

# Mary May (Montgomery) Rawlings

April 29, 1916 - January 18, 2004

Funeral services for Mary Rawlings will be held Saturday, January 24th, 2 p.m. at Gorman Funeral Homes - Platte Chapel in Wheatland with Rich Diaz officiating the ceremony. Interment will be in the Wheatland Cemetery. Family and friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mary May (Montgomery) Rawlings was born on April 29, 1916 in Wheatland, Wyoming to William John (Billy) Montgomery and Cora Elsie Hires. She was the youngest of four children: John Colin, Leo Frank, and Guy Delbert, all of whom predeceased her.

Mary lived in Wheatland until 1998 when she transferred to IHS at Parkmoor Village, a nursing home in Colorado Springs, Colo., where she lived until the January 18th.

She started work for the Wheatland Police Department in 1965 as a radio telephone operator using the town's first two-way state high band radio. Mary and three other dispatchers directed law enforcement and assistance personnel for the Police Department, two highway patrolmen, and the fire department. In 1966 the office was transferred to the Courthouse. Other units were added such as the Guernsey Police Department, Glendo, Chugwater, the Game & Fish, and Brand Inspectors.

In 1982, the office was moved to a new part of the Courthouse especially designed for a Dis-

patch Office-large enough for two operators if needed. Mary was a very important part of the history of dispatch in Platte County. She was at the center of all town activity for 17 years retiring in 1982 but filling in as relief and training dispatcher until 1983.



**Mary Rawlings**

When she wasn't at work, you could find her listening to her police scanner-she didn't want to get too far from the action. She delighted in showing her grandchildren her Deputy Sheriff badge and giving them a tour of the Wheatland jail facilities, always threatening to make them spend the night if they weren't good. Although she lived in Colorado Springs the last years of her life, her heart never left Wheatland, she loved the town and all its people.

She was married in 1937 to the former James Edwin Rawlings. They had one son, Russell Clint Rawlings, who also preceded her in death in 1996. She is survived by her daughter-in-law, Gloria Anderson, of Colorado Springs; four grandchildren; Russell Edwin Rawlings of Robertsville, Missouri; Kathy Diaz of Gatesville, Texas; Jay Coyle of Yoder, Colo.; Justin Rawlings of Colorado Springs; and 11 great grandchildren. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends. The last year of her life she longed to see her son and mother again, now that wish has been granted.