

Couple celebrate Golden Anniversary

Rick and Mary Kratz celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 24 with their immediate family in Palm Desert, Calif.

They were married in 1962 at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church in Berwyn, Alberta.

For the past 21 years, they have split their time between Whitefish and Palm Desert.

They have two children, Miriam Lewis and Kurt of Whitefish, and Luke Kratz and Lisa of Victoria, British Columbia; and four grandchildren, Hanna and Delaney Lewis, and Gavin and Lachlan Kratz.

RICK AND MARY Kratz celebrated their 50th anniversary April 24 with their family in Palm Desert, Calif.





ALVIA AND FLORENCE Leighton of Kalispell will celebrate their 70th anniversary this week. They were married July 11, 1942.

Couple celebrates 70 years

Alvia and Florence (Rutledge) Leighton of Kalispell will celebrate their 70th anniversary on July 11.

The couple met in Ronan and dated for six years before Alvia went into the Air Force. He was stationed at Greenville, S.C., in 1942, so Florence rode the train there and they were married. Two weeks later, Alvia's 90th Bomb Group was shipped out, and his buddy asked that Florence take his car, so she drove his 1939 Pontiac Coupe back to Montana by herself with \$50 to \$60 in her purse.

Alvia was stationed in Ypsilanti, Mich.; Camp Stoneman, Calif.; then Honolulu, Hawaii; Australia; and on to New Guinea, where he was stationed for one and a half years until 1945.

The Leightons lived on Flathead

Lake in Big Arm for most of their lives. Alvia was employed as a saw filer and foreman by Dupuis Bros. in Polson for 12 years and Pack River from 1964 to 1986, when he retired. In 2006 they moved to Kalispell.

They were active members for more than 50 years in the Scottish Rite, Eastern Star and Daughter of the Nilis, and Florence was also a member of the Sewing Club and VFW.

Alvia raced C-Hydro boats with the Montana Boat Racing Association all over the Northwest and had his private pilot's license and enjoyed flying until failing eyesight caused him to quit.

Florence was a housewife and enjoyed her garden, flowers and animals.



DUANE AND NANCY Morast were married June 16, 1962, in Terry. They recently celebrated their 50th anniversary in Lake Shasta, Calif.

Couple celebrate 50th anniversary

Duane and Nancy (Clarke) Morast were married June 16, 1962, at the Terry Community Church in Terry. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family trip and houseboat vacation at Lake Shasta, Calif.

Duane graduated from Rocky Mountain College in 1964 with a degree in education. He worked as a teacher in Belfry, Mont., and as a salesman for Ideal Cement Company

and Abco Supply, both in Billings.

Thirty years ago, the Morasts moved to Kalispell where Duane worked for Aid Association for Lutherans, City Service and Semi-tool. He retired in 2008.

Nancy was a stay-at-home mother. She was coordinator of the MOMS group at Trinity Lutheran Church for 17 years.

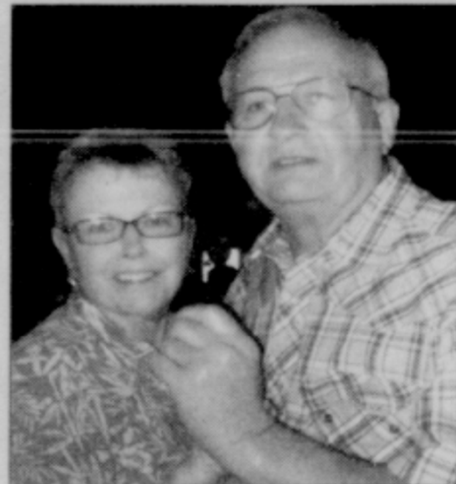
The couple have three children and nine grandchildren, Lon and wife Marissa of Happy Valley,

Ore., and their children, James, Joshua (now deceased) and Josiah; Llonda and husband Clint of Kalispell and their children, Bryce and Aubry; and Lora and husband Jonathan Anderson of Kalispell and their children, Brenden, Bria, Emma and Ethan.

Duane and Nancy enjoy watching their grandchildren participate in their many activities. They are members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell.



VINCE AND PEGGY Pings on their wedding day, June 16, 1962.



THE COUPLE recently celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Pings mark 50 years of marriage

Vince and Peggy Pings of Kalispell recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a small gathering of family and friends.

They were married June 16, 1962, in Great Falls.

They lived in Great Falls where Vince worked for Coca-Cola, and then moved to Eureka where they owned the Coast to Coast Hardware Store for 10 years. In 1984 they moved to Kalispell where Vince became the sales center manager for Coca-Cola and Peggy worked at Tobacco Valley Lumber.

Both are now retired. Vince likes

to restore old tractors, most recently his 1949 Willys Jeep; and Peggy enjoys crafting and gardening.

The Pings have three children, Christine (Pings) Schuldheiss of Kalispell, Dennis and wife Tina Pings of Victor, and Rick and Colleen Pings of Kalispell.

Their seven grandchildren are Katie and husband Tanner Osweiler, Logan Schuldheiss, Kayleen Pings, Shanna and husband Mike Barrett, Jessica Pings, and Kenadie and Kolten Pings.

They have three great-grandchildren, Kenzie, Mikah and Tinley.



KENT AND Marianne Roose were married July 14, 1962, in Eureka (left). The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Saturday.

Eureka couple celebrate 50 years

Kent Roose and Marianne (Burk) Roose, together with their children and grandchildren, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

The couple were married July 14, 1962, in Eureka. They are both lifelong

Tobacco Valley residents. Kent is a retired logging/lumber truck driver. Marianne is currently serving in her 16th year as a Lincoln County commissioner and will be retiring Dec. 31.

They have three children, Jeana (Roose) King

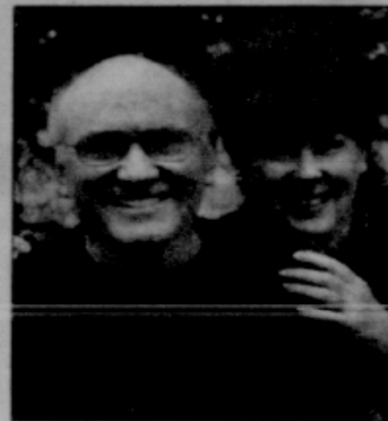
of Bellingham, Wash., Brent Roose of Eureka, and Josh Roose of Missoula. They have nine grandchildren.

Kalispell couple celebrates 50th anniversary with their family

Tom and Mary Shaughnessy recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family gathering.

They were married May 26, 1962, in Missoula, where they both graduated from Sentinel High School. They lived in Missoula until 1966, when they moved to a small farm in the Bitterroot near Corvallis where they raised their three children.

In 1966, Tom went to work for the Northern Pacific Railroad. Mary tended the farm, caring for livestock, setting irrigation dams and building wovenwire fence. In 1987, Tom began working out of Whitefish for the BNSF, and the couple moved to Kalispell in 1990. Mary worked for Hooper's



Submitted photos

TOM AND Mary Shaughnessy were married May 26, 1962, in Missoula (left). The couple recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Garden Center and Wild Geese Gardens; she loves to grow flowers. In 2002, they both retired.

Since then, they have traveled to Alaska, Florida, Arizona and Hawaii.

They also spend a lot of time in Glacier Park.

Their children are Tom, Tana and Renee. They also have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.