Nursing in Kansas City. It was there Fay met her husband, John M. "Jack" Sullivan, a career military man who was training new WWII recruits at Ft. Reilly. They were married Aug. 30, 1944 in Richmond Hill, N.Y. Fay and Jack had four children; Judy, Mike, Patty and Mary.

While in the Army, the family traveled across the world from New York to Kentucky, then Michigan, Rhode Island, the Philippine Islands, Virginia, and settled in Helena. Fay's family was most important to her. She was a loving wife and mother.

Fay eventually returned to nursing and retired from St. Peter's Hospital in the mid '70s. After Jack's death in 1981, Fay moved to their home on Flathead Lake where they had spent many wonderful summers. During the last several years, Fay

spent winters with her daughter, Mary in New Mexico, and continued to visit her children, family and friends.

Fay was preceded in death by her husband Jack; brothers, Arthur, Gerald and Wallace Swanson; sister, Caroline Bunn; daughter, Judy Laroux and grandsons, TJ Davidson and Sean Murray.

Survivors include two sisters, Irma Walker of Sharon Springs, Kan. and Willa McAllister of Eugene, Ore.; children, Mike & Linda Sullivan of Sacramento, Calif., Patty and Gordon Davidson of Helena, Mary and Dan Murray of Las Vegas; son-in-law, Bill Laroux of Kalispell; grandchildren, Tanya & Jim Kelly, Michael B., Robin and Courtney Sullivan, Brian Davidson, Kayla, Sasha, and Briane Murray, DJ and Mandie Murray, Ryan and Jason Laroux; great-grandchildren, Amber Kelly, Connor and Paige Davidson, Starla, Devon and Brendan Murray and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Fay's life will take place at 11 am on Monday, Jan. 15 at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church with a luncheon to follow. Fay will be buried with her husband at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C. Memorials in Fay's name are suggested to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Montana Affiliate, 825 Helena Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601 or to the DAV at P.O. Box 189, Fort Harrison, Montana 59636. Cremation and service arrangements are under the direction of Retz Funeral Home, Helena.

Robert W. 'Bob' Sund, 60

Robert W. "Bob" Sund, 60, died Wednesday, May 9, 2007, at Health Center Northwest in Kalispell. He was born April 5, 1947, in Kalispell, to William "Rusty" and Ruth (Vincent) Sund. He was raised in West Glacier.

He graduated from West Side High School in Omaha, Neb., and went to college at the University of Nebraska in Omaha, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in business.

Bob spent a long successful career at General Electric.

In college, Bob met and married the love of his life, Colleen Driscoll. Through 42 years of love, compassion, and three children, they were a perfect team.

Bob taught his family to love and respect the outdoors, to be ethical, caring people and the importance of family. Often



quiet, his family and close friends were treated to his wit and sense of humor. He was happiest upon retirement, when he could come home to Montana to enjoy his wife, children and grandchildren.

Bob's family would like to thank the staff at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, and the physicians and staff at HCNW.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Colleen Sund, of Kalispell; two daughters; Molly Drago of Kalispell, and Pattie O'Rourke and husband, Brian, of Smithfield, Ky.; one son, Matt Sund, and wife, Ashley, of Lakeside; his two beloved grandchildren, Keith and Skyler; and one sister, Karen Tupper, of Seattle.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held next summer after the births of his two anticipated grandchildren.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Bob's family.

You are invited to go to johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Bob's guest book.

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Barbara Jean (Kountz) Sutton, 70

Barbara Jean (Kountz) Sutton, 70, of Great Falls and Circle, "went home to be with the Lord" surrounded by her family, on June 29, 2007, after fighting a courageous battle, from complications due to a transplant surgery.



Visitation is from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday at the Clayton Memorial Chapel in Circle. Friends and family are invited to gather at the home of Arne and Shelly Sutton in Circle at 6 p.m. on Thursday. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday at the Circle Evangelical Church, with burial at the Riverview Cemetery in Circle. Lunch will be provided at Schmidts Banquet Room following the service and burial.

Survivors include son, Brent Sutton, of Yakima, Wash., and grandchildren, Tyler, Molly and Virginia; son, Arne and Shelly Sutton of Circle, and grandchildren, Andrea and Lynae; daughter, Shelli and Mark Hilde of Kalispell, and grandchildren, Austin and Emily; daughter, Sherri and Jeff Walla of Great Falls, and grandchildren, Jerrod and Katie; sisters, Sharon and Ron Reather of Billings, and Beverly and Jerry Eissinger of Circle; brothers, Harvey and Patrice Kountz of Brockway, and Brad and Mary Kountz of Brockway; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Barbara Jean was born, to the delight of her parents, Jack and Letha Kountz, on July 27, 1936, in Miles City. Being the oldest of five children, she cherished the time she spent with her parents, brothers and sisters. She had a great influence on her siblings and they loved her dearly.

Barbara grew up and attended school in Brockway, graduating from Circle High School in May, 1954. She met the love of her life that same year during harvest. Henry and Barbara were married six weeks later on Sept. 15 and honeymooned every day for 48 years, until

Henry's death.

After living a short time in Oklahoma where both attended college, Henry and Barbara moved to Hysham, where they both taught high school classes. Barbara was the librarian and English teacher for five years before returning to Circle where they began building their family farm and raising their children.

Barbara worked by her husband's side in the field while maintaining a loving home for her family. She had an incredible ability to make any house a home. It was not unusual for a neighbor, friend, relative, or stranger to arrive at her door at meal time. She was known for her good cooking and very particular about having plenty of food for everyone. No one ever left her home hungry! Barbara was known for making the best pies in the state.

Upon retirement in 1996, Henry and Barbara moved to Great Falls where they spent their golden years living on the Missouri River. Barbara thought she was in heaven because she lived in a city where Target and the shopping mall were only 10 minutes away. Barbara always boasted that her time in Great Falls was like a permanent vacation.

Family was the most important part of Barbara's life. She never missed any of her children's and grandchildren's events. She was their number one fan! Barbara and Henry were active members of the Evangelical Church of Circle where they instilled Christian values in their home.

Barbara was an active member of the American Red Cross Association and at one time held the position of president. The cornerstones of her social life were her monthly meetings with dear friends in the Brockway Homemakers Club and playing cards at the Senior Citizens Center. She built lifelong friendships across the country and cherished them all.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 48 years, Henry Sutton, and her parents Jack and Letha (Mothershead) Kountz.

Heidy Switzer, 70

After living successfully with cancer for more than four years, Heidy Switzer's life ended peacefully at her home on the Ridin' P Ranch on Monday, Sept. 17, 2007, after happy visits with her husband, daughters Grace, Sonja and Audrey, son, Martin, Mike's sons, Mike Jr., and Bill, and many of her well-loved friends.

Heidy is survived by her beloved husband, Michael Switzer; her brother, Jurg, and his children in Switzerland; her sister, Suzi, and her children in Switzerland; and the families Moser in Switzerland, especially Marlys, whom she loved as a sister and had been friends with since childhood.

Heidy also leaves behind her children, Grace Frankforter and son, Joey; daughter Sonja O'Brein and her husband, Sean, and granddaughters, Casandra Pelech and her daughters, Brittanie and Cassadie, Jennifer Burns and her husband, Tom, and their son Tristan, Kymberli Goheen and fiance, Nathan, and Aimee Goheen; daughter, Audrey Wolf and her husband, Phil, and her daughters Thomi Mannker, and twins Shaina and Zoe Weintruab, her son, Sgt. Martin Pelech and wife, Beverly; as well as the children of her husband, Mike Jr., Bill, and their families and many very dear friends.

She outlived her parents; her son, Michael; and Mike's children, Cindy and Jeff.

Heidy came to America some 50 years ago and lived in various locations on the eastern side of the continent before moving to the Libby area in the early 1970s. Here she remembered her love of the mountains and discovered what was to become a lifelong passion for horses, particularly the Ara-

bians she developed and bred specifically for endurance and distance riding.

She was an active member of the Hooves and Company Distance Riders and competed actively in distance rides across North America, even placing fourth in the nation for the Arabian Horse Association Championship Competitive Trail Ride in Louisville, Ky., in the early '90s.

She, along with her husband, Mike, was a longtime supporter of the Human Therapy on Horseback Inc., donating time as a walker, and two of her best trail horses to the program. Following her near fatal horseback accident in June 2002, Heidy was also a client of the program, enabling her to enjoy her passion for riding and horses past the time when it would otherwise have been possible.

She was also an active supporter and participant in charity walks, which she enjoyed sharing with daughters, Sonja and Audrey, and some of her friends; and relieved and proud that both of her sons had served in the Armed Forces — Michael in the Gulf War and Martin in Iraq.

She and Mike were married Dec. 30 1979, and enjoyed many happy times in their long life together. She, along with her husband, Mike, was a longtime member of Alcoholics Anonymous, enjoying more than 29 years of quality sobriety together.

There will be a celebration of Heidy's life at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at the Wilkinson Hall, 101 Collins Ave., in Libby, and the family requests that instead of flowers, donations be made to Human Therapy on Horseback Inc., 1541 Whitefish, MT 59937.

Arrangements under the care of Nelson and Vial Funeral Home.

Margaret Martin Swigart, 92

Margaret Martin Swigart, 92, died Aug. 23, 2007, at The Hearth at Windemere in Fishers, Ind.

She and her husband operated the Bad Rock Canyon

Motel for many years.

Survivors include her daughter, Dolores Simon, of Silverthorne, Colo.

A family gathering and celebration has taken place.

John Suzawith, 61

John Suzawith, 61, formerly of Whitefish, died Friday, Nov. 30, 2007, in Clifton, Colo., of natural causes.

He worked as a painter in Whitefish.

He leaves behind a grown

daughter, Aria, of Newport Beach Calif.; and his longtime companion, Beverly Smalley, of Clifton, Colo.

Memorial services are pending.

Richard R. Szymendera, 62

Richard R. Szymendera, 62, died at his home in Eureka on Thursday, March 22, 2007.

Cremation will take place

and no local services will be held at this time.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.