

**E**verett P. Lay, 79, was born in Bozeman to Anna Paulson Lay and Bert Lay on September 14, 1919.

He attended school in Bozeman, and as a young man, started working in local area grocery stores and then moved for a short time to Seattle, Washington. Everett's name was the first one drawn in Gallatin County for the World War II draft, but before being called, he enlisted in the US Navy where he served three years aboard the destroyer escort, the U.S.S. Ebert, spending most of his time on patrol in the New Hebrides Islands. He was honorably discharged from service in November, 1945. He returned to Bozeman where he served an apprenticeship at Bozeman Jewelry, under the care of Bert Johnston. He then attended watch-maker's school at Bradley Technology in Peoria, Illinois.

On April 6, 1946, he married Juanita Rose Spaulding in Bozeman, where they continued to live happily together for the next 64 years. To this union were their two daughters, Karleen (Jeff) Gates and DeeAnn (Tom) Langel both of Manhattan. He was blessed with 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. He loved and was loved by numerous brothers-in-law and sisters-in law, cousins, nieces, and nephews. The legacy he leaves behind is the lifetime of love that he freely invested in his family. His quiet graciousness and genuine hospitality was apparent to all who visited with him.

Everett worked at Bozeman Jewelry until 1958, when he established his own business, Lay's Jewelry, located on North Seventh Avenue. He and his wife, Rose, served their customers until 1980, when they retired. They continued to live in Bozeman until they moved to Manhattan in 1995 to be closer to their daughters and their families. The joys of retirement brought many happy hours fishing the Gallatin Rivers and local area lakes. Although he lost his eyesight in 2002, his love of spending time with friends and family was not diminished. His ability to overcome the loss of vision was an example and testimony to all he met. He attended Manhattan Bible Church where he enjoyed the fellowship of many. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Frances Lay Kitterman; and his brothers, Herbert Lay and Fred Lay, Jr.

Following the complications associated with emphysema, amidst the love of his family, he quietly passed from our arms into the loving arms of his heavenly Father.