

Obituary

Ruth Lott Kirkham, 95

Ruth Lott Kirkham passed away Friday morning, January 30, 2009 at the Bingham Memorial Hospital. She was born to LeRoy Evans Lott and Agnes Adamson Lott, October 17, 1913, in Lehi, Utah.



Ruth was the youngest of six children in a family that valued and emphasized the importance of education. After high school, in the fall of 1932, she enrolled in nursing school, a three year course at the LDS hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, and lived in the hospital during all three years except for an annual two weeks vacation. After receiving her Registered Nurse certification through graduation, she worked at the Lehi hospital.

On March 26, 1936 she married Reed Kirkham. The first few years of their lives were spent in Lehi and then Provo, Utah. In 1945 she gave up her nursing career to move to Blackfoot, Idaho and establish with her husband an auto parts store located at 7 NW Main Street. That single store eventually grew into a multi-state chain of automotive stores under the name of Kirkham Auto Parts.

With the assistance of her brother-in-law, she became an experienced bookkeeper and did the entire comptroller work for the automotive chain for the next 55 years. Her children, sons, Mike and Jim Kirkham and daughter Lynda Sponenburgh along with her grandchildren and great grandchildren were of the utmost importance to her. She placed such a high priority on family that she did all the bookkeeping for the business in her home.

In their later years she and her husband used their imagination and creativity to teach their posterity the importance of self reliance, a deep love of this country, and consideration for others.

Ruth is survived by three children, Mike (Judy) Kirkham of Blackfoot, Jim (Marilyn) Kirkham of Boise, and Lynda (Bill) Sponenburgh of Blackfoot; ten grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Reed Kirkham; three brothers, Merrill Lott, Vaness Lott, Peter Lott and two sisters, Ora (Irvin) Fox, Evelyn (Fay) Evans.

Funeral services will be held at the Hawker Funeral Home, 132 S. Shilling Ave., Blackfoot, at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 3, 2009. The family will meet with friends from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Monday, February 2, 2009 and again for one hour prior to services at the funeral home.

Interment will be in the Grove City Cemetery.