

# THE WESTBY BORDER NEWS

May 18, 2009

Volume 4

Issue 75



## AREA WWII VETS JOIN ROUGHRIDER HONOR FLIGHT



WWII vets are dwindling at a rapid pace. In 2004, after this realization, Earl Morse, a physician assistant and retired Air Force Captain who had provided care to these veterans for 27 years, conceived the idea for Honor Flight. His dream and the sole purpose was to fly veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the memorial dedicated to honor their sacrifices. In 2008 Roughrider Honor Flight was organized to assist and aid in getting North Dakota veterans on board. Roughrider Honor Flight is a volunteer organization supported entirely by donations of time and talent.

After hearing the publicity coming out of and because of our proximity to North Dakota, Jim Weiler visited the VA office in Williston to see if vets from our area may be included in these flights. The state coordinator in Bismarck was contacted and saw no reason why these men could not take advantage of the flights going out of Bismarck. This was about mid March and the reality of losing WWII vets at a rapid pace is only all too apparent in our area, as well. The initial list of known area vets included Howard Hammer, Melvin Hammer, Robert O. Johnson, Marlow Krownen, Paul "Bud" Nordhagen, and Alvin Tommerup. Since then, Melvin Hammer and Alvin Tommerup have passed away.

We are working diligently at seeing to it any and all, interested in going, have that opportunity. Howard Hammer has applied for the next Honor Flight which is scheduled for September and we are in hopes others will be able to join him in this trip of a lifetime.

The cost of the trip is covered in its entirety, for the veterans involved, by the organization. The veterans will travel from Williston to Bismarck by bus and then by plane to the U. S. Capitol. The Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Memorials will be viewed the first day, followed by a banquet and social. The next morning the contingency will be shuttled to the WWII Memorial and a tour of Arlington National Cemetery and the Iwo Jima memorial are planned. The plane will return back to Bismarck that night.

If there are any vets that were inadvertently missed from this list, Jim Weiler or Val Moore has all the necessary information needed to apply for the program. A local fundraiser and program will be planned for a future date.



[Return to Westby on the Web](#)

[Next Page](#)



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**TUESDAY** – Waffle Special

**WEDNESDAY** – Halibut, Shrimp or Walleye w/ baked potato, toast, choice of salad

**THURSDAY** – 8 oz. Sirloin

**FRIDAY** – Chicken Fried Steak w/ fries, toast & salad

**SATURDAY** – Hamburger Steak w/ baked potato, toast & choice of salad

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Chicken to go (potatoes included)  
2 pc – Barrel 20 pc

# A Day in the Life

By Sandy Elm

Jim and Mavis Weiler spent Easter with Perry, Laura, and Hannah Sorenson in Billings. Their son Tim Weiler from Casper, Wyoming joined them there for the weekend also.

Jim and Mavis Weiler went to Fordville, North Dakota recently for their grandson, Blake Erickson's Confirmation. While they were there, they also attended Blake's basketball tournament in Grand Forks, and were fortunate enough to see their granddaughter Lexi's prom. Kallie Erickson was home visiting from Lake Region State College.

Senior Citizens met at the Westby Community Center on April 23rd. Allan Ekness was the host. Progressive whist winners were Shirley Quam first, and John Tommerup second. Gene Herman won the door prize. Guests were Fay Moore and Rose Frickson.

The Jolly Twelve Card Club met on April 27th. Eileen Overgaard was the hostess. Glenny Bervik took first in progressive whist, and Elaine Onstad took second. Tied for low were Rose Frickson and Irene Neilsen.

Shirley Quam hosted Senior Citizens at the Community Center on April 30th. Progressive whist winners were Eileen Overgaard first, and Irene Stageberg second. The door prize was won by Arlene Herman. Guests were Ruth Brown and Fay Moore.

Connie and Hugh Meyer have returned back home after spending several months in Arizona.

Westby Senior Citizens met at the Community Center on May 7th. Mary Mendes was the hostess. Winners in progressive whist were Rose Frickson first and Anita Bjorgen second. The door prize was won by Glenny Bervik. Guests were Rose Frickson, Mark Nordhagen, Ruth Brown, Fay Moore, and Susan Tefre.

On Tuesday, May 5th, Sandy Elm went to Glendive to attend a Montana Council on Aging meeting. She will be the new representative from Westby.

Darrin Elm has been home for a week working in the area. While he was here, he stayed with his parents, Sandy and Slugger Elm.



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*Danny Moore  
Westby Manager*

## OLD SCHOOL RECORD BROKE TWICE



On Saturday, April 25, Kylie Ryals set the school record for the new javelin with a throw of 115' at the Sidney Invitational Track Meet. She erased the previous record of 111'7" set by Kristi Bartnes in 2002. At the Elk's Invitational held in Glendive on May 2nd, Kylie broke her own week old record for the new javelin with a throw of 116'4". Kylie, a junior at WHS, is the daughter of Jed and Brenda Ryals.

## TOMMERUP

Funeral services for Alvin Stanley Tommerup were held at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday April 25, 2009 at Plentywood Lutheran Church in Plentywood. Pastors Ron Martin-Dent and Barbara Westhoff officiated, with burial at Emmaus Cemetery, near Westby. A luncheon was served at Plentywood Lutheran Church in the basement fellowship hall, following interment. Alvin, 92, died of natural causes in his home in Plentywood on Wednesday, April the 22nd.

Alvin was born April 10, 1917 in a sod house on the Tommerup Homestead south of Westby, Montana. He was born to Danish immigrants, Peter and Christine (Jensen) Tommerup. He was raised on the homestead and went to a country school through the 8th grade.

As times were difficult in the 30's, he and his brother Henry traveled the western states working odd jobs. During his time in central Washington he met Betty Thrapp in 1939. They dated until he joined the Army in 1941. Betty wrote him every week until he came home at the end of WWII. They married on October 21, 1945.

Alvin spent four years fighting for our country. He saw action in the Aleutian Islands and Philippines and was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze service stars, the Purple Heart and several other awards.

Alvin loved farming and his outdoors. For several years he owned an orchard in Washington and farmed in Montana also.

His children remember how tall he was, his strength, gentleness, and his huge hands! Those hands were an astonishment to whomever met him! Grandpa would play baseball on his knees so the grandchildren could "put him out." He adored his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dad enjoyed a good game of cards and was still winning until he was bedridden.

Survivors include his seven children: Judy (Mike) Colbert of Townsend, Montana; Randy (Helen) of Dillon, Montana; Terry (Cathy) of Worland, Wyoming; Jeff (Connie) of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Brian (Angie), Doug (Joan) and Ellen Sue Colenso, all of Plentywood. Also surviving are fifteen grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, a brother John of Westby, Montana, his sisters Sylvia (Ron) Phillips of Puyallup, Washington, triplet sisters, Minnie Mayta of Ventura, California, Margaret Moore of Camarilla, California and Myrtle Fagnant of Kemmer, Wyoming. He is also survived by two brothers-in-law, Wayne (Gayle) Thrapp of Okanogan, Washington and Jim (Eleanor) Thrapp of Colbert, Washington and a sister-in-law Ora Mackie of Missoula.

Preceding him in death were his beloved wife, Betty, his parents, brothers Melvin, Henry, Clarence, and sisters, Anna, Emma and Martha, two grand-daughters and one great grandson.

Fulkerson Funeral Home of Plentywood had charge of arrangements.

## WDC PLANS AUCTION



The Westby Development Corporation, in conjunction with their annual Prairie Fest, will sponsor a community auction on July 11th, 2009. Items may be consigned or donated with proceeds going to the WDC to help defray the costs of the annual event. Auctioneer Butch Haugeland has been retained for the event which will begin at 9:00AM. For further information or to list items of interest on the sale bill please contact Jody Lagerquist at 406-385-2474 or at [jlager@nemont.net](mailto:jlager@nemont.net)



This issue of our paper has been dedicated to the Veteran's, past and present, who serve so selflessly every year. Their dedication, commitment, and loyalty to their country is admirable and to their comrades is unmistakable. I was particularly taken in by the story of the Honor Flight. The story of fulfilling the dream of a retired Air Force Captain to honor the vets he cared for and, in doing so, proving my point that he, too, exemplifies each of these qualities to a tee. Any small part we can play in seeing that our local WWII vets can share in this man's dream and at the same time show these humble men, even if in the smallest way, the indebtedness the rest of us feel to this "Greatest Generation" will be well worth the effort.

Graduation time is here; a time for the next big step in life's roadmap for these young adults. If only there was a road map or a manual to guide our children, what the heck- to guide us, life would be so simple. Or would it? The decision making, the anticipation, the excitement of it all, is so much a part of the process and they will learn, as we did, and do, by our mistakes. Oh.....if I had to do it all over again-----

Graduation also means school is soon out and that means more free time for the kids and less free time for Mom. I thought this an appropriate time to include some recipes the kids may enjoy making and easy enough Mom can accomplish some of her own tasks while the kids are "cooking".

This first recipe was featured on *Rachael Ray* as a favorite of Kate Gosselin of *Jon & Kate Plus 8* and promises to be a sure fire way of keeping the kids occupied for say, 15 minutes or at least until they get that first bite of their made- by- their- own- little-hands ice cream.

## Homemade Ice Cream

You'll need:

- 1 large Ziploc bag
- 1 small Ziploc bag
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 cup cream
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 6 tablespoons rock salt (regular salt is OK if you can't find rock salt)
- Ice

Fill the large Ziploc bag halfway with ice and rock salt. In the small Ziploc bag, mix cream, sugar and vanilla. Place the small sealed bag into the larger bag and shake for 15 minutes. When finished, add toppings like cookie crumbs or M&Ms and enjoy!

This next recipe has been around awhile because my Mom used to make them with my baby sister who is now FORTY years old.

## PUDDING POPS

- 1 package of instant chocolate pudding mix (other flavors will work, too)
- 1 3/4 cups milk
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup cream

Stir pudding mix and sugar together, add milk and cream. Beat 2 minutes or until well blended. Pour into Dixie cups and insert a popsicle stick. Freeze until firm. The kids may need a little help making this last recipe because of the boiling water, but once it is done, it too, promises to occupy their time for hours.

## PLAYDOUGH

2 ½ heaping cups of flour  
½ cup salt  
1 T alum  
3 T oil  
2 cups boiling water  
1 box of jell-o or 1 pkg of kool-aid mix for color and scent  
Mix water, oil, and jell-o (or kool-aid).  
Add to dry ingredients. Mix with hand mixer. Knead in more flour, a little at a time, if dough is sticky. Store in covered plastic containers. Will last up to 6 months.

ENJOY  
For  
LIFE IS GOOD!

## Peace

Amanda Bradley

Peace will come when people live  
In friendship, side by side,  
And cherish understanding  
More than hatred, greed and pride.

Peace will come when people see  
All people as the same,  
And no one has to live in fear,  
In ignorance, or shame.

Peace will come when people  
Who are needy can reach out  
For shelter, food, or love,  
And no has to do without.

Peace will come when people  
Learn to listen and to care  
About the rights and dignity  
Of people everywhere.

Peace will come when love and trust  
And kindness know rebirth,  
And on that day all people  
Will rejoice in peace on earth.

## When I'm Gone

- Mrs. Lyman Hancock

When I come to the end of my journey  
And I travel my last weary mile,  
Just forget if you can, that I ever frowned  
And remember only the smile.

Forget unkind words I have spoken;  
Remember some good I have done.  
Forget that I ever had heartache  
And remember I've had loads of fun.

Forget that I've stumbled and blundered  
And sometimes fell by the way.  
Remember I have fought some hard battles  
And won, ere the close of the day.

Then forget to grieve for my going,  
I would not have you sad for a day,  
But in summer just gather some flowers  
And remember the place where I lay,

And come in the shade of evening  
When the sun paints the sky in the west  
Stand for a few moments beside me  
And remember only my best.





## BICE CHOSEN FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY

Willie Bice, a junior at Westby High School, has been selected to attend the 2009 Electronics Telecommunications Academy at Bismarck State College in partnership with Bismarck Public Schools. Bice is one of 12 high school students to attend the one-week Electronics Telecommunications Academy. Like the other students, Willie is being sponsored by a local telephone company. Nemont, located in Scobey, MT, is sponsoring his room, board, activity, and travel fees; as well as a small stipend.

The academy will acquaint high school students with telecommunications employment opportunities within North Dakota and the industry. They will tour two independent telephone companies (North Dakota Telecommunications in Carrington, and BEK Communications in Steele, ND), along with KFYZ TV and State Radio in Bismarck, ND.

The academy is scheduled to be held from May 31st through June 5th. Three of the twelve students will also win \$1000.00 Bismarck State College scholarships. Willie is the son of Jim and Debbie Bice of Westby.

*Westby Memorial Day Service*

**Monday, May 25th  
10:30 AM**  
**Westby High School Gym**

Guest Speaker:  
*Reverend Brandon Smithson*

Reading:  
*Irene Stageberg*

Music:  
*The Hellegard Trio*

Poem Reading:  
*Chris Barstad*

School Music Provided By:  
*Terrance Bjorgen & Willie Bice*

Taps:  
*Makayla Westgard*

Potluck Dinner to follow

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

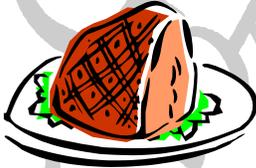
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## WESTBY AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEET

The Westby American Legion Auxiliary drove to Williston on May 4th, 2009, to the home of Audrey Anderson who served as hostess. Others in attendance were Christine Schmidt, Marlys Marsh, Doris Gunderson, Christine Barstad, Irene Stageberg, and Adeline Lagerquist. Guests included Murielle Tangedal and Ann Zahradka. Audrey has a beautiful home and served us a wonderful lunch. Irene offered prayer.

We held our meeting after dinner. Christine opened it, followed by devotions by Irene. We remained in silent prayer for our war dead and for peace. We sang the National Anthem, gave the Pledge to our flag and our Preamble was repeated. Adeline took roll call and gave the secretary's report and the financial statement-both were accepted.

We discussed the Memorial Day Program- Adeline will be in charge. Program will be on May 25th this year at 10:30 in the gym. Guest speaker will be Rev. Brandon Smithson, also several selections by local people. We will have a potluck dinner and everyone is invited.

Poppy posters will be done by the 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students. We are so glad they will do their for our community-it shows their "Americanism".

Poppies were distributed and we hope you will donate; some of the money goes to the veterans who have given so much to all of us-also the auxiliary gets some to keep our unit gong. We pray for peace in our world.

Christine Schmidt read a letter from District President Geraldine Pennell. She asked us to send prayers for Janet Weaver's prayer book.

Several pieces of correspondence was read. Our next meeting will be on September 7th at 1:30 in the home of Christine Schmidt in Plentywood.

We sang the Auxiliary song, closing prayer by Irene and we sang "America" Meeting adjourned. Adeline Lagerquist, Secretary



Dr. Ivan



Dr. Patrick Evans



Shelley Bartow  
PA-C



Jackie Lindsey  
FNP-C

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M-T-W-Th

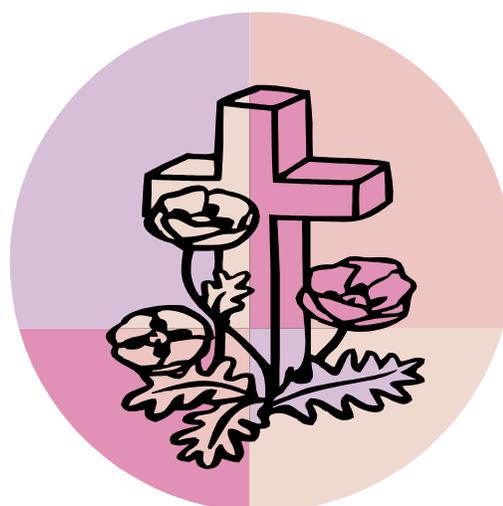
9 a.m. -12

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CLINIC:

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M-T-W-F

2-5 p.m.



## FOR RENT

Westby Manor, Inc. has one-bedroom apartments for rent in Westby. Very nice, utilities paid and free laundry. Eligible tenants will not pay more than 30% of their adjusted income. The Westby Manor, Inc. will be temporarily renting apartments to all persons without regard to income restrictions.

**Call Brenda at 385. 2577**

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### Upcoming Events May

- 18th-20th State Golf Meet in Malta
- 21st HS Divisional Track Meet in Sidney
- 22nd Last Day of School, School dismissed at 11:00 am
- 25th Memorial Day Program
- 28th-30th State Track in Butte

### Lutheran Parish May

- 21st Quilting at St. John's Church 9:30 am
- 24th WORSHIP  
SJ—8:45 am  
Imm—10:00 am
- 26th Bible Study Leaders Meeting 7:00 pm
- 31st WORSHIP  
SJ—8:45 am  
Imm—10:00 am



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**Editor's note:**

Ernest Johanson died last fall, but with his Westby connections and war service we felt it appropriate to include his obituary in this issue. Marvin Nelson of Westby, who had obtained a copy of Ernest's obituary, was especially interested in sharing his memories of Ernest as a war hero. As a grade school student, Marvin became a pen pal with Ernest while he was serving in WWII. He looked forward to each of Ernest's letters and did meet with him on occasion. Towards the end of the war, sometime in 1945, Ernest's Mother brought a collection of Ernest's war souvenirs to school for "show and tell" and Marvin remembers it very vividly. He was very proud to have known him. Marvin highly recommends the WWII book Poplar to Papua based on the 41st Infantry Division and Ernest is listed in the book as being a part of this unit.

After he sold the business, he went to work for Grizzly Lincoln-Mercury selling cars. He and Ellen later retired to Harlingen, Texas, where they lived until 2004, when they moved to Helena to be closer to family. Ernest died of congestive heart failure. His wife, Ellen, and his daughter, Joy, were at his side.

He is survived by his older sister, Elizabeth Brenteson of Plentywood; wife, Ellen; children, Faye Ellen Palmer, Lawrence Ernest Johanson (Cindy), and Joy Spaulding (Roy); grandchildren, LylaJo Lindskog (Travis), Kelly Joy Newman (Chris) and Aaron Johanson; and great-grandchildren, Casey Newman, Josiah Newman, Austin Newman and Allison Lindskog. The family thanks the VA Center at Fort Harrison, Hospice of St. Peter's and the administration and staff of Rosetta Assisted Living for their loving care of both Ernie and Ellen.

Memorials can be made to Rosetta Assisted Living, 525 Saddle Drive, Helena, MT 59601. A military service took place at 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Harrison.

**ERNEST OSCAR JOHANSON**

Ernest Oscar Johanson, 89, went to be with God on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008. He was the son of Johannes Johanson of Norway and Gurli Gode of Denmark. His parents immigrated to the United States from Europe just after the turn of the century. They homesteaded a 160-acre tract near Westby. On Feb. 19, 1919, Ernest Oscar Johanson was born. He was the fifth of six children.

Disliking life on the farm, he joined the Civil Conservation Corps and later the National Guard. When the federal government nationalized the Montana National Guard, Ernest went off to war in the Pacific in 1942. He served through all of the New Guinea campaign and was one of the original members of the 41st Infantry. He served overseas for three years and four months and arrived back in Montana with the rank of staff sergeant 13 days before the war ended. He received the Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal with one bronze service star and a Distinguished Unit Badge. Still in the Army Reserve, he was ordered to Missoula, where he met Ellen King. They married on March 7, 1947.

In the early 1950s, Ernest started Johanson Body Shop on Front Street, later on Main Street, in Missoula, which he ran for 26 years. He and his wife, Ellen, owned and operated Aero Realty out of the same building on Main Street for 12 years, specializing in showing farms and ranches from the air.



**PROPERTY FOR SALE - 2009  
WESTBY PUBLIC SCHOOL**

The Board of Trustees of Westby School District # 3, by unanimous vote, passed a resolution at their regular meeting on May 12, 2009 to sell the following abandoned and obsolete property of the District:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Number</u>
1.	HP LaserJet 4M+	1			
2.	Epson Stylus 1520 (+ cartridges) Printer	1	9.	Television	1
3.	Folding Chairs (yellow)	89	10.	Trash Cans, metal	6
4.	Lawn Mower Brush Cutter	1	11.	Computer	2
5.	Vacuum Cleaners	8	12.	Laser Disk Player	1
	- Clark 600 a Cannister	2	13.	Cash Register	1
	- Clark back pack	1	14.	Keyboards	23
	- Hako canister Z	2	15.	Computer Monitors	10
	- shop vac blower - 16 gallon	1	16.	Telephones (12) + Switching System	1
	- Minuteman canister - old	1	17.	Paper Laminator	1
	- Minuteman MPV - old	1	18.	Sewing Machines	3
	- Hoover upright	1	19.	Sergers	2
6.	Minuteman Winches - 120 V, 8 amp	2			
7.	Winco 800 watt Generator	1			
8.	GE two-way radios (9) + base station	1			

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May 2009

## RUGGLES

RAYMOND ~ Helen Sommer Ruggles, 77 of Raymond died at her home May 6, 2009. Funeral Services will be 10AM Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at the Plentywood Lutheran Church in Plentywood, Montana with Pastor Ron Martin~Dent presiding. Services are under the direction of Fulkerson Funeral Home of Plentywood.

Helen was the youngest daughter, born March 26, 1932 in Giluwka Dolna, East Germany (which is now Poland) to Robert Sommer and Karoline (Ulich). Helen attended school there until 1942. In order to further her education, Helen went to live with her sister Inge, who worked in a large city about 100 miles from her farm home. Helen went to a "Haupt a Schule" (equivalent to a High School in the United States). In 1945, the war separated Helen and her sister Inge from there parents and they had to flee the area, finally settling in Heidelberg, Germany.

Helen's Aunt Amanda (Sommer) Jensen who lived in Raymond, Montana sponsored Helen so she was able to come to the USA in April 1950. That summer Helen met David in Plentywood. Sometimes on a Sunday excursion, Aunt Amanda would stop at one of the local watering holes. It was on one such occasion that Helen and David were introduced. Amanda thought David would be a good suitor for Helen. Amanda soon had David chauffeuring her and Helen around in her Ford Coupe. David then began riding his horse "Flicka" over to Amanda's farm. David asked Helen to marry him and Helen refused. She said she wouldn't marry him until he had a car. Helen and David were married in the Westby parsonage on October 9, 1950. They moved to Raymond in 1951. In February 1953 she applied for US citizenship. In order to prepare for the test, she went to school in Dooley for one week to learn about the US government. Helen became a US citizen in May 1953 and was appointed Postmaster of Raymond in September of 1956, a job she held until retiring on March 31, 2000.

The most important thing in Helen's life was her family. She was a very active woman. She was a very strong person and believed in hard work and was very persistent. Just ask the Sheridan County Commissioners. Who said that dynamite didn't come in small packages? Helen always wanted to learn something new. She loved to read, cook, bake, decorate cakes, quilt, sew, knit, crochet and upholster furniture. She was noted for making the best angel food cake for many years at the Sheridan County Fair. She was always a gracious host and always had the coffee on and plenty of homemade goodies to go with it. If she could feed you, it made her very happy. The one thing that you always had to do before you left was to sign the Guest Book, which she had been keeping since March of 1967. She loved her six cats. They were all named "PUSS" except for Melvin, Tom and Tiger. Helen was active in the Raymond Homemaker Club, Raymond Park Board and the Dooley Cemetery Association. She was confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Germany and was a member of the Plentywood Lutheran Church and of the Miriam circle. Helena was also a member of the Sheridan County Historical society.

Helen is survived by her loving husband David of 58+ years of Raymond; She is also survived by her three children: Delbert and his fiancé' Tina Barnett of Missoula, MT; Carol Ruggles and her companion Mike Jenkins of Three Forks, MT; Terry and his wife Kolby of Westby, MT; She is also survived by five grandchildren , Isaac and his wife Jennifer of Helena, MT; Jesse Ruggles of Burnsville, MN; and Sarah Ruggles of Farmington, MN; Travis Ruggles of Bismarck, ND; Lindsay Ruggles and Barry Johnson of Plentywood and a great-grandson Caleb Johnson.

Helen is also survived by her two sisters, Inge Christie of Harrisburg, PA; Alma Swierzawski and her husband Ted of Lansdale, PA; a brother Edward and his wife Heidi of Drexel Hill, PA; as well as numerous cousins nieces and nephews. Helen is preceded in death by her parents Robert & Karoline Sommer, an infant child Douglas Howard Ruggles in August 1951. She is also preceded in death by her cousin Robert Wolff of St. Paul MN and Aunt Amanda (Sommer) Jensen of Plentywood.

*We come, not to  
mourn our dead  
soldiers, but to  
praise them.*

*~ Francis A. Walker*



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