



A beautiful light has left this world to be with the angels. June Tinsley Graf, 90, of Bozeman, passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, May 24, 2009.

June was a loving soul with a childlike grace that impressed all who met her. Her life story began on June 25, 1918 at the Tinsley Homestead in Willow Creek. After moving from the log house (which is now part of the Museum of the Rockies), she lived with her mother, Elsie Tinsley, in Bozeman for many years before moving to Spokane and marrying Gary Graf of Streeter, North Dakota. There she had the opportunity to fulfill her only ambition, to raise a family. She was a devoted wife and mother. Her many homemaking talents included amazing home cooking and baking, beautiful sewing (everything from the children's clothing to curtains, upholstery, and bed linens), putting up jars and jars and jars of preserves, pickles, and jams, and providing for her children's needs in every conceivable way. She truly knew how to fill a home with love.

June returned to Bozeman in 1983 to care for her mother for several years until her passing in 1986. Then only two weeks later, she lost her husband and found herself back in Bozeman once again. She inherited her mother's business, Beautorium Fabrics, and eventually took the shop to new heights when she got interested in outdoor fabrics. She had a knack for the business and was happy to have the chance to add yet another interesting chapter to her life story.

Everyone who ever met June commented on what a sweetheart she was. She loved to walk and had endless energy. She was a familiar face to many downtowners who would see her zipping around on her errands almost every day.

With so much love to give, June was really at her best if she could "mother" you in some way. If you had a problem, she wanted to help. Nothing brought her more joy than to be of service to others.

In her last few months, many people close to her noticed an inner glow which radiated from her face, as if she was at peace and had fulfilled her life's purpose. This was a beautiful thing to witness and a blessing to her caregivers.

June is survived by her beloved children, Candy, Kevin, and Sheri, and by her grandchildren, Corrina, Kristina, and Eric. She will be greatly missed, but the angels can rejoice at her gentle presence among them. (She is probably feeding them cookies and tea). We who are left behind can take comfort in knowing that her strength and healing love will be with us forever.

Condolences and memories of this amazing woman can be sent to

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