



Mildred Vadheim Lambert died Friday, March 11, 2011, at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. She was born on October 19, 1918, to William Whitfield and Louise Accola Spain at home near Pass Creek and was the youngest of four children. As a child in the first grade, she often rode a horse with her sister, Kate Williamson, to the "Crackerbox School." The next year Mildred, "Midge", and the family moved to Bozeman where she attended Bozeman schools and graduated from Gallatin High School in 1936. Her next educational opportunity led her to Montana State College where she graduated in 1940 with a degree in Home Economics with an emphasis in dietetics. Soon Midge moved to Seattle and completed a dietetics internship at Swedish Hospital. She was a true Montanan at heart and Bozeman Deaconess Hospital offered her a position which she accepted. Shortly after that, Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia needed a dietician, so across the country Midge moved. While there, she met Albert L. Vadheim, a medical student and fellow Montanan. They were married on July 24, 1943.

Following medical school graduation, he was drafted in the Army Medical Corps, and the young couple was stationed in southern California for basic training. Then orders sent them to Houston, Texas, where in 1945, they were blessed with a son, Lew. While Al went to the South Pacific, Midge moved "home" to Bozeman until Al was able to join her. Upon discharge from the service, the family moved to Dubuque, Iowa, where Al furthered his medical training. Returning to Bozeman, their family grew to include two daughters, Jan and Shelley. Al established his medical practice, while Midge was an extraordinary homemaker. She sewed draperies for their new home, clothes for the children and loved to cook and bake. The wonderful aromas of breads and cookies baking always filled the home. She was a true multi-tasking lady who could have all the neighborhood kids practicing their spelling words while she prepared dinner. Family holidays, picnics and camping trips were highlights in her life.

Midge loved to alpine ski at Bridger Bowl, fish on the Montana lakes, travel and was an accomplished bridge player. Collecting was a favorite hobby as well as her enjoyment of music and Western art. She was a member of PEO, and active in her church, as well as politics.

Sadly, Al passed away in 1980, but she met all the challenges gracefully. After being a widow for six years, Midge married Julian M. Lambert. They traveled and spent winters in Newport Beach, CA. Julian passed away in 1992. Midge continued to live in Bozeman and for the past five years has lived at Highgate Senior Living, where she made many new friends.

She was preceded in death by her brother Louis A. Spain, and sister Mary Francis Morrow. She is survived by her sister Kathleen S. Williamson.

Midge's family includes her three children, son, A. Lewis, (Liane) Vadheim of Miles City, MT, daughter Jan, (Erv) Hintzpeter of Gallatin Gateway, MT and daughter, Shelly (Jerry), Vallereux of Tigard, Oregon. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Kari V. Kale of Billings, Colin Vadheim, of Houston, TX, Bryan Vadheim of Bozeman, Andy Hintzpeter of Bozeman and Ashley H. Landsgaard of Belgrade, MT. as well as six great-grandchildren.

Services will be held and Dokken Nelson Funeral Service in Bozeman, MT, at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, 2011. A private family interment has been requested. Memorials may be sent to Gallatin Historical Society and Pioneer Museum, 317 W. Main St., Bozeman, MT 59715.

Mar 10