

Annie E. Sloan

THOMPSON FALLS — Annie E. Sloan, 92, passed away on Wednesday, June 30, 2004, at the home of her daughter Ann Miller in Sandpoint, Idaho. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. July 24 at Community Congregational Church in Thompson Falls.

Anne Eliza West was born Sept. 8, 1911, in Lead, Lawrence County, S.D., the only daughter of William Henry and Mabel (Jenkins) West.



Sloan

At the time of her birth, her father gave her the name of his mother, Eliza. It wasn't until she was in her 70s that Annie discovered the doctor had submitted her name as Elizabeth, thinking that Eliza was only the abbreviation.

Annie and her two brothers, Alfred and William II, were raised and educated in Butte, with Annie dreaming of becoming a teacher. She was a freckled redhead and quickly drew the eye of a tall, black-haired young man from Minnesota who had just arrived with his parents to become a miner.

Vern Sloan and Annie West were married on Nov. 19, 1929, in Helena, leaving the town quickly and quietly, hoping their friends would not hear of it and hold a shivaree for them. They returned home in time that evening for Vern to work the night shift.

Vern and Annie had four children; the first, Verna, died as an infant, then came Helen Elizabeth, Annie Mae and Vermette Eileen.

In 1933, the Sloans moved to Trout Creek, settling on the acreage that now belongs to the Henry Kraus family. Leaving there, they moved to Dixon in 1936, where Vern bought his first lumber mill from Charlie Pyatt. Selling that mill in 1940, they bought another mill from Charlie Pyatt, erected at Wilkes Creek out of Thompson Falls, and their daughter Helen boarded that school year in the dormitory. In 1943, with their daughter Annie Mae old enough to attend school, they moved into town and bought their home on the corner of Clay Street. Annie owned the home until 2003.

In 1951, three more children were added to the family. Vern's sister Mildred was no longer able to care for her three younger children, so George Walter, Robert Emmons and Julia Ann Rockwell came to Thompson Falls to live with them.

In 1952, Annie was asked if she would do laundry for Norm's Cafe. That started her doing laundry in her home, but with the death of Vern on March 17, 1963, and not being old enough for a pension, she needed to supplement her earnings. This even caused the biggest impact for Annie. She began baby-sitting, helping to care for many children who are now grown. This was in addition to her laundry business. To this she added 18 years of working as ticket seller at the local theater for Harold Jensen, and six years for his son Mike, there again coming in contact with many young people. In

1982, she was asked to take over the cooking for the county jail, a job she held until 1992, retiring at the age of 81, having worked seven days each week.

Annie was the county bailiff for many years during court sessions. After World War II, in the '50s, she was one of the first to "man" the sky watch in a shack across from the Hoff home. She worked on the election board, and on Jan. 25, 1945, joined the Wild Rose Rebekahs, where she attained the title of Noble Grand. She was later honored with a 25-year pin.

She became a member of the Community Congregational Church, and participated in all of the rummage sales used for raising money for the fellowship. She was a founding member of the Sanders County Historical Museum, which displays a plaque she constructed to commemorate the Sanders County sheriffs, and the book "The Sheriffs of Sanders County," which she compiled on their terms of office. She also compiled a memorial book, "Some Gave Their All," on those who died serving our country while in the armed forces from Sanders County.

During the last 30 years, Annie began traveling, making six trips to England where her father was born, two trips to Hawaii, one to Mexico and an extended trip to visit many of the states.

She only enjoyed four years of retirement before she had a disabling stroke in December 1997 that left her right arm unusable and dependent on her girls to care for her. In 2002, she moved to Sandpoint to reside with her daughter, Ann Miller.

Annie will be remembered for many things: in the early years for never missing a shower given for any girl, and for every event at school during the time her children were in school, she would produce a cake. She will also be remembered for her love of pinochle and the marathons she participated in; her ability to play the piano; and her love of decoration for the various holidays. Halloween was her favorite, because many children would come to her home to see the decorations, with ghosts made of paper tubing, sitting in a rocker ready to hand out "treats."

Annie was preceded in death by her parents William and Mabel West; brothers Alfred and Bill West; daughter Verna Ann in 1931; husband Vern in 1963; and son George Rockwell in 2004.

Surviving are her four daughters, Helen Fritsch of Thompson Falls, Ann (Art) Miller of Sandpoint, Vermette Brauer of Spokane and Julia (Larry) Bauer of Osburn, Idaho; son Robert (Louise) Rockwell of Kennewick, Wash.; 20 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.

With mother's passing, we have lost a very visible and loving example of a friend, honesty and high work ethics.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Sanders County Sheriff's Christmas/Relief Fund, P.O. Box 910, Thompson Falls, MT 59875.

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