

Willard Gene Nash, 78

Willard Gene Nash, 78, died Oct. 25, 1999, at his home in Ferndale.

He was born March 7, 1921, in Enderlin, N.D., to Warren E. and Albertina Alinder Nash.



He started his education in Redstone. As the depression hit, the family would plant their crops and then come to the Flathead Valley and work until it was time to harvest. During this time he graduated from Flathead County High School.

He met Ada Golterman and they were married on Nov. 16, 1943, in Plentywood.

He was multi-talented, farming, repairing machinery and even crop dusting for himself and local farms. They continued farming in Redstone area until his retirement in 1980.

He finally got the cabin he had always wanted in 1981, when they built a home on the Swan River. In 1994, they moved to the cabin but continued to divide their time between Ferndale and Arizona.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman and would go just about any-

where to hunt. He was also active in the Farm Bureau, serving as the district director for a number of years. He also served on the Sheridan County Hospital Board.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Mildred Hoyt, and a nephew, Lyle Hoyt.

He is survived by his wife, Ada, at the family home; one brother, Orvill Nash and wife, Josie, of Redstone; one sister, Dola McCoy and husband, George, of Conrad; and 16 nieces and nephews.

A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. today in Plentywood, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, with the Rev. Ben Lobo as celebrant. Burial will follow in the Redstone Cemetery in Redstone.

There will be a memorial mass held at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Bigfork, on Thursday, Nov. 4, at 11 a.m., with the Rev. Sodja as celebrant.

Local arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory. Arrangements in Plentywood will be under the direction of the Fulkerson Funeral Home.

Ella Neitzling, 100

Ella Neitzling, 100, died on Wednesday, April 28, 1999, at the Heritage Place in Kalispell.

She was born on Dec. 9, 1898, to Robert Emil and Mary Sommer Saurey.

She received her education in Columbia Falls, graduating from high school in 1919. She was on the original committee to choose the school colors, school colors that remain in use today.

She met Edward Neitzling, and they were married on Oct. 20, 1921, in Kalispell. She was a homemaker and worked for a short time at Carr Elsethagen's general merchandise store. The family moved to Kalispell in 1941 with the transfer of her husband from the Columbia Falls Post Office to the office in Kalispell. She lived in Kalispell until her death.

She was a very caring mother and believed in doing things the right way. Among her hobbies were crocheting and being a great fan of baseball. She followed her father in a long life, both reaching the age of 100.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ed, in 1985 and an infant daughter, Patricia, in 1929.

She is survived by one son, Bob Neitzling and wife, Maureen, of Kalispell; six grandchildren, Angela Blodgett and husband, Ron, Kevin Neitzling and wife, Ronda, and Amy Neitzling, all of Kalispell; Colleen Hines and Joseph Neitzling, both of Phoenix, and Annette Peterson and husband, Kip, of Fallbrook, Calif.; nine great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

There will be a private family service at Risen Christ Catholic Church in Evergreen on Saturday, with the Rev. Jim Connor as celebrant, followed by a public committal service at Glacier Memorial Gardens at 11 a.m.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to Flathead Industries in Kalispell, 66 Fourth Avenue WN, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

George W. Nelson, 91

George W. Nelson, 91, died June 27, 1999, at his home near Kalispell.

He was born Feb. 22, 1908, in Sauk Centre, Minn., the eldest of six children born to Peter and Bessie Moline Nelson.

When he was very small, the family moved to Hofflin, N.D., where he was raised. When he was a teen-ager they moved to Eureka, then a few years later to the Flathead Valley.

He worked as a sawyer in the woods, hewed ties with a broad ax, and worked in a number of saw mills. He was well-known for the hard work of bucking ties from a truck to a train car on his shoulder.

He was an active minister of Jehovah's Witnesses for 61 years. Down to his last breath, he was explaining Jehovah's purpose for mankind to those around him.

In 1931, he married Alberta Roberts. She preceded him in death in 1987.

He was also preceded in death by two sons, Peter and John; a brother, Norman; and a sister, Florence Muerer.

In 1989, he married Hazel "Toots" Violet. She survives him at the family home in Kalispell. He is also survived by a daughter, Tip Perry and husband, Wayne, of Phoenix, Ariz.; two sisters, Doris O'Brien of Mill City, Ore., and Helda O'Brien of Salem, Ore.; one brother, Bob, of El Cojon, Calif.; nine grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; and many nephews and nieces.

Memorial services will be held Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, located at 1414 Woodland Ave. in Kalispell.

Arrangements and cremation are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Ruth Wagenius Nelson, 89

Ruth Wagenius Nelson, 89, died on Saturday, Aug. 28, 1999, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

She was born on May 31, 1910, in Kensington, Minn., to Peter and Julia A. Nelson Wagenius.

At an early age her family moved to Canada to homestead land around Ormiston, Saskatchewan. Her younger years were spent helping on the family farm and watching the children of her older sister, Hazel, a time that she recalled with great fondness.

In 1933 she moved to Kalispell, where she married Albin Nelson. Except for a few years spent in Sioux Falls, S.D., while Albin was in the service, she spent the rest of her life in Kalispell.

She worked at the Hut Cafe, Phil's Silver Grill, Woolworth's, and the Immanuel Lutheran Home, where she cooked for 14 years.

She was a member of the Scandinavian Fraternity for many years and



an active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where she taught Sunday school.

She was preceded in death by her husband; four sisters, Myrtle Dahlman, Alphonie Schmid, Hazel Stianson, and Pearl Smith; a brother, Lloyd Wagenius; and a special friend and cousin, Ella Mohn.

She is survived by her daughter, Paula Schilke and husband, Jim, of Billings; a grandson, Eric Herrera; two sisters, Violet Frid and Doris Erickson; a sister-in-law, Agnes Nelson; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

She touched so many with her humble and caring ways. "Thank you for all your love; we will miss you."

Funeral services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Johnson Mortuary, with the Rev. Richard Nelson of Bethlehem Lutheran Church officiating. Burial will follow at C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. There will be visitation on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Roberta Louise Fenner Nelson, 82

Roberta Louise Fenner Nelson, 82, died Wednesday, Sept. 15, 1999, at the Brendan House in Kalispell.

She was born April 26, 1917, in Somers, to Thomas M. and Clara Belle Yeaw Fenner. As a child, she lived on a farm in the Lower Valley and attended first grade at Russell School. The family later moved to Kalispell, where she completed school.

After marrying Percy Gregg on July 14, 1936, they moved to Fort Peck, where they remained until 1940.

After spending a few years in Seattle, the family was back in the Flathead where she and her husband owned and operated the Art and Book Shop. The family also lived in Glacier National Park for 16 years while Percy worked as an accountant for the Park Service. They were later divorced.

Returning to Kalispell in 1963, she worked as a music teacher and was employed by the city.

She married Adolph Nelson on

Nov. 26, 1969, and he died in 1987.

She spent many years traveling, spending winters in California and Arizona and summering in the Flathead. She also played the organ for many years at Central Bible Church and the Little Brown Church. Music was an important part of her life as was her enjoyment of working with young people. She most recently was attending the Christian Center.

She was preceded in death by three sisters.

She is survived by two sons, Larry Gregg of Kalispell, and John Gregg of Santa Rosa, Calif.; one brother, Herb Fenner of Seattle; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services will be today at 2 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the charity of the donor's choice.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Thomas Scott Nelson, 70

Thomas Scott Nelson, 70, of Kalispell, died at Brendan House in Kalispell on July 1, 1999, after a long battle with diabetes.

He was born in Whitefish on Sept. 12, 1928, the son of Thomas R. and Nina Scott Nelson. He attended Whitefish schools and graduated from high school there in 1947. He then went to work for the Great Northern Railway in 1944 as a call clerk and later went into engine service. He retired from the railroad in September 1990.

He was a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and was the secretary-treasurer for Division #499 for many years. He also was a life member of the National Rifle Association.

He married Jackie Hagen in Whitefish on Oct. 7, 1950, and they had three sons. He is survived by Jackie, of

Kalispell; sons and daughters-in-law Mal and Gail Nelson of LaGrande, Ore., Jack and Eileen Nelson of Whitefish, and Pete and Sharon Nelson of LaGrande, Ore.; three grandchildren, Jackie Nelson of Whitefish and Ryan and Lindsay Nelson of LaGrande, Ore.; a sister and brother-in-law, Shirley and Klem of Missoula; a brother, Ed Nelson of California; and several nieces and nephews.

At Thomas' request, no public services will be held. Interment was at the Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell with Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Glacier Regional Dialysis Center, 66 Claremont, Kalispell, MT 59901, or to the Hospice, 1280 Burns Way, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Clarence Olaf Ness, 84

Clarence Olaf Ness, 84, of Fortine, died Sunday, Sept. 19, 1999.

He was born in Swan Lake on Sept. 17, 1915, and grew up in the Flathead Valley.

He logged and drove a logging truck; when Hungry Horse Dam opened to automobiles, he drove the first log truck across the dam.

He was active in the Whitefish Saddle Club in the early '50s, and brought The Backcountry Horsemen to the Eureka area in 1983 as a branch of the Libby Chapter. He served as president for seven years, and as trail coordinator

for the following seven years.

He married his wife, Effie, on June 20, 1936.

He was preceded in death by his wife; a daughter, Kay; a grandson; sisters, Gladys and Hazel; and brothers, Hank and Ernie.

He is survived by four children, 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Fortine Community Church. Visitation will be from 1-8 p.m. on Wednesday.

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

Fredrick Edwin Nevins

Fredrick Edwin Nevins, 72, passed away on April 6, 1999, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell, Montana. Fred was born August 14, 1926, in Hayre, to Fredrick and Vera Nevins.

He had been a local resident for many years and had been the previous owner of the Derry's Marine Bar, which is now the Sitting Duck Bar in Woods Bay. He was a lifetime member of the Bigfork

V.F.W.

He is survived by two children, Danny Haught and Diana Cline, both of Kirkland, Wash.; three brothers; and his very special love for the last seven years, Jewell Tracey of Kalispell.

At Fred's request he has been cremated, and services are pending for a later date.

Bigfork Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Lydia P. Nielsen, 91

Lydia P. (Andersen) Nielsen, 91, of Columbia Falls, died Saturday, Nov. 20, 1999, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center following a brief illness.

She was born June 23, 1908, at Rolfe, Iowa, to Fritz and Camela Andersen, and grew up and was educated in Iowa.

On March 10, 1927, she married Lester Nielsen at the Spring Valley Lutheran Church in Viborg, S.D. They made their home on a farm near Viborg where they raised their family. Upon retirement, they moved to Viborg where Lester died in 1979.

For a brief time, she lived in Fremont, Neb., when in 1986, she moved to Greybull, Wyo. In 1998, she moved to Columbia Falls.

She was a lifetime member of the Lutheran Church and was an organist for many years. She was always

active in church organizations.

She was preceded in death by her parents, 10 brothers and sisters, her husband Lester, and one grandson.

She is survived by two sons and their spouses, Duane and Karen Andersen of Shell Knob, Mo., and Robert and Betty Andersen of Greybull, Wyo., her daughter and spouse Beverly and Carrol Sorenson of Columbia Falls, eight grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls. Pastor Terry Forke will officiate.

Memorial services will be held at Spring Valley Lutheran Church in Viborg, S.D., at a later date.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is in charge of arrangements.

Sherman J. 'Red' Norby, 77

Sherman J. "Red" Norby, 77, died on Tuesday, June 15, 1999, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He was born on April 21, 1922, in Hettinger, N.D., to Sven J. and Serina Norby. He was one of 13 children. He attended schools in Hettinger.

After school he enlisted in the U.S. Army and he served during World War II, mostly in England.

He married Florence Hein in March of 1946. He married Alice Engbretson in November of 1969. She died in February of 1995.

He worked for several years at McElroy and Wilkens.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and four brothers.

He is survived by two sons and their wives, Ray and Lynn and Rand and Connie Norby, all of Kalispell; four grandchildren, Jerry, Denise, Serina and Shawn; four brothers and one sister, Stanley and Barbara of San Mateo, Calif., Carl and Marie of Mobridge, S.D., Kenneth and Doris of Roswell, N.M., Jerold of Columbia Falls, and Ann and Woodrow Miller of Kalispell; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Viewing will be on Friday from noon until 6 p.m. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Kenneth A. Nordtome, 83

Kenneth A. Nordtome, 83, of Kalispell, died Saturday, Jan. 23, 1999, at the Brendan House.

He was born Nov. 6, 1915, in Kalispell to Andy and Gurina Iverson Nordtome.

He was a lifetime resident of the Kalispell area, attending schools in Spring Creek and the Kalispell Public Schools, graduating in 1934.

He worked for a while making pop-sicles at Equity, but later learned the meat cutting business at Sykes Cash from his uncle, Oscar Iverson. He later went to work for another uncle, Eddy Nordtome at Eddy's Meat Market.

He married Zella Kauffman in 1939, and to this union two children were born, Jim and Joan.

In 1945 and 1946, he was in World War II serving in Japan. After returning from military service, he attended Multnomah School of the Bible in Portland, graduating in 1950. When he and his family returned to Kalispell, he had the Creston Gospel Chapel for 20 years.

In 1960, he and Jesse Eayers bought Meats Supply. He retired from meat cutting in 1980.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Andy and Gurina Nordtome and a sister Klicia.

He is survived by his wife Zella of Kalispell; one son, Jim Nordtome and wife, Barbara, of Kalispell; one daughter, Joan Dykstra and husband, Ted, of Kalispell; four grandsons, one granddaughter, and seven great-grandchildren; sister Betty Glazier of Kalispell; and a brother Owen "Bud" Nordtome of Kalispell; and many relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Central Bible Church with Ron Youde officiating. Burial will be in Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday at the Johnson Mortuary.

In lieu of flowers family requests memorials to the Gideons or the Central Bible Church.

Arrangements under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Owen 'Bud' Albert Nordtome, 79

Owen "Bud" Albert Nordtome, 79, died on Monday, April 19, 1999, at his home in Kalispell.

He was born on June 1, 1919, in Kalispell, to Andy and Gurina Iverson Nordtome. He was raised and received his early education in Kalispell.

He married Marguerite McDowell on Nov. 17, 1945, in Kalispell. They moved to Stryker, where they lived for 40 years, then moved to Fortine, where they lived for eight years, then moved back to Kalispell in 1994.

He worked for the Montana Highway Department, retiring after 32 years.

He was a member of the Christian Missionary Alliance, the Lincoln County Rock Hounds, and was the superintendent in the vegetable department at the Lincoln County Fair. He worked maintenance and was a volunteer on the board at Dickey Lake Bible Camp and he was also



a school board member. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, rock hounding, gardening and camping.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Kalisha; one brother, Kenny; and his wife Marguerite.

He is survived by three daughters, Eileen Hume and husband, Darrell, of Paulsbo, Wash., Doris Samard and husband, Darrell, of Albany, Ore., and Barbara Desch and husband, John, of Libby; one sister, Betty Glazier of Kalispell; 11 grandchildren, Brenda Rogers, Cyndy Grinde, Bill Hamilton, Doug Hamilton, Heidi Desch, Dan Desch, Charlene Hume, Doug Hume, Joe Hume, Richard Samard, and Tammy Samard; and five great-grandsons.

Memorial services will be held Friday at 10 a.m. at the Evergreen Alliance Church with the Rev. Garry Toavs officiating.

The family suggests memorials be sent to Christian Missionary Alliance, 31 East Evergreen Dr., Kalispell, MT 59901.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Homer Bernard Normann, 92, of Somers, died Friday, Jan. 29, 1999, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He was born May 18, 1906, in Minneapolis, Minn., the youngest of two sons of Martin B. and Nellie Johns Normann. The family lived in Minnesota until 1917, when they came west by train to make their home in the Flathead Valley where members of Mrs. Normann's family had previously settled. Mr. Normann was employed in a general store in Somers (Normann-Smith & Company) and Mrs. Normann taught piano.

He was 11 when the family moved to their first home in the Flathead Lake area. Having attended school in Minneapolis, he continued his schooling in Somers and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1924. He completed two years at Macalester College in Minnesota, majoring in accounting, and attended the University of Missouri for one semester.

He left school to go to Alaska, where he worked in a gold mining operation out of Fairbanks for several months. Returning to the Flathead Valley, he was employed in the offices of the Somers Lumber Company.

He met Lilian Peterson who was a teacher in the Kalispell schools. They were married June 15, 1941. In 1944, he, his wife and infant daughter moved to Bernalillo, N.M., in hopes that a warm climate might alleviate the arthritic back pain which had plagued him since his 20s.

A few months later, the family returned home. In 1948, they purchased hillside property on the west shore of Flathead Lake. While work-



ing at Lee Craft boat builders and later Kalispell Lumber, he with his wife's help almost single-handedly built two homes on the property. They gave the use of the waterfront to extended family and others as a place to enjoy in the summer. Through the years it has continued to be used and enjoyed by many.

In 1966, he went to work in the office of Forest Products. He remained there until he retired in 1978, at the age of 72.

He enjoyed the outdoors and felt a strong bond to the Flathead Valley. He remained active through his entire life. He maintained the lake property, mowing over a half acre of hillside lawn through his 91st year, skied Big Mountain in his 70s, enjoyed occasional cross country skiing in his 80s.

Those who knew him recognized an indomitable spirit which overcame all odds. His tenacity, desire to accomplish, empathy and a warm sense of humor combined to make him a loved and respected person.

He was preceded in death by his wife Lilian; brother Ted; and parents, Martin Bernard and Nellie Johns Normann.

He is survived by one daughter, Frances MacKay of Somers; granddaughters, Cheryl Cochran of Federal Way, Wash., and Collette Davies of Mill Creek, Wash.; and great-grandchildren, Tyler and Alex Cochran.

It was his expressed request that there be no services. It is the family's wish that those who knew him remember him as he uniquely touched each of their lives in a way individually meaningful to them.

A private inurnment will take place at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary & Crematory.