

Obituary

Neva Maxine (Max) Burks, 85



Neva Maxine (Max) Burks, 85, died Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at The Gables in Shelley, Idaho due to incidence of old age.

Maxine Burks was born July 2, 1926 at Webb City, Oklahoma to parents Harvey Bethel Crowell and Unice Josephine Hopkins Crowell. The youngest of 3 children, Maxine was a spunky, "little woman" as her Daddy called her. She lived her younger years in McAllen, Texas spending time in the Rio Grande valley during fall and winter. Her summers were spent oftentimes at the family farm in Shenandoah, Iowa and family cabin at the Lake in the Woods, Minnesota.

She met Charles Edward (Eddie) Burks in Texas and they were married January 28, 1948 at Corpus Christi, Texas. Four daughters were later born-Sandy, Debra, Danise and Terry.

Her life was full of adventure having the opportunity of living in several different areas of the country including Oklahoma, Texas, New York State, Arizona and Idaho. She spent her early married life in Idaho Falls and since 1967 in Blackfoot.

After raising their family, Eddie and Max enjoyed retirement in Tucson, Arizona. She was an avid bowler and pool player. Her family was very proud of her many achievements and awards she had won including gold medals in the Senior Olympics in Tucson, Arizona in billiards. She could still rack 'em up and beat the best of the best. She was an artist and a very creative person. Her many hobbies included crocheting, carving wood, oil painting, drawing, quilting and serving others. Her family is thankful for her many creations they treasure. She spent many hours as a volunteer at Bingham Memorial Hospital in Blackfoot. She was also a nature lover and had a soft heart for animals. Her devoted dogs, Fiddles and in the last 11 years Jasper, gave her comfort and companionship. She loved to bird-watch and be outdoors. She especially liked to hunt for Indian artifacts and to fish.

She was blessed with a gift of loving and raising children. She had a way of bringing the best out in them. She spent years working in the nursery and toddler classes at church. Max and Eddie selflessly gave their time and love for several years as foster parents helping children in their time of need. Her grandchildren remember her as the best Grandma ever and loved to spend time with her.

She was a member of the Southern Baptist Church and attended services at Emmanuel Baptist Church, the First Baptist Church in Blackfoot and Calvary Baptist in Idaho Falls. Her many friends from Calvary Baptist were an important part of her life. Max loved to sing in the choir and had a beautiful voice. She and Eddie performed duets at many functions throughout their lives.

She is survived by her daughters, Sandy (Russ) Goodwin and Danise Gilsdorf of Blackfoot and, Terry (Lynn) Wadsworth of Shelley, 7 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Debra Lee, husband, Charles Edward, sister, Betty White and brother, Harvey Bethel Crowell.

Her family would like to thank the staff at The Gables in Shelley for their kindness, care and concern for her in this past year.

Funeral Services will be held Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at the Hawker Funeral Home, 132 South Shilling Ave., Blackfoot, Idaho. Family will receive visitors Monday evening December 26th from 6 to 8:00 p.m. and December 27th at 10:00 a.m. prior to the services.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Shriners' Hospital for Children, Fairfax Road at Virginia St., Salt Lake City, UT 84103.

Condolences may be sent to the family at condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com.