

Edith Margaret Dickson passed unexpectedly from a stroke on Friday, June 12, 2009, surrounded by her family. She had been in good health and a resident at Open Arms in Belgrade prior to that time.

Edith was the youngest of three children born to Ed and Marie Gruter in Great Falls, Montana, January 10, 1922. Her father was a barber in the 1920's when Neihart was a booming mining town and she joked that her family had one of the first running toilets in Neihart, as the outhouse was located directly above Belt Creek. Her family then moved to Great Falls and her father opened his barbershop in the Great Falls Hotel. Her children have fond memories of visiting Grandma and Grandpa Gruter, who always gave the boys haircuts and then they all went for ice cream. Understandably, ice cream was one of Edith's favorite desserts as well. She attended schools in Great Falls, graduating from Great Falls High in 1940 and then Kinman Business College in Spokane, WA.

She married Lawrence Dickson in 1947 and moved to Port Angeles where their first daughter, Diane was born. They lived for a short time in Spokane, Wa., where her twin boys, Ernest and Edward Dickson were born. Shortly thereafter they purchased the old Johnny Meary's ranch located just east of Geyser, Montana, to help Lawrence's mother and a second daughter, Denise was born. She worked part-time at the Geyser post office prior to commuting to Stanford and working for the ASCS office for 22 years. She was never one to linger and visit after work as Lawrence always had dinner ready by 5:30 at home in Geyser. She taught her oldest daughter, Diane, how to drive and watched her graduate from MSU as a registered nurse; her sons serve in the U.S. Navy and daughter, Denise, graduate and move to Alaska. After retiring, she and Lawrence moved to Corvallis, OR to be closer to Diane (Chuck) and their grandsons, Mac and Andy. While in Oregon, she and Lawrence grew wonderful gardens and flowers, traveled to Sun City, Az., for the winters and Alaska to visit Ern, Ed and Denise.

In 1995, Edith and Lawrence returned to Montana to be closer to their son, Ed, and daughter Denise, who had relocated in Belgrade. They continued to spend the winters in Arizona and the summers in Montana. She and Lawrence enjoyed the Belgrade Senior Center, their many friends and family, gardens, greenhouse and flowers.

Her husband, Lawrence Dickson; sister, Dorothy Luebbe and brother, Chuck, preceded her in death. She is survived by her four children, Diane (Chuck) Lavier, Stanwood, Wa.; Ernest (Ellen) Dickson, Fairbanks, Ak.; Edward (Joyce) Dickson, Belgrade, Mt.; and Denise Dickson, Bozeman, Mt. Grandchildren Lawrence (Mac) (Carrie) Lavier and two great-grandchildren, Portland, OR.; Andy (Elizabeth) Lavier, and five great-grandchildren, Alamosa, Co., Ben Dickson, NY.; Josh (Gabrielle) Dickson, Ak.; Indira (James) Dickson and great-grandson, S.D.; and Carolina (Charlie) Carstensen, two great-grandchildren, Helena, Mt.; Gabrielle, Damion and Solena Dickson, Belgrade, Mt. She was also a treasured grandmother of honor to Dustin Saisbury and his daughters, Kia and Kree, Belgrade, Mt; Leslie Saisbury, Belgrade, Mt., Donald (Katy) Saisbury, Kalispell, Mt., and Dilan Saisbury, Belgrade, Mt. Private memorial services will take place in Neihart, this summer. Memorials in Edith's name may be sent to the Senior Citizen Center nearest you. .