

**Elizabeth J. "Bette" MATHES, 1919-2007**



Born in Grey Cliff, Montana on Jul. 24, 1919  
Departed on Oct. 7, 2007 and resided in Coeur d'Alene, ID.

Cemetery: Greenwood Cemetery

**Mathes, Elizabeth Jean (Bette)** passed from this life on Sunday, October 07, 2007 while struggling to recuperate from a recent fall. She was born to Jonas and Lucy (Davis) Sharpe on July 24, 1919, on a ranch 7 miles south of Grey Cliff, Montana. Although she lived in Coeur d'Alene for the last 59 years, she was always very proud of her Montana roots. Bette was an outspoken individual who was fiercely independent. She approached life with determination and hard work.

At the age of seven, she suffered a traumatic injury that kept her out of school for extended periods of time. During this time at home, she learned to bake delicious pies and cakes which her family enjoyed.

Like many in her generation, she grew up in difficult economic circumstances. She left school to work after completing the eighth grade. She was determined to get a high school diploma and eventually completed her GED at the age of 60. She learned to ride a bicycle and roller skate for the first time in her late thirties.

After marrying Frank Mathes in 1937, she became a full time homemaker. Her subsequent conversion to Catholicism brought her and her family to Coeur d'Alene, so that her children could attend Catholic school. Her Catholic faith was very important to her for the rest of her life. She was devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and prayed the rosary daily.

Although her growing family kept her busy, she became a charter member of the Kootenai Toastmistress Club, enjoying her association with this group for many years. She was very interested in politics and was proud of her involvement and work with the American Party. She loved to read, garden and refinish furniture. When she was able, she loved to get dressed up and go dancing. Her pride and joy was her home where she lived for the last 56 years.

She was preceded in death by Frank Mathes, her parents, sister Bessie Jones and brother Ernest Sharpe. She is survived by two sisters Ellen Nutting and Mary MacDonald and one brother Bob (Marilyn) Cartwright of Kalispell, Montana. She is also survived by her nine children, Constance (Richard) Schroeder, Tim (Dianne) Mathes, Frank Mathes (Virginia O'Neill), Patricia Mathes (Ted Robinson), Kathleen (Phil) Shivell, Charisse Mathes, Thomas (Rose) Mathes, Michelle (Michael) Micallef and Gerard (Liz) Mathes; 19 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bette had a wide circle of friends who provided her comfort, companionship and support over the last several years. She will be missed by all. Bette, we love you and we keep you in our prayers.

Viewing is Friday, October 12, 2007 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Post Falls. Rosary to follow at 5:30 pm. Funeral Mass is Saturday, October 13, 2007 at 10:00 am at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Post Falls. Burial will be at Greenwood Cemetery, Kellogg at 2:00 pm.

Memorials may be made to the Autistic Research Institute, Bernard Rimland, PhD: 4182 Adams Ave, San Diego, CA 92116.