



Elaine Shirley Collins

February 26, 1925 - November 25, 2019

Elaine Collins passed away Nov. 25th, 2019 at the Anaconda Nursing Home at the age of 94. Elaine was born in Anaconda to Edith (Pointdexter) and Oliver Wallen. she grew up in Anaconda where she attended and graduated from Anaconda High School. She and her sisters Doris (Antoine), Merle (Monahan) and Joyce (Gillam) grew up in the family home on West 7th. Elaine met the love of her life Lee "Hap" Collins in 1942 at Flathead Lake. They were married in Butte on March 26, 1943. Lee was drafted shortly thereafter and deployed overseas. As men were serving their country the work force relied on women to replace the dwindling workers. Elaine went to work at the Anaconda Smelter at the tipple where she picked wood and other debris off the conveyor belt. A short time later, she received a telegram telling her that her husband had been wounded and was being sent to San Francisco to recuperate. She went to California to live with her sister Doris so she could be closer to her husband during that time. While in California, she worked at the Woolworth's Store. One of her fondest memories was passing the See's Candy Factory every day on her walk to work and these were her favorite chocolates ever after.

Elaine served for many years as a leader and mentor for Girl Scouts, where many girls (now grown women) still remember her as "Ladybug". Elaine was a prolific knitter, pinochle player and enjoyed all sorts of camping and hunting. Elaine loved the Lord and was a life long member of the First Presbyterian Church in Anaconda. She was a hard working and loving mother who always

made time to listen to her children's problems and concerns.

Elaine is survived by her sister Joyce Gillam of LaHabra, CA, son Lee (Joy) Collins of Anaconda, daughter Becki Eggum of Sidney, MT grandchildren Mark Collins of Bozeman, Dave (JaLina) Collins of Helena, Eric (Becky) Brownlee of Laurel, MT, Krista Brownlee of Billings, great-grandchildren Nita and Omeo Collins of Helena and Sean Baxter of Loveland, CO along with many nieces and nephews. Elaine was preceded in death by her husband of 75 years Lee Collins, infant son David, parents Edith and Oliver Wallen, sisters Doris Antoine and Merle Monahan.

Cremation has occurred and a private grave site service will be held at a later date.

Cemetery Details

New Hill Cemetery

Anaconda, MT