



Lucille Collins Knadler died Saturday morning, December 22, after a brief illness. Born in Bozeman to Albert and Mary Etta (Brainard) Collins October 5, 1922, Lucille was the third of four children. She grew up on the Pass Creek family ranch and attended Manhattan schools and Kinman Business School in Spokane. She never missed a Manhattan class reunion.

In 1947, after a whirlwind courtship, she married the love of her life, Willard H. Knadler at St. James Episcopal Church in Bozeman. They spent the 54-1/2 years of married life in Bozeman. Willard died July 27, 2001.

As a young woman, Lucille worked for Rocher Drugs. A Homemaker after marriage, Lucille was active in the community in a number of organizations including PTA, Camp Fire Girls, Girl Scouts, and other organizations when her daughters were growing up. She was a Worthy Matron of the Order of Eastern Star (Belgrade Chapter), an officer in Acacia White Shrine of Bozeman, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. When the Belgrade Chapter of Eastern Star closed, she continued her membership in the Manhattan Chapter. The White Shrine honored her with the Miriam Award in February, 2007 for her dedication and 41 years of service to the organization. It was a proud moment for her.

Lucille was very interested in the family genealogy. She traveled to Canada to interview extended family members and compiled exhaustive data to document the anecdotal history from her Mother and others who homesteaded in the area. She enjoyed crafts and created numerous keepsakes for her family. She decorated her home for every season, and was the willing helper when anyone needed a centerpiece for a special event.

Lucille and Willard played bridge as a couple, and after his death, she played bridge weekly with her group of "Golden Girls" Shirley Hinz, Helen Rae Uhrich, and Margaret Berg. In 2007, each of her grandsons was blessed to have special time with her. She also achieved a lifelong dream of traveling to Alaska.

She is survived by daughters Sheri Salo of Bellevue, Washington, and Dena Weikart of Seattle, Washington; grandchildren Scott (Allison) Salo of Torrington, Wyoming; Dirk Salo of Henderson, Nevada; Nick (Jessica) Salo stationed in Ft. Richardson, Alaska; Alandra Flewelling, Athol, Idaho; Marissa (Brett) Kinsey of Auburn, Washington; great grandchildren Ava Salo, Skyler and Connor Flewelling; nieces and nephew Susan (Ladd) Squires, Parker, CO; Mary Ann (David) Marion, Bothell, WA; Linda Foster, Sundance, WY, Nancy (Mick) Chesterfield, Manhattan, MT; Lola (Mark) Brogger of Three Forks, MT and Martin (Sandy) Collins, Manhattan, MT. Lucille was predeceased by her parents, sisters Lois Baker of Parker, Colorado; Kay Higgins of Seattle; and Albert (Perk) Collins of Belgrade.

Visitation with the family will be held from 1-4 pm on Saturday at Dokken-Nelson's Sunset Chapel. The family is planning a celebration of life for Lucille and Willard this summer when we can all sip a glass of iced tea and sit out in the yard.