

OBITUARY

NORMA ROBERTSON HOWELL, 88

Norma Robertson Howell, 88, life-long resident of Blackfoot, passed away Wednesday, September 21, 2011.

Norma was born March 27, 1923 to C. Clifford and Gwyn Williams Robertson. She lived her entire life on or near South Shilling Avenue. She graduated from Blackfoot schools and attended ISC (ISU). She spent many happy days in her youth helping on the family farm and small dairy, delivering milk to the porches of neighbors and customers.

She married James LeRoy (Roy) Howell, the handsome young man who lived across the street, December 23, 1942 in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. Soon after, Roy left to serve in the U.S. Army in WWII.

In 1960, Norma began what was to become 17 years of teaching private kindergarten. She was a beloved and sought-after teacher, with many of her former students still keeping in touch by cards, visits and calls. She referred to them as “my kids”, which over the years numbered at least 1000. She remembered their names when she would meet them on occasion.

She is a faithful member of the LDS church, serving in many capacities in the Relief Society, Primary, and Mutual (young women). Norma and Roy served as temple officiators in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple for 10 years while their children were very young. She also spent years working in the name extraction program for her church.

During the years her husband was manager of the Eastern Idaho State Fair, she was a great support and assistance to him in that capacity.

Norma was famous for her homemade divinity and for the bubble gum machine in her entryway, which all the grand and great grandchildren visited frequently. She was known as a friendly, loving person, especially noticing and speaking to little children.

Norma is survived by her children Gwyn (Roger) Harris of Rexburg, James (Linda) of Boise, Calleen (Jerry) Benson of Blackfoot, Robert (Debbie) of Austin, Texas, and Cliff (Karen) of Riverside; 27 grandchildren and 62 great grandchildren; one brother, C. Paul (Carol) Robertson of Riverside, in addition to many treasured nieces and nephews, and an “adopted” granddaughter Frannie (Wade) Taylor.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, one sister Ruth, 2 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m., Saturday, September 24, 2011, at the Blackfoot East Stake Center with Bishop Reed Packer of the Blackfoot 9th Ward conducting. A viewing will be held Friday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Hawker Funeral Home, 132 South Shilling in Blackfoot, and for one hour prior to the service at the church.

The family would like to express deep appreciation to Dr. Anthony Davis, Dr. Michael Haderlie, and all of the ICU medical, nursing, and support staff at Bingham Memorial Hospital for their extraordinary care, sensitivity and skill in attending Norma. Thanks also goes to her many friends, neighbors, and service people who were so helpful during her widowhood.

Interment will be in the Grove City Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family kindly requests donations be sent to the LDS Church Perpetual Education Fund or the Primary Children’s Medical Center in Salt Lake City.

Condolences may be sent to condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com.

