



Eileen Parker of Bozeman, 89, died peacefully Saturday evening, December 12, 2009.

In her own words: Eileen was born on September 3, 1920, on a farm in Pembina County in North Dakota, the long awaited daughter of Otto and Zetta Pudil. She was premature by almost 2 months and very small, but her practical nurse mother, undeterred by her condition, was able to care for and patiently build her up until she became an acceptable weight and size. Absorbing all this loving attention, she was finally ready to face the world and all it held in store for her. As a little girl she enjoyed visits of nearby neighbor kids, and made pets of many of the farmyard animals that were readily available. These included 2 horses that she loved and which gave her the opportunity of becoming an avid horsewoman as she matured. She was schooled during the depression years of the 'dirty thirties' and attended a country school with 39 pupils, 8 grades and 1 teacher. She went from there to high school in Pembina, where she graduated as valedictorian of her class. She did not take advantage of the 2 scholarships this honor afforded her, but chose instead to attend business college where she perfected skills that would serve her well throughout her life.

She married her high school sweetheart, Lloyd Parker, June 8, 1941, but World War II was raging and he was soon drafted into the army. Though she followed him to several training camps, mostly in Texas and Arkansas, inevitably he was sent to Europe where he became a part of the Battle of the Bulge, the heroic struggle that finally ended the horror over there. Meanwhile, she returned to Pembina with her young son, Richard, who had been born in Little Rock, Arkansas. With the help of her mother-in-law, with whom they were living, she was able to accept a position as assistant Postmaster for the duration. She loved the work, especially the selling of US Government Bonds, which lots of folks were buying to help the war effort, and getting to say 'hi' to everyone in town as they picked up their mail each day.

Eventually, the war ended and her husband returned with only minor wounds, thankfully, and she resigned her job and happily assumed her obligations as 'domestic engineer'. Three more children, Lyle, Janice and Roger, completed the family. Like many other women in town, she volunteered her spare time to promoting and carrying out charitable work in the community. She was president of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Methodist Church organizations of WSCS and the UMW, as well as a Sunday school teacher and choir member for 19 years and a Girl Scout leader for 15 years. She also filled in as a high school typing teacher, as commercial teachers were hard to find. Finally, and probably the positions she enjoyed the most, she was Worthy Matron of the Pembina chapter of the Order of Eastern Star and Past District Deputy of the Grand Chapter of the North Dakota OES. She enjoyed her work with the service and community organizations, playing softball, bowling, reading, crossword puzzles, cards and boardgames.

When it was time for her husband to retire, they decided to sell their home and moved to Bozeman where they had grandchildren growing up. They loved their years there and treasured visits from all their children and grandchildren, of whom they were so proud. In recent years, Eileen was a member of the Aspen Pointe community and enjoyed the wonderful friends and caring staff she found there.

Eileen is preceded in eternity by her husband Lloyd, parents Otto & Zetta Pudil, brothers Glenn and Milton. She is survived by her four children, son Richard, wife Roxanne and their children Angela, husband Eric Henze, and great grandsons, Everest and Bryce, and Gregg Parker, great granddaughters Peyton and Sydney of San Jose, CA; son Lyle, wife Laurel and their sons Bryan & wife Julie, and Michael & wife Andrea of Spokane, WA; daughter Janice Feist, husband James of Bozeman, and their children Jamie, husband Kirk Daniels and great grandson Wylie, Katie, husband Craig Johnson and great granddaughter Makenzie of Seattle, and Chelsea of San Diego; son Roger, wife Pam and their children Zachary and Tess of Fox Island, WA.