



Obituary

Born: Saturday, August 7, 1920

Died: Thursday, July 5, 2018

Rhoda May Brinkerhoff, age 97 and a long-time resident of Lovell, Wyoming, passed away quietly in her sleep on July 5th, 2018 in Rigby, Idaho, where she had been living recently with her son, Jim, and his family. Rhoda May Christensen was born in Victor, Idaho, on August 7, 1920 and grew up during the depression in a four-room log house on small farm five miles from Victor. May was fortunate to have been born into a large, loving family, was the daughter of Neanon Christensen and Martha Maude Christensen and was the 8th of 12 children who all preceded May in death as did her loving husband, Lavell Clark Brinkerhoff, who died 19 years ago.

She graduated high school in Driggs, Idaho and attended LDS Business College in Salt Lake City. In 1944, during World War II, she moved to Lovell, Wyoming for work and there met Lavell ("Vel") Brinkerhoff who was home on leave from the U.S. Navy. They fell in love and, after a long distance but brief courtship, they were married in Cambridge, Massachusetts on August 13, 1945. After Vel's honorable discharge from the Navy in 1947, their marriage was sealed in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple where May also was sealed to her parents.

Vel had a long and varied career primarily in law enforcement, and, over the next fifty years, the family moved multiple times living in Lovell, Pinedale, Green River, Basin, Cody, Edmonds, Washington, Pocatello, Idaho, Hardin, MT, and Cheyenne Wyoming. They had six children and, after they were all grown, Vel and May returned to Lovell. May was a full time wife and mother most of the time but also worked at times as a cook for county jail inmates, a medical transcriptionist, a medical lab technician, a pilot car driver, and a bookkeeper.

A life-long faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, May served in countless callings and capacities in the Church. For decades, she could be found making quilts for the needy. She especially loved to make quilts for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, May loved people, loved doing family history, and loved to paint, read and cook. But, throughout her entire life, family always came first. Not only did her husband and children come first, but also her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and her siblings, nieces, and nephews, cousins and in-laws. May loved to be with them all as often and for as long as she could. "Aunt May" or "Grandma" or just "May" welcomed everyone into her home and treated everyone like family. Her life has been one of selfless service to her family, extended family, and so many others.

Service Summary

Visitation

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM, Fri Jul 13, 2018

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Main Street
Lovell, Wyoming 82431

Funeral Service

2:00 PM Fri Jul 13, 2018

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Main Street
Lovell, Wyoming 82431

Interment following funeral service

Fri Jul 13, 2018

Lovell Cemetery

1123 Lane 13
Lovell, Wyoming 82431

May is survived by her six children and their spouses: Richard of Lovell, Wyo., Jeff and wife Bennie of Casper, Wyo., Jim and wife Betty of Rigby, Idaho, Steve and wife Virginia of Cheyenne, Wyo., her daughter Marti Grobecker of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Val and wife Trina of Elk Ridge, Utah. May also is survived by 20 grandchildren, and an increasing number of great grandchildren (32 and counting).

Her family was blessed to have known her and will miss her but are comforted that she has been reunited with her husband and eternal companion as well as with other loved ones who have gone before.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 pm on Friday, July 13th, 2018 at the Lovell LDS Stake Center, 50 West Main Street in Lovell, Wyoming in the East Chapel. Family prayer will be held just prior to the funeral in the East chapel at 1 p.m.

Dedication of the Grave and interment will take place at the Lovell Cemetery, 1123 Lane 13, Lovell, Wyoming immediately following the funeral.

Following the graveside service, a meal for the family will be served at the Cultural Hall of the LDS Stake Center at 50 West Main Street in Lovell.