

BELLIS, WILMA MAURINE WILSON

March 19, 1916-May 18, 2009

Maurine Bellis died May 18, 2009. She was born in Albany, Mo. to Emma and Sam Wilson. She was the fourth of five children in her family. Her mother died shortly after giving birth to her youngest brother. Maurine and her brother Francis were sent to Wyoming to be raised by Dick and Anna Laurie Wilson, her aunt and uncle.

Maurine and her brother enjoyed life on a ranch and farm. She thrived on hard work, horseback riding, reading and just "being". High school graduation was followed by Normal School, where she obtained a teaching credential. Maurine taught in a one-room country school for a time before marrying Max Bellis, also of Wheatland.

During World War II, both Max and Francis served overseas. Maurine and two sons remained in Wheatland. Francis was a bombardier (unreadable) while flying from North Africa. Max returned from Europe and the family moved to Lingle. She worked in a family grocery store and later the post office while living there.

The couple moved to Arizona in the late 1960's to care for Maurine's aging parents. They also lived in Oak Harbor, Wash. for a short time. In 2004, after moves to Wheatland and Mesa, they moved to Spokane, Wash. to be with family. Both Max and Maurine enjoyed travels around the U.S. and abroad during their retirement years.

Maurine is survived by her son Jim; her daughter-in-law, Jonelle; and her grandchildren, John, Joel and Jacquelyn.

She was preceded in death by all of her siblings, her husband and a son, John.