

# Obituary

## Helen Ruth Walrath, 97

Helen Ruth Walrath, 97, of Soda Springs, and formally of Blackfoot, Idaho, passed away Monday, March 16, 2009 at Caribou Memorial Hospital in Soda Springs.



Helen was born December 16, 1911 in Peckham, Colorado to David Franklin McCune and Grace Ellen Montgomery McCune. She was raised in Peckham, Greeley and Hudson, Colorado.

Helen graduated from High School in Platteville, Colorado in May, 1930. She was one of two surviving members of that graduating class. Helen then completed Comptometer School in Denver Colorado. This gave her an education as a skilled operator that she used in subsequent employment.

On August 23, 1931 Helen married her sweetheart, Frank Walrath, in Colorado. Together they had five children, and raised Frank's nephew as one of their own. They lived many places during their marriage, including, Denver and Fairplay, Colorado, Gardiner, Montana, Pocatello, Arco, and Blackfoot, Idaho. They were blessed with marriage for 65 years until Frank's death in 1997.

They made their home in Wapello, Idaho, raising their family on the farm there. Together they raised potatoes, wheat, alfalfa, milking cows and stock cattle. Helen and Frank taught their children the value of hard work in raising and canning the food in their garden, and working on the farm. Helen was a wonderful mother and homemaker.

Helen was a member of the Roman Catholic Church. She was a faithful servant in the parishes that she lived in. She was the former president of the Alter Society, a member of the Legion of Mary, worked at the Catholic Ladies Booth at the Eastern Idaho State Fair for many years, and provided funeral dinners to those in need while she was living in Blackfoot and attending St. Bernard's Church. When she moved to Soda Springs, Helen was a member of the Catholic Women's Organization at Saint Mary's Church, and active in her bible study group.

After retirement, Helen and Frank, enjoyed traveling to Texas in the winters. Helen was an avid reader and liked to work on crossword puzzles. She mastered e-mail, and e-mailed her grandchildren regularly. Helen loved to travel, and was always ready to go for a drive.

Helen is survived by her children, Larry Franklin (Isabelle) Walrath of Idaho Falls, Donald Fred (Billee) Walrath of Firth, Tommy Joe Walrath of Salmon, Joan Marie (Donald) Wind of Soda Springs, and nephew, Gary Walrath of Mesa, Arizona; brother, David (Alice) McCune of Pocatello; sister, Mary Jones of Pocatello; 14 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, and 2 great great grandchildren..

Helen is preceded in death by her husband, Frank; infant daughter, Helen Darlene Walrath; brothers, Ralph and James McCune; and her parents.

Funeral Services will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday March 20, 2009 at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Blackfoot, with Father John Worster, officiating. Family will meet with friends and relatives on Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Soda Springs at the Sims Funeral Home, 139 East 2<sup>nd</sup> South. The family will again gather on Thursday evening for a Rosary Service in Blackfoot at the Hawker Funeral Home, 132 South Shilling Avenue, at 6:00 p.m. and will continue to visit with friends following the Rosary until 8:00 p.m. and again on Friday morning from 10:00-10:45 before going to the church for celebration of the the Mass of Resurrection. Interment will be in the Riverside Thomas Cemetery.