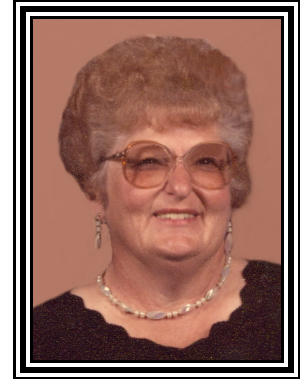


## Obituary

### Eleanor Rivers, 78

Eleanor Rivers, 78, of Blackfoot, died Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, at Bingham Memorial Hospital following a sudden short illness and stroke.

She was born January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1933, in Sawyer, North Dakota. The daughter of a farmer and coal-mine operator Carl P. Bechtold and his wife, Freda Berg Bechtold, and the youngest of 11 children.



Although she never graduated high school, achieving only a junior high education, she had a fulfilling life as a spud expert, homemaker and mother. Her first job was at the Catholic Hospital in Minot, N.D., after moving there from Sawyer in 1951. After two years at the hospital, she left for a short stint at the quaintly named Chicken House Café, before she was hired in 1955 as a maid at the Clarence Hotel, which is where she met her future husband, Robert, who had recently returned from serving in the Korean War. Following a whirlwind romance lasting less than three months, they were married July 16, 1956, in Washburn, N.D.

After marrying, they moved to Fargo, N.D., where she worked first at the American Legion Café and later at a laundromat, before moving her parents to California and deciding to settle in Pingree, Idaho, in 1959. Their first daughter was born in 1960, and they moved to Blackfoot in 1963, where they had their second child, a son. He was followed by two more children, a daughter in 1966, and a son in 1969.

Her first job after moving to Idaho was at the Liberty Warehouse, where she sacked potatoes. In later years she worked for other potato warehouses, including Idaho Potato Packers, Kracaw and Tee-pee Potato Co.

In the following decades, if she became known for anything, it was for her prodigious walking. Having never bothered to learn to drive, she walked everywhere all the time, no matter the weather. She was a common sight on the sidewalks and along the sides of roads in Blackfoot. She also loved indulging in lottery scratch tickets and playing slot machines, but her devotion was mainly to her family- she understood the diversity of her children and encouraged them to grow up to be who they wanted to be instead of whom she or society thought they should be.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Phillip; her daughter, Carla Dee; and her niece, Mindy Sue (whom she had officially adopted as her third daughter and fifth child); as well as all but two siblings, her oldest sister, Delores Maag, and the next youngest in the family, Lawrence Bechtold. She is survived by daughter Pamela Wilson (Grand Island, NE) and sons Michael Paul (Hong Kong, China) and Rodney Lee (Schaumburg, IL); and four grandsons: Jason and Brandon Wilson, Chadwick William Rivers (currently stationed in Iraq) and Jonathon Robert Saxton.

A funeral service, preceded by a one-hour viewing, will be held at 2 pm Saturday, June 11, at the Hawker Funeral Home. The family will meet with friends and family on Friday, June 10, at the funeral home from 6-8 pm.

Interment will be in the Riverside-Thomas Cemetery.