

## Steve Racki, 53

Steve Racki, formerly of Bigfork, passed away in Reno, Nev., Dec. 10, 2003, at his home surrounded by his family.

Steve was born Nov. 11, 1950, in Billings to Steve and Catherine Racki. He was raised in Roundup.

Steve was a veteran of the armed forces, serving in the U.S. Army from December 1969 to December 1971. He attended Eastern Montana College and received his bachelor of science in secondary education in 1974. He extended his education later earning a master's degree of guidance counseling and a master's degree of administration.

He taught at Roundup High School until 1988 when he accepted an administration position at Bigfork High School in Bigfork.

Steve and his wife moved to Reno in the summer of 2002 after Steve accepted the principal position at Earl Wooster High School.

Steve married his high school sweetheart, Luba K. Fanyak, Jan. 29, 1972. They have two children.

His parents, his nephew, Gabriel Racki; and his grandmother, Nona; preceded Steve in death.

His is survived by his wife and sons, Jacob Thomas of the family home in Sparks, and Joshua Anthony of Kalispell; sister, Marie Corn and Richard of Las Vegas, sister,

Judy Reighard and Ronnie of Sunburst; brother, John Racki and Wendy of Roundup; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Steve also leaves behind his constant companions, Mickey and Shelby, his two dogs.

Steve's greatest love was his family and spending time with them at their cabin in Montana. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and enjoyed playing racquetball with his buddies in Bigfork, cross-country skiing, jogging and hiking.

He was a devoted husband, father and brother and will be greatly missed.

The family extends a personal thank you to Steve's friends and colleagues for their kindness and support. Another special thank you goes to Dr. Conrath and his staff, Station 36 at Washoe County Medical Center and Circle of Life Hospice for their excellent care.

Cremation has taken place. At Steve's request, no services are planned. There will be a private scattering of his ashes in Montana this coming summer.

Memorials in Steve's name may be made to the Steve Racki Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Wooster High School, 1331 East Plumb Lane, Reno, NV 89502, or the charity of your choice.

## Esther Petersen Rahn, 77

Esther Petersen Rahn, 77, "went home to be with her Lord and Savior" on Friday, Sept. 12, 2003.

She was born in Warwick, N.D., on Dec. 8, 1925, to John and Mary Francis Berg.

Esther married Arnold Petersen on Nov. 8, 1944. They built a new home in Devils Lake, N.D., and owned Arnold's Auto Wrecking until 1963 when they relocated with their four children to Whitefish.

Esther worked at Gordy's Drive Inn until being employed by the Flathead County Nursing Home. She retired in 1987 and married Henry Rahn on St. Patrick's Day in 1989. Together they enjoyed being active members of the Senior Citizens, Good Sams Club and the Moose Lodge. They were avid fans of the Old Time Fiddlers and Accordion Players. She especially enjoyed singing with the "Troubadours" at various locations in the valley. Her greatest enjoyment was the time she spent with her family.

Esther was preceded in death by her parents; an infant sister;



her husbands, Arnold and Hank; her son, Wayne; her grandson, Lonnie; and her sister, Jennette.

She is survived and still cherished by her sister, Ione Pierce of Kenmare, N.D.; and her children, John Petersen and his wife, Linda, of Whitefish; Suzi and her husband, Ralph Lamberson, of Whitefish, and Carolyn and her husband, Lanny Barton, of Kalispell. Esther is also survived by her loving grandchildren, Darin Lamberson and his wife, Rhonda, Shannon and her husband, Dennis InGold, Tara and her husband, Greg Rose, Brian Barton and his wife, Kaylee, Erica and her husband, Kyle Kulm, John Lamberson and his wife, Jessica, and Josh Petersen and his wife, Jaclyn. Esther was blessed with four great-grandchildren, Julie, Jayne and Josie Lamberson, and Logan Rose.

Visitation will be held at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 18. Funeral services will be held at the Columbia Falls United Methodist Church at 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19, with the Rev. David Jones officiating. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery near Kalispell. A reception will follow the graveside service.

## Robert Eugene Rainier, 65

Robert Eugene Rainier, 65, of Eureka, died at his home on March 24, 2003.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Rainier; daughter, Mary of Eureka; three sons, John of Tonto Basin, Ariz., Tony of Helena, and Robert of Richland, Wash.; and mother, Helen Rainier of Oakland,

Calif.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. on Friday with burial at Tobacco Valley Cemetery. A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday at the First Baptist Church.

Arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

## Harold W. Ramsey, 69

Harold W. Ramsey, 69, of Big Arm, passed away on Saturday, May 31, 2003, from cardiac arrest.

Harold was born Sept. 29, 1933, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Cleo Ramsey and Adeline (Rozek) Ramsey. He attended school in the Cedar Rapids area, graduating high school in Ainsworth.

Harold joined the U.S. Army in 1953 and served with the "Big Red 1" in Europe. He married the "love of his life" Patricia Brock on Jan. 22, 1956 in Washington, Iowa. Together, they had three children.

The family moved to Minnesota where Harold attended Bemidji State for two years. They then moved to Bonner where Harold received his Bachelor of Science in fish and wildlife from the University of Montana.

He accepted a job with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game at the Niagara Springs Steelhead Hatchery near Wendell, Idaho. He continued his education at the University of Idaho in Moscow. In 1975, he was promoted to fish pathologist for the state of Idaho. He continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1987.



Pat and Harold built a home in Wendell in 1976 where they farmed 30 acres. After 24 years they moved from Wendell to Big Arm where they settled on the shores of Flathead Lake.

Harold loved the outdoors. His appreciation of the natural world around us was passed on to his children. He was an avid fisherman, hunter, gardener and traveler. Trips to Alaska, China and Africa were highlights of his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Pat of Big Arm; son, Douglas Ramsey and wife, Lisa, of Hagerman, Idaho; daughters, Crystal Bertellotti and husband, Gary, of Helena, and Tracey Lindgren and husband, Arthur, of Everett, Wash. He was blessed with six grandchildren, Jamie, Kelly, Angie, Matthew, Jordan and Harrison; and three stepgrandchildren, Trisha, Kandie and Trenton. He leaves a sister, Delores Cleaves of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and numerous other relatives.

A memorial service and reception will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 6, at the Grogan Funeral Home, Polson.

Memorials are suggested to the Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch, St. Ignatius, Mont.

## Vina G. Sage Randolph, 95

Vina G. Sage Randolph, 95, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2003, at the Brendan House in Kalispell. She was born on June 25, 1908, in Missoula to Eli and Agnes (Reith) Sage. Her parents were homesteaders in the Big Hole Valley south of Jackson.



Vina spent most of her childhood on the ranch in Jackson where she went to grade school, often on horseback. The family often made trips into Darby on horseback and in a wagon for their winter supplies. Vina then attended high school in the Bitterroot.

Vina was a very hard worker, preferring outside ranch work to house work. She cooked in logging camps and later worked as a bookkeeper for the cheese factory, Gold Medal Dairies, in Corvallis and Stevensville. She also kept books for Diamond Bar Meats in Missoula.

Vina met and married Ernie Randolph on Nov. 22, 1925. Together they ran a rock and antique shop in Drummond and in Missoula but made their home in Corvallis. After retirement, they moved to Kalispell to be closer to

their children and grandchildren. Vina also helped raise two of her grandchildren, Jennifer and Sheldon. She was a very loving mother. Her kids, grandchildren, brothers and sisters always came first. This daughter of pioneer grandparents and homesteader parents will be greatly missed by her many family and friends.

Vina was preceded in death by her husband; parents; son, Robert; granddaughter, Julie; brothers, Elmer, Chan, Clarence and Ed; and sisters, Dora, Maude, Millie and Ethel.

She is survived by her son, Jerry and wife, Marie Randolph, of Columbia Falls; two grandsons, Sheldon Randolph of Gilbert, Ariz., and Bob Randolph of Whitefish; one granddaughter, Jennifer Burton of Ozona, Texas; four great-grandchildren, Dalton, Nicole, Sarah and Elizabeth; one sister, Ruth Wallace and husband, Bob, of Seattle; and one brother, Vern Sage and wife, Rie, of Florence; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5 at the Corvallis Cemetery in Corvallis with Rev. Steve Millar officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Larry Francis Rasmussen, 64

Larry Francis Rasmussen, a devoted husband and loving father, age 64, passed away on Tuesday, June 10, 2003, at the Peace Hospice Residence Center in Great Falls. He was born in Havre on July 26, 1938, to Martin and Mary (Kalanick) Rasmussen.



Larry received his early education in the Flathead Valley, graduating from Whitefish High School. He went on to serve four years in the U.S. Navy.

Over the years Larry worked at Columbia Falls Aluminum Co., did carpentry work, worked on the Libby Dam, owned a motel in Amanda, Park, Wash., operated Rasmussen's Back-hoe Service in Kalispell, and was owner and operator of a mobile home park in Great Falls. His work was his life.

Larry met and married Jean Anderson Moreau in Calgary, Alberta, in 1999.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife Jean; five children, Carrie Eystad and husband Willie, Linda Camus,

Larry Rasmussen Jr. and wife Tami, Mike Rasmussen and Donnie Rasmussen-McLhargey; two stepsons, Drew Moreau and wife Wendy, and Damon Moreau and wife Heather; one brother, Dennis Rasmussen and wife Beverly; one sister, Marilyn Allen and husband Ron; 10 grandchildren, Corbin, Jered, Aaron, Devin, DonTae, Natheon, Darren, Nicole, Michael and Amanda; one great-granddaughter, Carrie Ann; many extended family members in Canada; seven special nieces and nephews, Kim, Kelly, Kevin, Tom, Grant, Rick and Scott; and numerous great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Larry will be at 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 14, at Johnson Mortuary with Pastor Dan Lydick of the Rocky Mountain Baptist Church officiating. Burial will follow at the Glacier Memorial Gardens with military honors by the United Veterans of the Flathead.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the Peace Hospice Residence Center, 2600 15th Ave. S., Great Falls, MT 59405.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary & Crematory.

## Robert P. Rasmusson, 48

Robert P. Rasmusson, 48, of Libby, died Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2003, near Dillon.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Kay, of Libby; his children, R.J. Rasmusson of Billings, Cameron Rasmusson and Lacey Rasmussen, both of Libby; and his mother and stepfather, Olivia and Philip

Lemen of Libby.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Faith Bible Church with the Rev. Kyle Lindley officiating. Friends may call from 3 to 8 p.m. today at Nelson & Vial Funeral Home, and from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Faith Bible Church.

## Arden K. 'Kelly' Rayson, 67

Arden K. "Kelly" Rayson, 67, a long-time Libby resident, died Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

Survivors include his wife, Georgia, of Libby; son, Kurt Rayson, of Troy; and daughter,

Kip Cummings, of Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. today at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby. Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Assembly of God Church in Libby.

## Julian C. Read, 87

Julian C. Read, 87, passed away on Wednesday, May 21, 2003, in Mesa, Ariz.

He was born on Dec. 19, 1915, in York, N.D., to Edward and Celia Brager Read. He was raised in Leads, N.D., where he graduated from high school.

Julian worked the family farm until he graduated from high school. He then moved to Missoula, where he worked at the Bonner Mill. He also taught guitar lessons, then worked for Whites Dairy. After high school, he attended the Pratt and Whitney Aircraft and Engine school in Glendale, Calif. He was certified as an A&E mechanic. Julian also attended Real Estate School in Missoula, where he obtained his brokers license in 1969. Later he completed a graduate Realtor course getting his GRI.

He married Alma Rugland on March 29, 1942. He served in the Civil Air Patrol, flew for the Border Patrol on the Rio Grande River in 1942, as well as flying "Tow Target" for the military in Mississippi. From 1944 until 1945, he served in the U.S. Army Air Force as an air inspector. He was discharged as a master sergeant.

After his military service, he went to work at Bakke Lincoln Mercury as both the sales and service manager. In 1956, he bought Chico Hot Springs, just south of



Livingston. In 1967, he worked briefly for Korn Buick, then he bought Capp Sporting Goods on Main Street, he operated it as Reads Sporting Goods until becoming a Real Estate Broker. He retired in 1980.

He was active in the local Republican party, was a member of both the Elks Lodge and the Rotary Club. He was on the Board of Realtors, having served as chairman, and was on the Salvation Army board.

He loved his lawn and flower gardens, boating and lake fishing.

Julian was preceded in death by his wife, Alma; brothers, Paul, Clifford, Donald, Raymond, George and Charles; sisters, Bertha, Martha, Myrtle, and Melinda; and an infant granddaughter, Megan Read.

He is survived by his wife, Ferol Read, of Mesa, Ariz.; two sons, Tom Read of Kalispell, and Don Read of Seattle; one brother and one sister, Kenneth Read and Esther Pine, both of Missoula; grandchildren, Erin Read of Calgary, Alberta, Kathy Read of Kalispell, Nathan and Garrett Read, both of Seattle; daughters-in-law, Yvonne and Helen; and stepsons, Larry and Rod Bailey.

A family graveside service will be held Saturday, May 31, 2003, at 1 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery with a memorial service following at 2 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Mary Kay (Nicholls) Reddington, 43

Mary Kay (Nicholls) Reddington, 43, of Carmel, Ind., formerly of Columbia Falls, died on Feb. 9, 2003, at the St. Vincent's Hospice in Indianapolis, Ind., of a progressive immune system disease.

She had been a financial consultant with Merrill Lynch of Indianapolis until 1995.

She is survived by her husband, John Reddington of Carmel; her son, Peter Red-

dington of Carmel; and her parents, Alexander and Margene (Woods) Nicholls of Whitefish.

Visitation will be at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Carmel at 10 a.m. on Friday. A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of Leppert and Hensley Mortuary and Crematory in Indianapolis.

## Maxine Evelyn Reese, 72

Maxine Evelyn Reese, beloved wife and gentle mother, passed away Jan. 2, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center after a brief battle with cancer. She was 72.



Maxine was the youngest of 11 children, born March 5, 1930, in Manchester, Mont., daughter of German immigrants who settled near Great Falls in the late 1800s. Her family ranched in Ulm outside of Great Falls through the 1950s. Maxine attended elementary school in Ulm and high school in Cascade and Great Falls. She graduated from Great Falls High School in 1948.

After high school she was the office manager for Metropolitan Life Insurance in Great Falls, where she met Thomas Reese. They were married on Feb. 5, 1951. Tom and Maxine lived in Great Falls until 1958, when they moved to Brady, where Tom took his first teaching job. They lived in Brady for three years before moving to Alberton, where she was the branch librarian for the Mineral County Library.

In 1975 the family and their children moved to Missoula. She attended the Missoula Vocational Technical School and received a degree in office management. After receiving her degree she became clerk of court for Missoula Municipal Court. Maxine retired from that position in 1992.

With their children grown, the couple moved to Kalispell and built the home of their dreams along the fairways of Village Greens Golf Course. When she wasn't playing golf or sewing, she

could watch the golfers stroll by on the fairways from her favorite arm chair.

Maxine was a devoted mother and wife who loved to golf, sing, dance to jazz music, play with her grandchildren and read. Her lovely whistling and singing voice could always be heard throughout the family home, as she and Tom sang the "Indian Love Call," serenading each other in a deep love that grew throughout their lives. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July 2001.

A consummate sewer, Maxine at one time owned her own clothing business called "The Max Hatter" and she produced her own line of fleece outdoor clothing. She once finished in the top 20 in her age group in the Bloomsday road race.

Maxine is survived by her husband, Tom, at their Kalispell home; sisters, Laura Krall, of Bremerton, Wash., and Margie Stanger of Great Falls; and brother, William Thomas of Liberty Lake, Wash. Other survivors include her son, Aaron Reese and wife, Tracey, of Bakersfield, Calif.; daughter, Pamela Schindler and husband, Eric, of Helena; son, Tom Reese and wife, Pat, of Spokane; and son, David and wife, Jennifer, of Kalispell.

She is also survived by nine grandchildren, Kenny, Morgan and Chandler Reese of Bakersfield; Katherine, Laura and Aaron Reese of Spokane; and Hanna, Garrison and Jackson Reese of Kalispell.

A mass of celebration will be held in her honor at noon on Monday at Risen Christ Church in Kalispell.

Memorials may be sent in her name to the American Cancer Society.

## Ellen 'Nellie' Reid, 83

Ellen "Nellie" Reid, 83, "was carried home to be with the Lord" May 14, 2003, in Kalispell.

She was born Nov. 8, 1919, in Dublin, Ireland, to John and Mary (O'Sullivan) Deegan. She was one of 12 children.

She met William Reid in England during World War II, where she was employed as a munitions worker. They married on April 2, 1943. Their first two children were born in England. She and the two children came to the United States on the Queen Mary and settled in Red Lodge, where William worked at the Eagle Coal Company.

In 1955, they moved the family to Kalispell, and resided here until her death. She enjoyed visiting with her family and friends, telling stories and gardening. She was a active member of the St. Matthew's Catholic Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband, William.

She is now survived by eight children — five sons, John, Thomas, Laurence, Kevin and Brian Reid, all of Kalispell; three daughters, Janet Casne of Bellevue, Wash., Maureen Stanaway of Missoula, and Lola Hammer of Shelby; two brothers, Willy Deegan of Dublin, Ireland, and Tom Deegan of England; also 27 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Mass of the Resurrection will be held at 10 a.m. at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on Saturday, May 17. Visitation will be today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the Rosary at 5



p.m. at Johnson Mortuary Chapel. She will be laid to rest at Red Lodge Memorial Cemetery next to her husband William.

The family suggests memorials be given to Home Health Options, Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Ste 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Edith Fern Rein, 93

Edith Fern Rein, 93, passed away on Sunday Nov. 23, 2003, at Heritage Place in Kalispell. She was born March 3, 1910, in the Fairmont area of Kalispell to Thomas Jefferson and Isabell Elizabeth (Appleby) Curtis.

She was the sixth of eight children, three boys and five girls, all deceased. As a child she was nicknamed "Speedy Edee" because she ran everywhere. She grew up on a farm and had many chores to do each day.

In 1928, Edith married Oscar Johnson, and from this union six children were born, four boys and two girls. They enjoyed family outings and picnics.

Edith enjoyed being a homemaker, cooking sewing, playing the piano, painting and taking care of her horses and other animals. She always had pets. She was later married to John "Jack" Keller in 1959. After this marriage ended she married Fredrick W. Rein in 1971. Fred passed away a



year later in 1972.

Being around her family and friends was always on enjoyment for Edith. She loved to dance, and was an active member of Eagles club, Senior Citizen Center and attended several churches over the years. One of her favorite places to go was Sykes to eat dinner, have one of the best cinnamon rolls in town or a piece of pie.

Edith was preceded in death by her parents; husbands; one daughter, Margaret "Peggy"; and one son, George.

She is survived by three sons, Harold Johnson and wife, Lisa, and Ron Johnson and wife, Sharon, all of Kalispell, and Tom Johnson of Contact, N.C.; one daughter; Nada Dunkin of Kalispell, 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. There will be no visitation.

The family suggests memorials be given to A.L.E.R.T., 310 Sunnyside Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary & Crematory.

## Constance 'Connie' Marie Rensmon, 47

Constance "Connie" Marie Rensmon, 47, passed away on March 19, 2003, at St. Luke's Community Hospital in Ronan.

She was born on May 26, 1955, in Lethbridge,

Alberta, to Joseph and Betty Kultdgen. Connie lived most of her life in Cutbank, moving to the Flathead Valley in 1998.

She loved cats and was very big-hearted and positive. Connie loved life and worried more about others than she did herself. Connie



loved her vocation of accounting.

Connie was preceded in death by her mother, Betty Kultdgen, and one brother, Allen Kultdgen.

She is survived by two sons, Phillip Zahn and wife, Candy, and Cory Rensmon, all of Kalispell; her father, Joe Kultdgen; and two sisters, Linda Losing of Calgary, Alberta, and Judy Calvi of Mississippi.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at the Johnson Mortuary with Pastor Tim Bartholomew of the Stillwater Free Lutheran Church officiating.

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

## Carl L. Reynolds, 66

Carl L. Reynolds, 66, a lifetime resident of the Tobacco Valley, died June 19, 2003, at Mountain View Manor in Eureka.

He worked in the lumber industry in the Eureka area, and for the Kennedy-Stevens Mill for many years.

Survivors include his wife,

Carol, of Eureka; a son, Michael Reynolds, of Eureka; and a stepdaughter, Dorothy Clark, of Knoxville, Tenn.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, June 30, at Tobacco Valley Cemetery.

Arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

## Lester Charlton Reynolds, 100

Surrounded by his family, centenarian Lester C. "Les" Reynolds passed from this life on Dec. 13, 2003 — six months past his 100th birthday. A magnet on the



Reynolds' refrigerator displays the slogan, "Old age is not for sissies." He was a living testimony to its validity. He was still active and an avid reader of history. Reynolds' longevity was based on his love for his wife of 56 years, Phyllis, his three children, three grandchildren, a family rich in heritage and Christian values, teaching, hunting, fishing and history. Plus a great sense of humor! "Yes sir, I was born in 1903, but might not have made 100," said Reynolds. "There was the time in Craig County, Va., when I was squirrel hunting, fell over a log and accidentally shot myself in the leg. Was I embarrassed."

Born in Bluefield, W.V., June 28, 1903, Lester Charlton Reynolds was the fourth of nine children born to Rev. John Charlton Reynolds and Elizabeth Holland Shawver, and lovingly nicknamed "Chief No Brains." His siblings were Irene, Ralph, Lois, Ruth, Virginia, Mary, Madeline and John. Of these, only Madeline, numerous nieces and nephews and Prairie Wildflower survive him. He grew up with a strong faith in God and was baptized by his father. He attended school in Sinking Creek, Va. In 1923, he graduated from Maywood High School as valedictorian of his class. He went on to Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va., and then obtained a bachelor of arts degree from Milligan College in Milligan, Tenn. He attended summer school in 1933 in Greeley, Colo., where he did graduate study in botany and went on to do further study in botany at the University of Montana. In 1960 he received a master's degree in education from Western Montana College of Education, Dillon.

In 1925 he entered the National Guard and spent the following year as a supply sergeant in Company C, 117th Tennessee Infantry. He served in the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1935 until 1941 in camps from South Port, on the Carolina coast to Mount Mitchell and on to Cape Hatteras. He was a camp commander in South Carolina when war broke out with Japan. In 1941 he was transferred to the Ordnance Department in Nebraska, doing inspection work for the U.S. Army. Until 1941 he was assistant chief inspector on all four bomb lines at the plant. From 1943

to 1944, he and his older brother, Ralph, worked on the construction of an air base in British Columbia for Metcalf Hamilton Kansas City Bridge Co.

His love of hunting and fishing brought Reynolds to Twin Bridges in September of 1944 where he met Montana native Phyllis Margaret McCoy, also a lover of the outdoor life, as well as a teacher of English and home economics. They were married at the McCoy family home in Lonepine on June 15, 1945. Reynolds took a position in Twin Bridges as coach and taught math and science. He went on to become principal and later superintendent of schools.

He was active in Rotarians, the Madison County Fair Board plus numerous civic organizations. He and Phyllis were active in the Methodist Church, where he loved to sing in the choir. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, amateur photography, collecting Indian artifacts and fossils. His garden was his specialty and greatly admired by all.

After his retirement in 1968, Lester and Phyllis moved to Columbia Falls where they lived until 1993; and their two youngest graduated high school there. They were very active in the First Christian Church and later in the United Methodist Church.

Lester's brother, John, and his family, also lived in the Flathead Valley at the time and they spent many hours hunting and fishing together. After that, Les and Phyllis moved to her old stomping grounds in Hot Springs where they lived near her family until three years ago when they moved to Helena where they enjoyed seeing their three grandchildren as often as possible.

Lester is survived by his wife; and three children, Dr. Rick Reynolds of Great Falls, Steven Reynolds, and wife, Karen, of Butte, and Peggy Tobin and husband, Mike, of Helena; daughter-in-law, Linda Reynolds of Great Falls; grandchildren Jason Reynolds of Butte, Michelle Tobin of Moscow, Idaho; and Airman Megan Tobin of Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. today, Dec. 16, at the First Presbyterian Church of Helena, corner of 11th and Rodney. Burial of ashes will take place in the spring of 2004 at the Murray Memorial Cemetery in Lonepine.

The family suggests memorials in lieu of flowers to the John C. McCoy Scholarship fund, P.O. Box 8, Lonepine, MT 59048 or the American Diabetes Association.



## Louis H. Rhoades, 83

Louis H. Rhoades, 83, died Thursday, Oct. 30, 2003, at the Libby Care Center.

He worked in the logging and Christmas tree industry until his retirement.

He is survived by daughters, Louis Hopkins and Lucille Briggs, both of Libby; and stepchildren, Gerald Good of Troy, Joseph Good of Hermis-

ton, Ore., Florence Drowatzky of Ronan, Ruby Stapley of Troy, Rita Partney of Stevensville and Dale Good of Potlatch, Idaho.

Services will be at 2 p.m. today at the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home.

## Shirley Rhodes

Shirley Rhodes died Friday, April 11, 2003, at her home after fighting a long battle with leukemia.

"Shirley, our wife, mother, grandmother and friend was an anchor in our family that will be deeply missed."

Born Shirley Skjoldal in Thunderhawk, S.D., in 1935, she graduated from Lemon High School in 1954. She then moved to Missoula, where she graduated in cosmetology. Her adventurous spirit led her to Hawaii, where she was active in starting the Hawaiian Skydiving Club while working as a photographer and hair model in Honolulu.

In 1959, in Missoula, she met and then married the love of her life, Gary Rhodes. Moving to Polson in 1967, she raised her children while owning several businesses including, Rhosheas Boutique and Rhosheas Beauty Salon. After her children graduated, adventure called her once again and she and her husband spent the remaining years of her life traveling and living in places such as Seattle, Santa Barbara and finally making a second home in Kona,



Hawaii.

"She was truly an example of grace, peace and courage throughout her life especially in her time of illness." Not once did she complain about her illness or the circumstance that had gotten her there.

"Shirley was a shining example to many people in many places." Even at the very end, that deep peace never left her and it was with her last breaths that she told her family to be brave, that she was still at peace, and then she stepped swiftly into the arms of her Lord.

Shirley is survived by her loving husband of 42 years, Gary; her daughters, Angela Rhodes and Robynn Rhodes; her son, and daughter-in-law, Mark and Amy Rhodes; her grandchildren, Tahni, Jaren and Denille; her son and daughter-in-law, James and Laura Rhodes; her grandchildren Philip and Bailey.

She will also be sorely missed by all her many nieces, nephews and many wonderful friends.

A service of remembrance will be held at Johnson Mortuary at 11 a.m. Tuesday.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society at P.O. Box 1002, Kalispell, MT 59903.

## Alyssa Renee Richardson, 13

Thirteen-year-old Alyssa Renee "Little Lyssa" Richardson "went home to be with her Savior and Lord Jesus Christ" on Monday, June 30, 2003, following a car accident in Polson.

Alyssa's bubbly personality and infectious smile is already missed by her mommy and stepdad, Tina and Dave Wassam of Columbia Falls; and her dad and stepmother, Mark and Amy Richardson of North Carolina; her two "best buddy" brothers, 11-year-old Brady Richardson and nine-year-old Adam Richardson; her stepbrother, 11-year-old Mitchell Wassam; her stepsisters, seven-year-old Nachele Wassam and seven-year-old Christa Oglesbye; and her two-year-old half-brother, Tradd Richardson, all who loved Alyssa very much. She is survived by grandparents, James and Wanda Barry, Linda and Walfer Weber, Dave and Judy Wassam, Glen and Pat Richardson, Peggy Whitley and Nancy Pelletier.

Little Lyssa also is survived by her two best friends, MARRISA RADABAH and SAM CONNOR of Columbia Falls; her youth group and church family at First Baptist Church of Whitefish; friends and coaches of the Columbia Falls soccer league; and many other family members and friends.

Alyssa loved her Lord Jesus Christ and the people of her church. She spent many hours of joy and pleasure in the soccer program of Columbia Falls, both for the enjoyment of the sport and because of the many people and friends who made soccer so much fun. Alyssa spent much time with her youth group, playing the clarinet, studying as an honor roll student, and being a caring and wonderful friend and mentor to all.

In the true spirit of her life, Alyssa in her death continued to give to others as an organ donor. Alyssa's family rejoices for all the people who found help and hope in the midst of their tragedy, loss and grief.

Alyssa's earthy tabernacle will be laid to rest 11 a.m. on Monday, July 7. The service will be held at First Baptist Church of Whitefish with Pastor Kent Morrison presiding, assisted by Pastor Gene Speer and Alyssa's youth pastor, Brian Cannon. A graveside ceremony will follow at the Woodland Public Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

A memorial/funeral fund has been established in honor of Alyssa. Donations can be sent to the Little Lyssa memorial fund in care of First Baptist Church of Whitefish, 6232 Hwy 93 S., Whitefish, MT 59937.

## Douglas M. Richards, 61

Douglas M. Richards, 61, died in Spokane Friday, June 20, 2003, of cancer. He was born April 9, 1942, in Loyalton, Calif. He was born to William and Doris Meikle Richards. He attended school in Kalispell.

Survivors include his mother, Doris Richards, of Kalispell; his uncle and aunt, Jack and Molly Meikle, of California; his brother

and wife, Ron and Anita Richards of Seeley Lake; his sister and husband, Donna and Loren Braun of Pocatello, Idaho; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He fought a courageous battle with cancer for two years "and made his peace with God."

Cremation has taken place. Services were held on June 28 with interment at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

## David Andrew Richmond, 46

David Andrew Richmond, 46, of Columbia Falls died Monday, Jan. 13, 2003, in Memorial Hospital in Sheridan County, Wyo.

He was born March 14, 1956, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, to Walter Eugene and Barbara Margarita (Simpson) Richmond. The family moved to Colorado, and then to Washington.

David graduated from high school in Kent, Wash., in 1974. He then lived in Alaska, Washington and Idaho, and spent the last 20 years living in Flathead County where he was a self-employed commodities relocation specialist.

David loved spending time with his family and enjoyed being with horses. He was a member of the Church of Christ in Columbia Falls.

He is survived by his wife, Sandy Kay, of Columbia Falls; one son, Douglas, of Ranchester, Wyo.; three daughters, Amanda Chere Richmond of Columbia Falls, Holly Kay Bavor of Delta, Colo., and Karen Joan (Richmond) Blanchard of Ranchester; his mother, Barbara Daugherty and stepfather, "Pappy" Daugherty of Hayden Lake, Idaho; two sisters, Jaqui King and Vicki Joan Barney of Odessa, Wash.; and four grandchildren.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held 2 p.m. Sunday in the Rathdrum Lions Club, Rathdrum, Idaho.

Arrangements are with Champion Ferries Funeral Home, Sheridan, Wyo.

## Mary Ann Rickard, 69

Mary Ann (Torgerson) Rickard, 69, died suddenly and peacefully on Feb. 6, 2003, in Seattle.

She was born next to her "Mission Mountains in Polson on July 27, 1933, to Art

and Myrtle Torgerson. She attended grade school at Charlo and high school in Bigfork, where she graduated in 1951.

She married Jack Rickard, on Aug. 10, 1952. Mary Ann spent most of her life raising her family in Bigfork. In 1983, she moved to Missoula, where she was a devoted volunteer at St. Patrick Hospital. She was also the beloved sitter for many friends' children.

Mary Ann was a member of the Rebekah Lodge, Lakeview No. 112 from Bigfork and Esther No. 5 from Missoula. She was involved in the Ladies Auxiliary Patriarch Militant and Ladies Encampment Auxiliary also. Her special mission was work for the Special Olympics and United Nations Pilgrimage. She was also a member of



the World War I Veterans Auxiliary and Royal Neighbors. She was a dedicated lodge sister, serving in many offices.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her daughter, Laureen Day; and her brother, Jack.

She is mourned by many including her children, Michelle, Art and Norm of Seattle, and Cindy of Columbia Falls; her granddaughters, Laureen and Maureen; her great-grandson and three great-granddaughters; her brother Don; her nieces Toni and Terry; and nephews Mike, Randy and Jim; and many more family and friends.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the United Methodist Church in Bigfork with the Rev. Jan Witman officiating. The family members would like to encourage those who attend to bring to the service a small memento that reminds them of Mary Ann. Burial will follow at the Lone Pine Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the Special Olympics of Montana or the American Diabetes Association.

Mary Ann is "returning home to her beautiful mountains of Montana."

## Pearl Viola (Brown) Richter, 67

Pearl Viola (Brown) Richter, 67, died Thursday, July 24, 2003, in Bigfork.

She was a postmaster in Hingham for 29 years.

She is survived by her husband, Chris, of Hingham; four sons, Dan Richter of Phoenix, Don Richter, Dave Richter, and Dennis Richter, all of Big-

fork; and one daughter, Denise Strissel of Hingham.

Funeral mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Monday, July 28, at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Hingham. Cremation will follow the services.

Arrangements are by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester.

## Madeline 'Toots' Riedel, 87

Madeline "Toots" Riedel, passed away at her home in Carson City, Nev., on May 13, 2003.

She was born Oct. 13, 1915, spending most of her life in the Somers/Kalispell area, until she and her husband, Jerry, moved to Carson City in July, 2000, to be near their son and family.

Madeline was a member of the hospital volunteers, an active member of St. Matthew's Catholic Church, and enjoyed sewing, gardening and playing golf and

bridge.

She was a devoted wife and mother and is missed dearly.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Reely, of Phoenix; and her son, Mike Riedel, of Carson City, Nev.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, July 31, at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

## Jane Edythe Riemer, 76

Jane Edythe Riemer, 76, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2003, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell. Jane was born May 13, 1926, in Cleveland, Ohio, to



Robert and Emma (Gertz) Day.

Jane grew up and graduated high school in Ohio. She married 2nd Lt. Leonard Riemer in 1945 after he was discharged from serving as lead navigator with the 8th Air Force in England.

In 1957, she moved to Southern California where she attended California State University, Dominguez Hills. While attending school, Jane was a full-time mother, student, and also worked as a travel agent. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in history.

Jane loved to travel and eventually became certified and worked

for the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. This was a bonus for her entire family as she took them on all types of cruises.

Jane was preceded in death by her parents; one brother; a son, Thomas Day Riemer; and a daughter, Susan Jane Riemer.

She is survived by her husband, Leonard; one daughter, Kathy and husband Michael Stetson of San Pedro, Calif.; and one son, Bob and wife Wendy Riemer of Danville, Calif.; also grandchildren; Susan and Mike Stetson, and Katie and Lindsay Riemer.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. on Friday at Bethlehem Lutheran Church with the Rev. Lindean Barnett officiating.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to Alzheimers Disease Research, 15825 Shady Grove Road, Suite 140, Rockville, MD 20850-4022.

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

## Donald L. Riggs, 72

Donald L. Riggs, 72, died on Monday, Sept. 15, 2003, at Heritage Place in Kalispell. Memorial services will be

held at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with the Rev. Tim Bartholomew officiating.

## Ava Lynn Riley, 64

Ava Lynn Riley, 64, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2003, after a long battle with cancer.

She was born in Conrad, on Aug. 18, 1938, to Clyde and Argyle Voorhees. She started first grade in Eureka, then attended various schools along the line of the Great Northern Railway while her father, Clyde, worked as a telegrapher/agent. She returned to Eureka to finish high school with the class of 1956.

She met Gordon Riley in 1955 and subsequently married him on Aug. 12, 1956.

Ava Lynn had many hobbies over the years but eventually discovered a real passion for quilting and canning pickles. She gave most of her quilts away to family members, friends, and people she came to know at the oncology office and dialysis center. Her pickles were known and loved by people across the country. She was a caring person who was always willing to give to others. Many people were the happy recipients of her several hobbies and talents.

Ava Lynn always loved the Eureka area and its many fine people. She loved the Episcopal church, her house on Glen Lake and watching the various animals in the front yard and on the lake. Like her mother she enjoyed entertaining anybody and everybody who stopped by. However, the most important and lasting joy in her life was always her family, her

boys and her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clyde and Argyle, and her sister, Alene.

She is survived and still cherished by Gordon, her faithful husband of 47 years; her six children, Rob, of Kalispell, his wife, Kris, and their three children, John, Marcus, and Sean; Russ, of Columbia Falls, his wife, Barb, and their two children, Keyna and Terin; Thomas, of Phoenix, his wife, Julie, and their five children, Daniel, Jessica, Samuel, Jacob, and Aedan; Jon of Missoula, his wife, Lynn, and their five children, Nikole, Kayla, Nicholas, Cody, and Taylor; Scott of Columbia Falls, his wife, Sheila, and their son Nathan; and Steve of Las Vegas; and her brother Clifford, of Eureka.

Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 19, at the First Baptist Church of Eureka with the Rev. Pattiann Bennett officiating. Friends are invited to attend the visitation from 1 to 8 p.m. today at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka. Burial will follow services at the Tobacco Valley Cemetery in Eureka.

Memorials can be sent to the Wings program for cancer patients at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, Wings/Jennifer Schaffner, 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson & Vial Funeral Home.

## Ralph D. Riley, 83

Ralph D. Riley, 83, of Libby, died Friday, Jan. 17, 2003, at St. John Lutheran Hospital in Libby.

He retired in 1982 from Bedord Equipment in Missoula.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Violet; six children, Sharon Markham, Judy Rayome, and Nancy Bloom, all of Libby, Ron Riley, Debra

Bakke, and Kathy Kendall, all of Missoula.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Gary Mize officiating. Interment with military honors will follow in the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Monday.

## Betty Lou Rippberger, 79

Betty Lou Rippberger, 79, passed away April 6, 2003, at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

Betty was born Dec. 3, 1923, in Vincennes, Ind., to William E. and Bessie Fay (Jones) Varin.

Betty was raised in Indianapolis, where she attended grade school, high school and Purdue University. She married Richard C. Rippberger in Indianapolis in 1944.

Betty worked at various jobs including veterinary assistant, telephone operator, paper route driver, garden basket sales, book-keeping, and farm and ranch work. She held memberships in horse clubs, dog shows, horse shows and was active in 4-H while her children were growing up.

Betty enjoyed riding and showing horses. She loved animals and planting and taking care of her



plants.

She was preceded in death by a son, John E. Rippberger, and a grandson, Shannon Petry.

Betty is survived by her husband of 59 years, Richard C. Rippberger; children, Michelynn "Mickey" Rippberger, Bud Rippberger, Rick Rippberger, Bob Rippberger and Jacqueline "Jackie" Ramey; grandchildren, Brandon and Martin Petry, Tina Rippberger, Michelle Engelbretsen, Kacie and Andrea Rippberger; five great-grandsons, and two great-granddaughters; and numerous cousins.

A celebration of life will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday at the Woodland Park Pavilion.

Friends who wish may make memorial contributions to the American Heart and Lung Association, P.O. Box 5537, Helena, MT, 59604 or to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1002, Kalispell, MT 59903.

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

## Richard Calvin 'Rip' Rippberger, 77

Richard Calvin "Rip" Rippberger, 77, passed away on June 17, 2003, at the Heritage Place in Kalispell.

He was born on Dec. 8, 1925, in Chicago, to

William E. and Ida Mae Rippberger. Rip received his early education in Indianapolis, and attended some high school before joining the Marine Corps at the age of 17.

He served his country in the South Pacific and Guadalcanal before being honorably discharged.

On Nov. 30, 1944, Rip met and married Betty Lou Varin in Indianapolis.

In the 1950s, Rip worked for the San Diego Police Department before moving to Kalispell with his wife and six children. In 1961, he served as undersheriff at Flathead County Sheriff's Department and was active in the Flathead Search and Rescue until 1971.

While in Montana he also worked a farm with his wife and children. He then moved to Oregon City, Ore., where he was a sergeant with the Clackamas



County Sheriff's Department and president of the Peace Officer's Association until 1982 when he moved back to Kalispell for retirement. Rip received many commendations for outstanding service and bravery during his longtime career in law enforcement. He had numerous medals for sharpshooting and for expert marksmanship.

Besides his participation in rifle and handgun competitions, Rip was a certified locksmith, enjoyed building scale train sets and many other handcrafts.

Rip was preceded in death by his wife, Betty; a son, John Edward

Rippberger; and a grandson, Shannon Lane Petry.

He is survived by two daughters, Mickey Rippberger of California, and Jackie Ramey of Kalispell; three sons, Bud and Bob Rippberger of Kalispell, and Rick Rippberger of Phoenix; grandchildren, Brandon and Martin Petry, Tina Rippberger, Michell Englebretsen, Kacie and Tea Rippberger; five great-grandsons and two great-granddaughters.

Memorial services for Richard C. Rippberger are pending at this time.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

## Laura M. Risdahl, 86

Laura M. Risdahl, 86, passed away of natural causes at her home in Missoula on June 5.

Laura was born on March 24, 1917, in Lewistown, Mont., the second of three daughters born to Clifford McCrery and Louise (Jenni) McCrery. She graduated from high school in Lewistown in 1935 and attended business college in Butte.

Laura worked in various secretarial positions, including secretary to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and for attorney Ed Schroeter. She was office manager for the local council of the Boy Scouts of America until she retired.

Laura's special love was for her family. She and Lowry married in 1940. (They celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on May 11.) Their only son Ronald, preceded them in death in 1997. Laura and Lowry helped to raise their three grandchildren when their parents were no longer able to do so. Her grandchildren are very thankful for Laura's strength and commitment to them.

Laura was an active church member and community volunteer. For many years, she attended



the Atonement Lutheran Church and later the First Presbyterian Church in Missoula. Besides her church positions and activities, her many community activities included work with the YWCA, Boy Scouts of America and Son's of Norway. Along with her husband, Lowry, she founded the Missoula Chapter of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI). She truly helped to make her community a positive place for all people.

Survivors include her beloved husband, Lowry; grandchildren, Susan Risdahl Pittman of Federal Way, Wash., Greg Risdahl of Broadus and Andy Risdahl of Bozeman; six great-grandchildren. Survivors also include sisters, Margaret Toulouse of Amarillo, Texas, and Helen Warden of Bellingham, Wash.

A service to celebrate Laura's life will be held on Tuesday, June 10, at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Missoula.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials may be made in Laura's name to either the Missoula Chapter of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill, c/o Dorothy Salmonson, (406) 543-3055, or to Partners in Home Care Hospice, 2687 Palmer Street, Suite B, Missoula, MT 59808.

Sunset Memorial Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

## Melva M. Ritzler, 60

Melva M. Ritzler, 60, of Bigfork, died Friday, Feb. 21, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell after struggling valiantly with cancer for seven years.

She is survived locally by her husband, Gary Ritzler, and sister, Mo Rost and her husband, Robert, and their family.

She is also survived by sisters Jeanne Lechelt and her husband Wayne and their family of West Richland, Wash., and Pam Hamson and husband Val and their family of West Richland, Wash. She is also survived by her broth-

er Bob Moore and his wife, Carol, and their family of Central Point, Ore., and a brother Bill Richmond of Pasco, Wash.

Mel was blessed with loyal, caring friends wherever she went. She is also survived by her many good friends, clients and acquaintances in Bigfork.

"We'll miss you greatly, Mel."

At Mel's request, cremation has taken place and no funeral services are planned. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Bigfork Quick Response Unit in Mel's name are suggested.

## Russell Morgan Riviere

Russell Morgan Riviere passed away on Jan. 2, 2003, in Kalispell. Russell was born in Mayport, Fla., the fourth child and only son of a fish dealer and his wife, a member of a prominent Florida family. His father died when he was 4 years old, leaving his family at the beginning of the Great Depression and to a struggle that was to last until World War II.

Russell enlisted in 1942, was trained as a mechanic and gunner aboard the B-24, "Liberator." He flew 30 combat missions over enemy-occupied continental Europe. For "courage, coolness and exceptional skill," he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was also decorated with the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. At the finish of the war, he was among the first occupation forces to set foot on Japanese soil.

Coming home to Jacksonville, Fla., he met and fell in love with Laverne Hunter, an Oregon girl.

Living at his mother's house, they lived their whole lives together.

The newlywed couple moved to Marin County, Calif., in 1946. Russell began his 30-year career with Pacific Telephone and Telegraph. From lineman to switchman, and as a delegate to the Communication Workers of America Convention, he was a true pioneer of that industry.

Retiring in 1978, having raised three sons, the couple began looking for their last place, finding it in Columbia Falls in 1983. Laverne died in 1987, and "they are finally reunited in 2003."

Mr. Riviere leaves a large family: two sons, Russ and wife Pamela, and Randy and wife Dawn; grandsons, Russ, Bobby, Ryan and Zachary; two granddaughters, Jennifer and LaNae; and great-grandson, Ezra.

"May he rest in peace."

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

## Carl Gailen Robbe, 70

On July 20, 2003, after a sudden illness, Carl Gailen Robbe passed away at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, with his children and close relatives at his side.

Carl was born to Francis (Little) Robbe and Warren Robbe in Spokane on June 18, 1933. Carl and his family moved to Pleasant Valley in 1943 where he attended school and developed his love for farming and ranching. He graduated from Flathead High School in Kalispell in 1953. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956.

He began working for the J. Neil's Lumber Co. in Libby in 1958 and continued with St. Regis Paper Co. as a dozer operator until the mill was purchased by Champion in 1984.

Carl purchased a small farm on the Kootenai River in 1965 and continued to work the land until his death.

He was well-known and loved in Lincoln County and was often seen plowing driveways and putting up hay for neighbors. Carl was happiest when working and visiting with friends and family.

Carl was active with Cabinet

Back Country Horseman, The American Legion Post No. 97 and the Senior Citizens Center. In his spare time, he enjoyed woodworking and spending time with the breakfast crowd at the local restaurants.

Survivors include four children, Lisa Robbe-Soults and husband Scott of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, Sue Robbe-Austerman and husband Tony of Artesian, S.D., John Robbe of Dallas, and Kerry Elder and husband Tom of Boise, Idaho; brother, Warren Robbe, and wife Ester of Troy; sister, Nora May Auge, of Libby; aunt, Gail Little, of New Castle, Wyo.; uncle, Walt Little, of Hungry Horse; eight grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday July 24, at the Assembly of God Church in Libby. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday.

Memorials may be made to the Back Country Horseman, P.O. Box 949, Libby, MT 59923.

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