

Obituary

Aileen Elisabeth Anderson, 101



Aileen E. Anderson was born Aili Elisabeth Lehti on April 4, 1910 in Lothrop, Montana to Matt and Johanna (Kaustinen) Lehti. At the age of 4 her family followed Clark's Mill from there to Milltown/Bonner. She grew up and spent her entire life in the Milltown community until it became unwise for her to live alone. The last five years of her life was spent with her children. She died in Blackfoot, Idaho at the home of her daughter, Peggy Jo Wegener on May 3, 2011.

She was proud of the fact that she went to Normal College in Dillon, and taught at rural schools in Biddle, Paradise and Salmon Prairie, Montana. Teaching in these schools meant keeping the fires burning, carrying water, and dealing with eight grades in one room. Salmon Prairie in Swan Valley was also where she met her husband, Mark Anderson. They were married in June of 1937, and moved to Milltown, where they spent 55 years together until Mark died in 1993.

Aileen was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, three brothers, Einar, Walter, and Arthur Lehti, and numerous in-laws. She was also preceded barely a month by special son-in-law, Dave Wegener, with whom she had spent the last two years.

Surviving are her children, Joyce Lawrence and husband Joe of Swan Lake, Mt., Peggy Wegener, widow of Dave, of Blackfoot, Idaho, and Duane Anderson and wife Marcie of Renton, Washington. She also is survived by grandchildren Jeffrey, Christopher, and Luke Lawrence, Valerie (Payne), Boyd, and Cynda Gettman, and Kyle, Ian, and Kathryn Anderson, thirteen great grandchildren plus 3 step grandchildren, and 8 great great grandchildren. One more person very special to Aileen is Bonita Phillips who helped to care for her during her last two years.

She has moved on to a better place. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Hawker Funeral Home in Blackfoot, Idaho. The family will celebrate a memorial later in the summer in Milltown, Montana. Condolences may be sent to the family at

condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com.