

60TH ANNIVERSARY Harry and Maureen Pitman

Harry and Maureen (Gaffaney) Pitman were married Aug. 27, 1955, in Cut Bank.

Their daughter Lori took them to Maui, Hawaii this past April to celebrate their 60th anniversary. They then celebrated their 61st anniversary in August with a dinner hosted by their son Marc and his wife Shellie.

The Pitmans have resided in Coram for 59 years.

The have three children, Marc and Shellie Pitman of Kalispell, Ron and Debbie Pitman of Las Vegas and Lori Pitman of Issaquah, Washington. They have five grandchildren and one great-grandson.



November 6
2016

50TH ANNIVERSARY



Robert and Linda Power

Robert and Linda (Hooper) Power will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 12.

The Powers were married Feb. 12, 1966, in Topeka, Kansas. Soon after, Robert's career in engineering began with the move to the Seattle area to begin work at Boeing.

In 1968, in Tacoma, Washington, they had their first son, Robert Jr. Two years later they had their second son, Joseph, in Everett, Washington.

The family followed Robert's career to Minnesota, Oregon, Michigan, New Hampshire, Nebraska, Kentucky, Arkansas, South Carolina, Colorado and Texas.

Upon retirement, Robert and Linda moved

to Kalispell.

Their son Robert Jr. lives in Kalispell. Son Joseph also lives in Kalispell with his wife Carrie. Their grandson Danial is currently attending the University of Washington in Seattle.

Family also includes Robert's children from a previous marriage — John, Debbie and Diana, and grandchildren John, Jacob, Cassandra and Nathaniel, and their families.

February 7 2016

50TH ANNIVERSARY



Weldon and Kay Plympton

Weldon and Kay Plympton are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at a family dinner hosted by their sons at Jagz Restaurant.

The couple were married July 1, 1966, at Bible Presbyterian Church in Kalispell.

Kay retired in 2006 after almost 20 years at Elrod Elementary School as a teacher's aide. Weldon retired after more than 39 years with the cable companies.

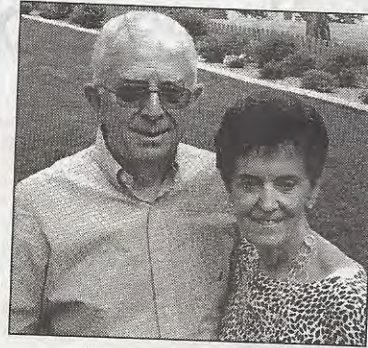
In their retirement they enjoy traveling to the

Oregon coast, and Arizona for spring training and Army 1/92nd Artillery Unit reunions. When they are not traveling to visit the many friends they have made through the years, they enjoy spending time with family.

Their children are Jeff Plympton and wife Mollie of Kalispell, and Paul Plympton and wife Kathy of Kalispell. They have three grandchildren, Bryant Plympton, Bethanie Ulrich, and Xene Hubbard; and a grandson, Bentley Paul Plympton.

June 26
2016

August 28
2014



Ken and Marsha Preston

Ken and Marsha Preston of Libby recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends at their home on Crystal Lake near Happy's Inn.

The couple were married in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on Aug. 20, 1966, at the Lutheran church.

Ken has been self-employed most of their married life and is

presently marketing health insurance in the Medicare field.

Marsh was a medical secretary for Drs. Matthews and Siefert in Libby and was a fitness instructor for more than 25 years.

They have two sons, Kurt in Littleton, Colorado, and Mark in Montrose, Colorado; and four grandchildren, Cody, Samuel, Lauren and Sarah.

Married during WWII,

By CHRIS PETERSON
Hungry Horse News

More than seven decades ago, Army Air Corps pilot Ben Ryan walked into the officers' club in Panama set up on a blind date with a girl named Agnes — though everyone called her Butchie.

Butchie was an Army nurse. Her ship was headed through the Panama Canal when it broke down.

Ben said it wasn't love at first sight. There were other girls in the club that night.

"Butchie wasn't the prettiest," Ben recalled. "But she had the best personality. She grows on you. There's only one Butchie."

A few months later, the two were married. They've been together ever since. Recently the couple celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary at the Montana Veterans Home. Ben is 93, Butchie 94.

Ben grew up in Three Forks and Livingston. He studied at Stanford University for two years before World War II, then enlisted in the Army,

where he was taught to be a fighter pilot. He was in the Reserves and saw active duty in 1944, where he flew P-39s and P-38s protecting the Panama Canal.

Butchie grew up in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, and enlisted as an army nurse during the war. Her family members were also in the army medical field.

The nursing degree came in handy after the war. Butchie helped pay expenses when Ben went back to Stanford and got his degree in petroleum engineering. He worked

couple marks 70 years together



BEN AND Agnes "Butchie" Ryan at the Montana Veterans Home. (Chris Peterson/Hungry Horse News)

in the oil industry across the country and abroad, including California, Wyoming, Venezuela, and Alaska. He recommended searching for oil in Prudhoe Bay, which turned out to be one of the largest oil fields in North America.

After leaving the oil business, the couple lived in West Glacier for 45 years, where they had an airstrip and a tree farm.

Their secret to long a marriage is simple.

"Pick the right girl," Ben said.

"Ditto," Butchie said. "Pick the right man."

June 21
2016

60TH ANNIVERSARY



June 12
2016

Heinrich and Adelheid Ratz

Longtime Whitefish residents Heinrich and Adelheid Ratz will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with a small gathering of friends and family later this month.

They were married April 7, 1956, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell as part of a double wedding ceremony with Henry's sister Frieda and her husband Edward Emmer of Cape May, New Jersey.

The couple have two sons, Nathan, his wife Lisa, and daughters Emily and Sarah, of Missoula; and Peter, his wife Teri, and daughter Hannah, and sons Nicholas and Eli, of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Following their wedding, the couple

lived in Poplar where Henry worked for the Great Northern Railroad. They returned to Whitefish and were both employed by the school district. Henry later worked for the City of Whitefish Street Department for nearly 20 years before retiring in 1997. Heidi worked several years for Dr. Constenius, DDS, and also took care of children out of their home.

Heidi is an avid gardener and loves cooking. Henry enjoys wood working and working around the yard. They have lived in Whitefish for more than 55 years and are active members of St. Peter Lutheran Church.

July 31
2016



Ron and Lorraine Turnacliff are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Turnacliffs celebrate 50 years

Ron and Lorraine Turnacliff of Swan Lake are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

They were married May 7, 1966, in Kalispell.

Ron retired from the Montana State Highway Department and Lorraine retired from nutrition services and retail.

They are the parents of Sue (Turnacliff) Beach of Jamestown, North Dakota, and the late Randy Turnacliff. They have three grandsons, Travis Beach and Devin Beach of Jamestown, and Jackson Ahinful of Bloomington, Minnesota.

Family and friends are invited to attend their celebration today, July 31, at Swan Chapel. Worship service starts at 10 a.m. and will be followed by their vow renewal, then a luncheon.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Bob and Judy Sander

Bob and Judy Sander of Kalispell recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

The couple were married Aug. 13, 1966, in Buffalo, New York.

They moved to Missoula, where Bob graduated from the University of Montana in 1968 and joined the Air Force. They moved to Kalispell in 1971. Bob worked in forestry and eventually at Semitool, retiring in 2006. Judy graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo and taught in Lancaster, New York, Missoula, Minot Air Force Base and then Evergreen, retiring in 2005 after 20 years there.

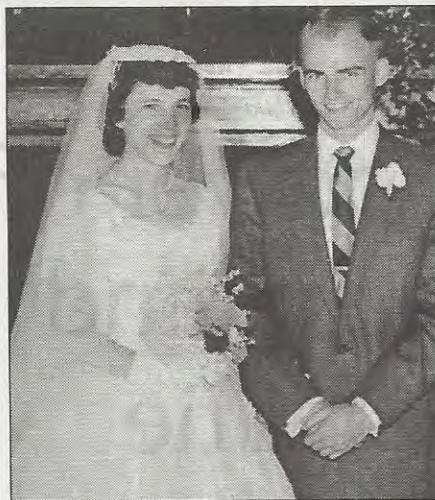
Their children are Jennifer Rau of Kalispell and John Sander of Bonney Lake, Washington. They also have three grandchildren.



Bob and Judy Sander of Kalispell.

August 14
2016

60TH ANNIVERSARY



Lloyd and Shirley Saunders

Lloyd and Shirley Saunders recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

They were married June 24, 1956, in Hardin. They now live in Bigfork, where they spent their honeymoon 60 years ago.

They have three children, Jack

Saunders of Bigfork, David Saunders of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Cindy Murray who resides in Bigfork and Dallas.

They have five grandchildren, Julia and Jaclyn of Bigfork, Sam and Steve of Albuquerque, and Taylor of Laramie, Wyoming.

June 26
2016

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Carmel and Bob Stephens

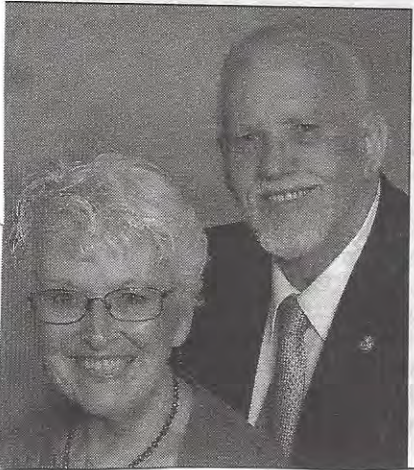
Carmel "Candy" (Cummings) and Bob Stephens of Kalispell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 27 with a family dinner.

They were married Dec. 28, 1965, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Great Falls.

They are both retired from the office equipment and real estate professions.

They have three children, Gene and Lisa Stephens, Gary and Renee Stephens, and Gennifer and Scott Sauter, as well as six grandchildren.

January 10
2016



50TH ANNIVERSARY

Jack and Valerie Sollars

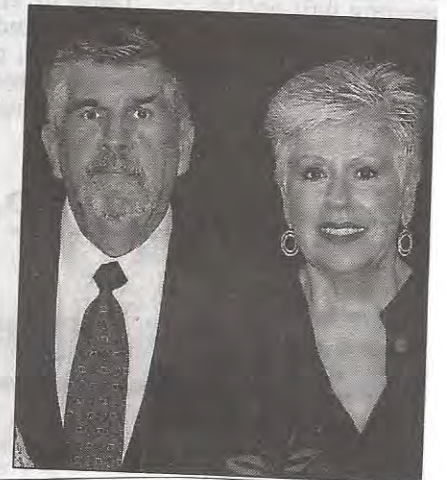
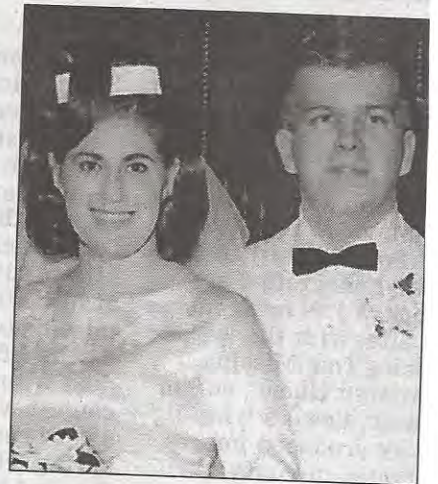
Jack and Valerie (Rose) Sollars celebrated their 50th anniversary recently with a dinner for family and friends hosted by their daughter and son-in-law. A larger gathering is being planned for this summer.

The Sollars were married Dec. 11, 1965, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalispell.

Jack had a 32-year career in the Air Force and they were stationed overseas for nine of those years, making many moves. Valerie also had a long, very fulfilling career in dentistry. Now retired, the Sollars enjoy spending time with family and friends and plenty of golf.

Their children are Jennifer and John Jeude of Kila, and Matthew and Misuk Sollars of Puyallup, Washington. They have one grandson, Jack Jeude.

January 19
2016



70TH ANNIVERSARY



June 12
2016

Vern and Carol Stewart

Vern and Carol Stewart celebrated their 70th anniversary and 90th birthdays June 11 at Buffalo Hill Terrace with an open house hosted by their children.

The couple were married at the Christian Church in Gering, Nebraska, on April 7, 1946. After Vern completed college and graduate school, he and Carol moved to Creston, where he worked as a research agronomist for 41 years. He ended his career as a full professor and director of the Agricultural Research Center in Creston. Both Vern and Carol have been actively involved in their church

through the years.

After raising three children, Carol volunteered for several years and then became director of the Volunteers at Kalispell Regional Hospital for nine years. After Vern retired they both volunteered on Thursdays at Kalispell Regional Medical Center for many years.

The children are Roger Stewart and Gayl of Dodgeville, Wisconsin, Kathy and Tom Holkeboer of Bellevue, Nebraska, and Tamie and Tom Jentz of Kalispell. The couple have eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

50TH ANNIVERSARY



June 19
2016

Ed and Ginger St. Onge

Ed St. Onge and Ginger Haverlandt were married in 1966 at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Eureka.

The couple celebrated 50 years of marriage on June 18. The St. Onges raised three children in Whitefish and

retired to the North Fork.

Their children, Jay and wife Tracey of Spokane, Kelly and wife Jenny of Whitefish, and Kathy and husband Brent Wetsch of Whitefish are planning a late summer celebration.

50TH ANNIVERSARY



June 19
2016

Frank and Kathleen Sutton

Frank and Kathleen Sutton of Kalispell will celebrate their 50th anniversary today, June 19, at a cake reception open house from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Hampton Inn Kalispell.

In 1963 they began courting after meeting at their 4-H club where together they have served 75-plus years. The couple were married June 19, 1966, at Central Bible Church in Kalispell. In 1971 they began raising their children and many sheep at their place on Smith Lake Road where they reside today.

Frank worked for NuPak for several years, later retiring from the city of Kalispell in 2008. During those years he served as chief for the Smith Valley Fire Department. Kathleen enjoyed her years with the ladies auxiliary supporting the volunteers.

Their children attended Batavia School, where Frank served on the board for 30-plus years. He currently serves on the Smith Valley School board.

Frank and Kathleen have always shared an abiding Christian faith and have

served together with Awana Club for more than 20 years, making it a priority to bring their own children and often the neighbor's children to the Wednesday club meetings.

They have seldom left each other's side. Together they traveled many times to Seattle for Frank's cancer treatments. In celebration of his clean bill of health and 70th birthday, they traveled in 2014 with their daughter Michelle to Ireland to visit the Sutton homestead there.

The Suttons enjoy spending endless hours in their barn raising their miniature ponies which they dote on, and traveling to shows, often with their granddaughters. They say it is often the "small" things in life that matter most!

Their children are Robert "Bob Sutton" and wife Kim, Tracey Stahlberg and husband Keith, and Rich Sutton, all of Kalispell, and Michelle Connors and husband Dan of Kent, Washington. They have 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Gary and Susan Simonsic

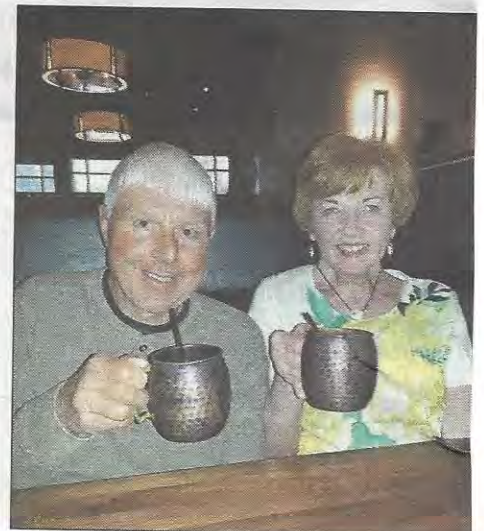
Gary and Susan Simonsic of Kalispell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 4.

The couple were married July 4, 1966, at St. Edward Parish in Youngstown, Ohio.

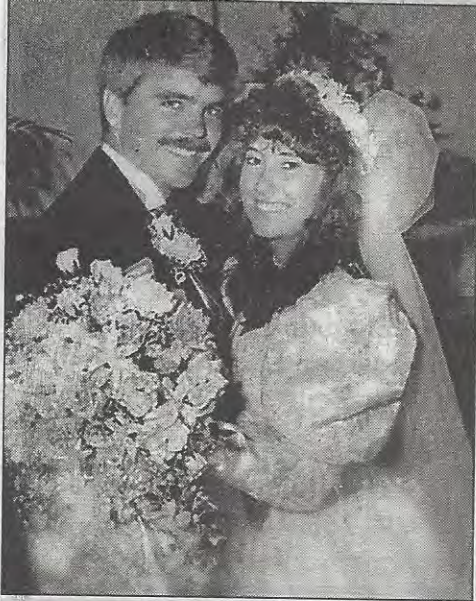
They have a daughter and son. Christine Phelps, husband Scott and grandson Emmett live in Great Falls. Michael lives in Ulm.

The Simonsics have lived in Kalispell for 12 years. They previously lived in Los Alamos, New Mexico, for 34 years where they raised their family and worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

September 18
2016



25TH ANNIVERSARY



October 9
2016

Bobby and Kristin Shaw

Bobby and Kristin Shaw celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a renewal of their vows July 16 in Bigfork. Five members of their original wedding party as well as 75 other friends and family attended. Kristin wore her original wedding dress.

The couple both grew up in South Florida and were married June 29, 1991, in Fort Pierce, Florida. They were

blessed with three sons and, wanting a better place to raise them, moved to Bigfork in 2003 where they own Shaw's Tire & Auto.

Their sons are Brennen, 22, a senior at Montana State University, studying mechanical engineering; Ryan, 17, a senior at Bigfork High School; and Landon 14, an eighth grader at Swan River School.

CURTIS & HARRIET SNYDER will celebrate their 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



They cordially invite all friends and relatives to join them in their celebration

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH 2-5 PM
lower level of Sykes Market.

The event is being hosted by their eldest son Laird Snyder. The happy couple have grown their family with three children, two grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

No gifts please.



March 13th
2016

70TH ANNIVERSARY



Curtis and Harriet Snyder

Curtis and Harriet (Herrington) Snyder of Kalispell will celebrate their 70th anniversary at an open house and dessert social from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at Sykes', located at 202 Second Ave. W. in Kalispell, in the lower level. All friends and relatives are welcome.

The couple met in Kalispell and were married March 23, 1946, in Kansas.

Curtis' career in law enforcement included serving 20 years as a police officer with the Kalispell Police Department, four years as sheriff for Flathead County and 16 years as chief of security for Glacier International Airport. He retired in 1991.

Harriet worked as a salesperson and inventory clerk for JCPenney.

Their children are Laird Snyder and Van Snyder, and Katherine Hall (now deceased).

The Snyders have two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

March 13
2016



60TH ANNIVERSARY



June 26
2016

Les and Pat Tinseth

Les and Pat Tinseth were married in 1956 at Central Christian Church in Kalispell. Officiating was O.D. Harris.

They celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 24.

They have been blessed with four sons — Randy, vice president of Commercial Airlines; Rodney, Life, Health and Casualty insurance agent

in Kalispell; Loren, certified public accountant in Kalispell; and Lane, information systems technician at Murdoch's in Bozeman.

The couple enjoy spending time at their cabin on Ashley Lake with family in the summertime.

They have enjoyed many wonderful trips together.

66TH ANNIVERSARY



Lee and Florence Wight

Lee and Florence Wight of Bigfork were married on Sept. 15, 1950, in Honeyville, Utah. The father of the groom, a Bishop in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, performed the marriage ceremony for Lee and Flo.

They honeymooned in Southern California for a week and returned home to Brigham City, Utah, so Lee could begin his schooling to become a dentist.

He worked at night after college for 75 cents an hour at a service station. Flo, his wife, worked as a clerk in the JCPenney store in Brigham City for 35 cents an hour and Lee was able to finish his college requirements in two years' time. They moved to Chicago where Lee was accepted into dental school at Northwestern University. He went to dental training year round and was able to graduate after three years of school.

Following this schooling, the Korean War was on and the government was

taking all of the graduating physicians and dentists into the military for the next two years. They were assigned to Travis Dental Clinic at the Air Force Base in Fairfield, California. Upon completion of service they moved to Pocatello, Idaho, where Lee practiced general dentistry.

After three years they decided to go back to dental training and Lee became an orthodontist at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Liking the climate in California, they decided to stay and they set up orthodontic practice in Orange, California, and lived there until 1983 when Lee retired from his practice, and they moved to Bigfork and the beauty and loving people they found here in these beautiful mountains and valleys.

Flo and Lee have five children, 18 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

"Thank you Montana for letting us live in this wonderful valley."

September 18 2016

Jack Walker and Arlene Zepeda de Walker

Dr. Jack Walker and Arlene Zepeda de Walker of Kalispell will celebrate their 35th anniversary by renewing their vows in or before June with their family and extended family. The ceremony will take place at Heritage Place and be officiated by Pastor Glenn Burfeind.

The couple met in 1974 in a blizzard in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and were married April 11, 1981, at the Opera House in Tucson, Arizona. Best man was Roger La Vake. Maid of honor was Donna Communale. Their wedding reception was held in the Catalina Mountains at Mount Lemmon.



Jack was a geophysicist for Conoco Oil for five years. He then obtained his medical degree from the University of Kansas and practiced medicine for 44 years, retiring as an ER doctor in 2004.

Arlene was a real estate broker for 28 years. Prior to that, she was a travel agent for 17 years.

Their children are DJ and Candi Walker of Kalispell, Ben and Jennifer Walker of Whitefish, and Pilar Walker of Portland. They have four grandchildren, Taggart, Peyton, Jackson and Robert.



35TH ANNIVERSARY

April 17
2016

50TH ANNIVERSARY

September 25

2016



Ken and Grace Young

Ken and Grace Young of Kalispell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 7 to 9 at Glacier Bible Camp in Hungry Horse. The event was hosted by their seven children and included a special program with slides, skits, games, music and sharing as well as dinner.

The Youngs were married June 18, 1966, at Ascension Lutheran Church in San Francisco. Ken is originally from Great Falls and Grace is from Anchorage, Alaska. The couple met in the San Francisco Bay Area while



Ken was a civil engineer and Grace a nurse. They have lived in various locations in the Northwest while serving in Christian ministry, finally settling in Kalispell.

Their children presented them a gift of two nights at the East Glacier Hotel.

Their children are Kathryn Young of Park City, Utah, Carrie Peters of Sidney, Suzy Schweikert of Columbia Falls, Kenny Young of Twin Falls, Idaho, Sara Wilson of Kalispell, Joe Young of Great Falls and Ben Young of Kalispell. They have 24 grandchildren.