

Betty Mae Edwardson

Betty Mae Edwardson died Wednesday, May 1, at the Brendan House in Kalispell. 1996

She was born in Stanley, N.D., to Alice and Harris Lee and graduated from high school in New Town, N.D.

She married Stanton Edwardson in Stanley on June 21, 1954. They lived in Kalispell since 1956.

She was a member of the South Kalispell Fire Department and Eagles Auxiliary.

She was preceded in death by her husband and her brother, Henry Allen Lee.

She is survived by her two children, Stanton Edwardson Jr. and his wife, Kim Kirsch and Tina Edwardson, both of Kalispell; brother Harris "Buck" Lee Jr. of New Town, N.D.; stepfather Albert Mayer of New Town and granddaughter Jennifer Mae Edwardson, of Phoenix, Ariz.

A funeral will be 2 p.m., Monday, at Johnson Mortuary Chapel, Pastor Tim Korpela, of Riverside Alliance Church officiating. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Cemetery. A reception will follow services at the Eagles Hall in Kalispell.

Hardys Eggum, 82

Hardys O. Eggum, 82, died Sunday afternoon, April 14, 1996, at North Valley Extended Care in Whitefish.

He was born Dec. 15, 1913, in Richey to Martin O. and Anna Eggum. He attended school in Richey.

He married Mae Hentzy in 1938 in Glendive.

They moved to Portland, Ore., where he worked as a welder in the shipyards during World War II. They returned to Richey and farmed for several years. He then worked on road construction in eastern Montana. They moved to Forsyth in 1968, where he worked in the Exxon station until his retirement.

He married Edith Gibson in 1969 in Harlowton and they moved to

Columbia Falls in 1984.

He is preceded in death by his parents; a daughter Bonnie; and two brothers, Ruthvin and Marlow.

He is survived by his wife, Edith, of Columbia Falls; two sons, Orris of Columbia Falls and Jack of Glendive; two stepsons, Mike Gibson of Rigby, Idaho, and Jerry Gibson of Sidney; a brother, Lloyd Eggum of Forsyth; a sister, Emma Gibson of Richey; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He was a member of the Eagles Club in Columbia Falls and the Teamsters Union.

Cremation and arrangements are by Columbia Mortuary. A memorial service will be Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Eagles Club in Columbia Falls.

1996 Larry Frederick Ellefson Sr., 66

Larry Frederick Ellefson Sr., 66, died Feb. 21 while on a vacation trip to New Orleans.

He was born Nov. 10, 1929, in Twin Bridges, to C.F. and Adla Ellefson. He was a grandson of Henry Oldenburg, who homesteaded in the lower valley.

He lived his early years in Somers and attended school there as well as in Seattle. His family returned to the valley where he graduated from Flathead High School in 1948. After graduation, he served in the Navy, stationed in Panama aboard the U.S.S. Currituck for five years. After his discharge, he attended the University of Montana, where he graduated in 1958.

He married Janice Valerie James on Sept. 17, 1955 in Kalispell. He worked in the space industry and the oil industry. He retired in 1995 from Tucker and Associates, which is contracted through the Department of Energy, based in New Orleans.

He is survived by his wife, Janice, at their home in Kingwood, Texas; son Larry Ellefson Jr., and his wife, Janice, and their children Shanna, Jessica, and Larry III, all of Kingwood; daughters Valerie, of Kingwood, Laurelee and her husband, Gregory Lourias, and their daughter, Brittani, all of Watanga, Texas; sister Sylvia "Bubbles" Grundstrom, of Columbia Falls; aunt Anita O. Bange-man, of Kalispell, and many other relatives.

Visitation is 1-6 p.m. today at Johnson Mortuary. A funeral will be 10 a.m., Monday, at Christ Church Episcopal, Rev. Russell E. Peck officiating. Cremation will follow the service. Private family urn burial will be at Conrad Memorial Cemetery. The family suggests memorials be made to the Christ Church Episcopal of Kalispell or the charity of the donor's choice.

Dallas Eklund, 82

Dallas F. Eklund, 82, died Friday, June 7, 1996, at the family home in Kalispell.

He was born March 17, 1914, in Somers. He was the first born of George Frederick and Louise Houle Eklund's five children; he grew up with three brothers and a sister. He graduated from Flathead High School in 1932, and later graduated from Kinman Business College in Spokane.

On April 17, 1938, he married Margaret Fay Steckman of Kalispell at the family home in Somers. He worked for the Somers Lumber Company until it was sold in the late 1940s, and then moved his family to Kalispell where he worked at several different jobs in the lumber industry.

After passing the Civil Service exam he began his career at the Montana State Employment Service as a senior interviewer. He retired in 1976, looking forward to spending time on the things he enjoyed most.

All his life, he dearly loved the Flathead Valley and never strayed far from it. He was a well-known and respected fisherman who always knew where the fish were and how to catch them. He also had a passion for hunting geese, ducks, deer and elk; the larder was never empty. Everyone who knew him well called him "Duck"; we were never sure why they didn't call him "Fish" with all of his fish tales. He expertly crafted the famous "Eklund Fish Plug" that is irresistible to our famous bull trout, and many valley fishermen had one of his plugs to wet their lines in the Flathead's waters.

He loved sports and was a member of the football and track teams in school. He held the state record in



the shot put for a time, and was proud of it.

He was an active member of the Kalispell Masonic Lodge #42 A.F.&A.M., Adah Chapter #17 Order of Eastern Star, Western Montana Conservation Council, state chapter of the International Association of Public Employees Service organization and other groups. He served in leadership roles in these organizations and received many awards. He was especially proud of his high accomplishments in the Masonic Order; he completed the York Rite.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Raymond Rodney Eklund, and sister, Lucille Eklund Buscher.

He is survived by his wife, Fay, of 58 years at the family home; three daughters and their husbands, Dona Fay and Charles Keller of Ogden, Utah, Rita Rae and William Ullmann of McLaughlin, S.D., and Martha Katherine and Les Elletson of Columbia Falls; and a son, Brian Frederick Eklund of Santa Clara, Calif. He is also survived by two brothers and their wives, George C. and Joyce Eklund of Phoenix, Ariz., and Bertell B. and Sammie Eklund of Kalispell; a sister-in-law, Berthie Eklund of Independence, Mo.; 10 grandchildren, Debra McAdams of Columbia Falls, Carrie Wise and Mark Wise of Kalispell, Dallas Schott of McLaughlin, Joyce Mulloy of Timber Lake, S.D., Shannon Elletson of Columbia Falls, Darell Elletson of Kalispell, Ted Jacobson of Rapid City, S.D., John Ullmann and Angela Ullmann of McLaughlin; several great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews; and a host of friends.

He loved his family very much and was proud of his children's accomplishments. We shall all miss him greatly as will his Masonic brothers and many friends.

Goodbye Dallas, good hunting and fishing!

Etta L. Ellis, 97

Etta L. Ellis, 97, of Helena, died Tuesday, Aug. 20, 1996, at Cooney Convalescent Home.

She was born Aug. 3, 1899, at St. Jacobs, Ontario, Canada, to Simon E. and Anna Maria (Wegfahrt) Bowman.

She married Hollie Lyman Ellis on Sept. 24, 1919, in Malta. They lived in Kalispell when they first married. In 1922, they moved to Great Falls, where they owned and operated Ellis Meats and Grocery. In 1941, they moved to Fort Benton and operated a meat market. Then in 1945 they relocated to farm in the Helena Valley. They moved to Bonner in 1951. She returned to Helena in 1981.

She was a loving and caring person who worked in all the churches and communities in which she lived. Many families claimed her as "grandmother" because of her encouragement and concerns for

them. She was always a mainstay in all her children's and grandchildren's lives.

She was preceded in death by her husband; daughter Etta Louise; brothers Walter W., Eby, and Adam D. Bowman; sisters Marion Fisher and Bessie Vestman; one grandson and one great grandson.

She is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Robert A. and Anita Ellis and Howard L. and Helen Ellis, of Helena; four daughters and two sons-in-law, Marilyn Bateson and Rosalie and Don Shoquist, of Helena, Barbara Mulholland, of Butte, and Kathleen and Jack E. Gregg, of Whitefish; 30 grandchildren; 64 great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service to celebrate her life is scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday at Our Redeemer's Church. Burial will be later at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Missoula. Retz Funeral Home of Helena is in charge of services.

The family suggests memorials to the charity of the donor's choice.

1996 Ralph Leonard Elston, 84

Ralph Leonard Elston, 84, of Kalispell, died in Brendan House on Thursday, Aug. 1, after a long illness.

He was born March 4, 1912, in Lawrence, Kansas, and spent his adult life working on roads, dams and irrigation projects across the Northwest. He was a lifetime member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 400, in Helena. His last job before retiring was on Libby Dam.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Patricia Matthew, and his only brother.

He is survived by three children, Kay Lafley, of Kalispell; Charles L. Elston, of Monteca, Calif.; and Harold L. Elston, of Russellville, Ark.; 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

At his request, no public services are planned. Arrangements are by Johnson Mortuary.

Henry Elwood, 78

Henry Elwood, 78, died Friday, March 8, 1996, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

He was born to Ethel Mae and Orlyn B. Elwood in Outlook on Oct. 26, 1917. He lived there until 1922, when his family moved to Kalispell.

He attended Kalispell elementary schools and graduated in 1935 from Flathead County High School.

In 1937, he graduated from Western Montana College in Dillon and received an elementary teaching certificate. He graduated from the University of Montana in Missoula and did graduate work at the University of Oslo, Norway, and Boston University.

From 1937 to 1938, he taught at Mountain View School near Ashley Lake and from 1938 to 1940, he taught the upper-grade classes at Evergreen School. In the fall of 1940, he became a member of the staff of Kalispell Junior High School and taught seventh and eighth grades in history and English until 1960.

He served with the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1946 as an instructor of radio communications. Assigned with the 136th Radio Security Detachment, he attained the rank of staff sergeant and received an honorable discharge at Fort Douglas, Utah, on Feb. 10, 1946.

In 1955, he was selected as a Fulbright exchange teacher and spent the 1955-1956 school year teaching in Derbyshire, England. On May 1, 1960, he was awarded the Freedoms Foundation Classroom Teacher's Medal.

Starting in 1960, he was a member of the English department staff of Flathead High School in Kalispell. He taught grades 10 through 12 in English as well as in journalism and photography. Between 1969 and his retirement in 1981, he served as English department chairman.

Regarded as an expert on the history of Flathead Valley, he published four history books of northwestern Montana. In 1976, he published "Somers, Montana — The Company Town." The first edition of "Kalispell, Montana, and the Upper Flathead Valley" was published in



1980 with a second edition published in 1989. The third book, "The Train Didn't Stay Long" was published in 1982, with illustrations by Charles E. Scott. "Centennial at Epworth" was published in 1993 as a history of Flathead area Methodism.

A series of his regional historical articles has been printed in the Kalispell News, and he was awarded the National Amateur Press Association's laureate award in distinguished essay writing in 1984. The essay with the title of "Pickles and Mince Meat" described grocery stores in early-day Kalispell.

Since his retirement, he has traveled throughout the nation, attending college Elderhostel programs in 10 states from Oregon to Tennessee. He was a member of the Kalispell Elks Lodge, the Northwest Montana Retired Teachers Association and the Great Northern Railway Historical Society.

His hobbies included restoration of antique cars and photography. He worked many of his color slides into programs, and his program topics included homes of British authors, Montana ghost towns, scenes in early-day Kalispell, Flathead Lake steamboats, logging and lumbering in Flathead Valley, and the Great Northern Railway during the age of steam locomotives. He presented these programs to a number of organizations and schools in the valley.

He served on both the Kalispell centennial committee and the Kalispell Historical Preservation committee. Before his passing, he was working on numerous books not published, including a history of St. Matthew's Catholic Church, a pictorial history of the Flathead Valley, a history of steamboats on Flathead Lake, one on Flathead County rural schools, Demersville, and a revised edition of his Somers book.

He is survived by many nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials to the Flathead County Library Fund or Epworth United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1021, Kalispell, MT 59903.

Private family services were held Monday. A memorial service will be held Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Epworth United Methodist Church with the Rev. Marvin Northcutt officiating. Arrangements are by the Johnson Mortuary.

Egil Ollie Engebretson, 83

Egil Ollie Engebretson, 83, of Kalispell, died at Brendan House on Tuesday, May 28, 1996.

He was born Aug. 24, 1912, in White Earth, N.D., to John and Mathilda Engebretson. He received his education there and worked on the family farm and coal mine. After the collapse of the mine, the family moved to the Flathead Valley in the early 1930s. Their large West Valley home doubled as a dance hall.

He was a wrangler and following his marriage to Alice Pierson in 1939, the couple ran the Swan Lake dude ranch. They had five children and lived on Meridian Road, where he started a logging business. In 1957 they bought a farm and he worked in the logging-construction business throughout the valley.

After a divorce from Alice, he married Eva Hoss and they enjoyed traveling and dancing. He continued to work until his death, buying and



repairing cars. Many people found "just what they were looking for" in his menagerie. His three daughters joined him last fall on a trip to his birthplace and they will testify that he "traveled, danced and drove fast" to the end.

He was preceded in death by brothers Gus, Erling, Sid and Cliff and sisters Lou and Patty.

He is survived by two sons, Maurice and Alan of Kalispell; three daughters, Ardell Casey of Renton, Wash., Sue Jones of Kalispell and Florence Olson of Somers; a brother, Aril, of Kalispell; five sisters, Orpha Devitt and Mavis Markee of Salem, Ore., Gerta Byrne of Seattle, and Bernice Lenoire and Clarice Rayburn of Kalispell; 15 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Rev. Wayne Pris of Eidsvold Lutheran Church officiating. Burial will be in the Conrad Memorial Cemetery. A reception for family and friends will be at the Eagles Hall following the graveside services.

Erling M. Engebretson, 74

Erling M. Engebretson, 74, a longtime Whitefish resident, died at home on Monday, May 6, 1996.

He was born June 19, 1921, in Battleview, N.D., to John and Mathilda Engebretson. The family came to Kalispell in 1934 and he has resided in this area since that time.

He served primarily aboard the USS Rowe, a destroyer, during World War II.

In April 6, 1969, he married Veda Larter in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and they made their home in the Whitefish area.

He belonged to V.F.W. Post 2252 in Kalispell. He loved to fish and was an avid gardener. He also loved to putter with machinery.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Sidney, Gisle, and Clifford; and a sister, Vivian.

He is survived by two brothers, Egil and Arel Engebretson, both of Kalispell; six sisters, Orpha DeVitt of Salem, Ore., Jerda Byrne of Seattle, Luella Wendell of Butte, Bernice Lenore and Clarice Rayburn, both of Kalispell, and Mavis Markee of Salem; children, Clifford Engebretson, Sally Madriga, Kenneth Engebretson, Mark Engebretson, and Ordean Engebretson; stepchildren, Bonnie Anderson, Alvan Larter, and Donna, Carol and Kathy; 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be from 1-8 p.m. Thursday at Austin Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at the funeral home chapel with Dr. David V. Kauffman officiating. Burial with military rites will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

Gayle Clair Engebretson, 56

Gayle Clair Engebretson, 56, died at her home in Kalispell on Friday, Oct. 25, 1996, following a lengthy illness with cancer.

She was born Oct. 1, 1940, in Orchard, Neb., to Everett and Alma Voorhies.

She graduated from Flathead County High School in 1958. She worked as a clerk for the Burlington Northern Railroad for nearly 20 years. She started in Whitefish and moved with the railroad to Seattle, Missoula and Billings.

She had a lifelong love of horses and was never without at least one horse, until recent years. She had a great interest in all forms of wildlife and the environment and belonged to several bird, wildlife and environmental groups. She was a member of several square dance clubs, including Solo Stars in Missoula and Fast'n 8 ers in Columbia Falls. She enjoyed leather crafting and had her own business, Leather Endeavor. She also enjoyed flower gardening, bird



watching and needlework.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Alma, in 1969, her father, Everett in 1993, and her stepmother, Betty Hughes Voorhies in 1991.

On Nov. 12, 1988, she was married to John D. Engebretson in Lakeside and is survived by him at the family home.

She is also survived by a sister, Joyce Bear, in Centralia, Wash.; niece Kelly Cannon and her husband, Mike, and son, Shain; stepdaughters Jami Andrews and children Jake, Marcie and Scott, of Kalispell and Debby Kent and husband, Tom, of Globe, Ariz.; aunts Jennie Rauthe and Evelyn Longpre, of Kalispell, Nelda Ann, of Castle Rock, Wash., Helen Kaczor, of O'Neill, Neb., and Daurice Thiele, of Onamia, Minn.; uncles Wilbur Voorhies, of Chewelah, Wash., Alvin Voorhies, of Cherokee Village, Ark., Barney Voorhies, of Spokane; and many cousins.

At her request, no public services are planned.

The family suggests memorials to Flathead Hospice, 1280 Burns Way No. 3, Kalispell. Visitation is 1-3 p.m. today at Johnson Mortuary. Cremation will follow.

Margery 'Margie' Engelking, 93

Margery "Margie" Engelking, 93, died Saturday, April 20, 1996, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

She was born Feb. 19, 1903, in Des Moines, Iowa, to Oscar and Daisy Hough. When she was very young, she and her family traveled by covered wagon to Winnett, Mont., where she lived on a homestead. She graduated from Lewistown High School and then went to work as a legal secretary.

On Oct. 20, 1923, she married John "Bob" Engelking. They made their home near the Kevin-Sunburst oilfields.

She was very talented. She played the organ and piano and sang at community functions. She was represented by an art gallery in Billings, where her painted porcelain plates, cups and saucers were very much in demand. She received many awards over the years for her cutwork

embroidery, crocheting and other handiwork.

She was very active in the Methodist Church and Eastern Star. She loved to travel and had been to Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Mexico, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Bob, who died in 1978.

She is survived by her daughters, Joan Christensen of Polson and Shirley Postlewait of Bigfork; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a half-brother, Dow Hough.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday at the Shelby Methodist Church with the Rev. Dennis Reese officiating. Burial will follow at the Shelby Cemetery, with Buffalo Hill Funeral Home in charge of arrangements in Kalispell and Burns-Whitted Funeral Home handling services in Shelby.

Esther Ensberg, 91

Esther Alvilda Ensberg, 91, once chaplain at Immanuel Lutheran Home, quietly died Sunday, May 19, 1996, in The Hearthstone in Seattle.

She is survived by sons, Stuart of Las Vegas, Earl of San Diego, Calif., and David of Olympia, Wash.; her brother, Rev. Norris Stoa, of Seattle; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Mary Reese.

As wife of the Rev. Martin O. Ensberg for 41 years until his death in 1969, she served as organist and choir director in Reynolds, N.D., Beresford, S.D.,

and Spokane. They retired to Kalispell in 1957 and Rev. Ensberg served as chaplain of Immanuel Lutheran Home. When he became disabled, she succeeded him as chaplain from 1965 to her retirement in 1977. She loved the communion of saints and drew strength from her service to her community.

Cremation has taken place. Inurnment will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell, 4 p.m. Saturday, with the Rev. Don Nielson of Calvary Lutheran Church officiating.

Memorials may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Home, Kalispell.

Laureane 'Jo' Erickson, 92

Laureane "Jo" Erickson, 92, of Kalispell, died Saturday, Sept. 7, 1996, at Heritage Place.

She was born March 3, 1906, in Galatin, Mo., to Sanford and Leela Clay Croy.

She lived in Newport, Wash., before moving to Somers with her family at the age of 14. As a child, it was always her job to keep the wood box full.

In 1924 she married Lloyd "Swede" Erickson in Kalispell. He worked at the Somers tie plant for many years.

The couple built the Hilltop Bar at Marion and a cedar home there.

Jo had a poodle and parrots that

she loved. She never grew old and always loved her friends.

She was a member of the Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband and a brother, Lynn Croy.

She is survived by a sister, Lilly Lou DuFour of Kalispell, and by two nephews, Tom Murphy Jr. of Spokane and Elmore Johnson of Somers.

Visitation will be Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Johnson Mortuary Chapel with the Rev. Gordon Dexter officiating. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Olaf W. Erickson, 86

Olaf W. Erickson, 86, of Kalispell, died at Kalispell Regional Hospital on Friday, July 26, 1996.

He was born July 3, 1910, in Winchester, Wis., to John and Inga Erickson. He attended schools in Trego. He was a lifelong resident of northwestern Montana.

As a young man he worked in saw mills for Polson Brothers and the Trego mill and worked for the Forest Service during the summer. He worked as a truck driver and heavy equipment operator in construction in Shelby, Babb and East Glacier. He worked on the gas pipeline from Oilmont to Butte. He also worked on the construction of the aluminum plant in Columbia Falls. He worked from the Sunshine Mines in Mullan, Idaho, for 15 years until his retirement.

He was a member of the St. Matthew's Catholic Church of Kalispell, the Eagles Lodge, Life and Rescue of Flathead County, and an honorary member of the Montana Sheriff and Peace Association.

In 1933, he married Julia Ann



Rodgers and was preceded in death by her on Dec. 4, 1964.

On June 9, 1981, he married Agnes Gregor Fritch, of Eureka, who now survives him at the home in Kalispell.

He is also survived by sons Arlee, of Kalispell, John, of Troutdale, Ore., Larry and Leslie Erickson, of Kalispell; daughters Bertha Watson, Julia Weber, May Christensen and Ellen Rickard, all of Kalispell; one brother; four sisters; 24 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, a brother, a sister and a granddaughter.

Funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m., Monday, at Lady of Mercy Church in Eureka. Burial will be at Tobacco Valley Cemetery. Visitation is 1-4 p.m. today at Johnson Mortuary.

Russel R. Evans, 76

Russel R. Evans, 76, died Friday, Aug. 30, 1996, at his home in Columbia Falls.

He was born Sept. 30, 1919, in Watertown, S.D., to Floyd and Mildred Evans. At a young age he moved with his family to southern California where he attended schools.

He was a master electrician and worked for many years as an electrician in southern California.

He loved the Seattle area, so when the opportunity arose, he moved to Vashon Island, Wash., where he lived for nine years. He moved to Montana in 1993.

He loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman, both salt-water and fresh-water. He also loved hunting.

He was a proud member of the National Rifle Association and the Brotherhood of Electricians Union.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Barbara, and a son, Russel Jr.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Clarice; daughter Donna Gamble of Kila; son Daniel Evans of Sioux City, Iowa; two stepchildren, James Dezso of Vashon Island, Wash., and Carol Ackley of Redondo Beach, Calif.; sister Jeanette Morris of Oxnard, Calif.; 15 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Private family services will be held at a later date. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family.