



**H**erbert W. Lessley, Jr., passed away peacefully on March 24th, 2010, one day after celebrating his 71st birthday with family and friends.

Herb was born March 23, 1939 in Bozeman Montana, to Bert and Edith Lessley. He went to elementary school and attended Gallatin High in Bozeman . After graduating in 1957, he served his country in the military for two years and took classes at what is now Montana State University.

He met and also married his wife, JoAnn, at the Gallatin Gateway Inn.

They raised five children, in the Bozeman area. As a young man, he worked at many jobs, including running his father's family business, Milam's Greenhouse. With a growing family, in the early 70's Herb, began a new endeavor managing a Gas Station and Convenience Store, " Mac's Corner" at the four corners junction just outside of Bozeman. An avid outdoorsman himself, he grew the business to include the sales of seasonal gear for hunting, archery, fishing, and rafting. It was his dream to expand his raft rental and hunting and fishing business to a location called "Trapper Springs" on the Madison River.

Herb enjoyed all out door activities and spent many years of hunting and fishing in the Gallatin Valley, often taking his family on excursions with him.

He was also known for being an incredible carpenter, and for his ability to repair anything. With his children mostly grown, Herb moved to California where he utilized his skills in the upkeep and management of a large apartment complex.

Eventually he came home to Montana where he resided for many years in the town of Manhattan. He could often be seen doing remodeling at the Garden Cafe or drinking coffee there, very early in the morning, sharing jokes with his many friends.

He continued his remodeling work around the Gallatin Valley and finally built his last project in 2004, a retirement home for himself in Harrison, Montana. Herb enjoyed his leisure years and when he was not reading, working in his yard, or doing word puzzles, he was surrounded by many friends in the small towns of Harrison and Pony.

Herb is survived by his daughter Alona Klompfen, and her children Joey and Tea'; and his daughter Joli Hailey, and her children Emilee and Stephanie Christensen; his son Marshall Lessley and wife Judy Lessley and their children Yasmine, David, Marshall Jr. and Hailey; his daughter Laurie Lessley, and husband Travis Volk and their son Evan; his son Russell Lessley his wife Karen and her children; his former wife, JoAnn Lessley, His Niece Leslie Madsen, her husband Tom, their children Shannon and her family, Leah, Elizabeth, and Hannah, nephew Mike Robinson and family and many, many kind friends, by whom he will be fondly held in memory.

Herb loved the lord and over the years spent hours in contemplation and spiritual study. He considered his eventual end of life not as a death but as a Homecoming.

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom 8.38-29)

Herb has been cremated and a celebration of his life will be held at Dokken Nelsons Funeral Home, Thursay April 1, 2010 at 2pm.