

Mary Lee "Grandma Joe" Burney

February 6, 1924 – January 26, 2005

Funeral services for Mary Lee "Grandma Joe" Burney, 80, were held 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29 at the Gorman Funeral Homes - Platte Chapel in Wheatland with Pastor Andy Gudahl of the First Christian Church officiating. Interment will be in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Mrs. Burney died peacefully Wednesday, Jan. 26 of natural causes at her apartment in Gillette with her family by her side.

Mary Lee Thompson was born Feb. 6, 1924 to Squire Franklin Thompson and Nellie May (Bibbey) Thompson in Wheatland. She lived near Dwyer, Wyo. until 1926, when the family moved to Missouri where she attended school in Barnard and graduated from high school as class valedictorian in 1941.

Mary Lee attended Northwest Missouri State Teachers College in Maryville, Mo. and began teaching school in Missouri. She moved back to Wyoming in 1945, and worked as a bookkeeper in Wheatland. On May 12, 1946 Mary Lee married Joe G. Burney and lived at Harris Park near Laramie Peak where Joe worked for the Forest Service and ran a saw mill and small ranch. After their four daughters were born, Mary Lee returned to teaching in 1955 at the Harris Park School which was also known as the Burney School since it only had Burney children.



Mary Lee Burney

The family moved to Douglas in 1961 while their daughters attended high school and Mary Lee worked during the tax season for an accountant in Douglas and also as a substitute teacher. Joe and Mary Lee moved back to their mountain house after the girls had finished high school. Mary Lee also worked as a substitute lookout on the Black Mountain Lookout until 1983. After her husband passed away in 1985, Mary Lee lived at Harris Park during the summers and in Gillette in the winters.

Mary Lee was a long-time member of the Cottonwood Country Club in Wheatland. She enjoyed craft work, playing cards, the mountains, and most of all spending time with her family.

Mary Lee is survived by three daughters, Linda L. Lake and her husband Rick of Gillette, Connie J. Hopper and her husband Dan of Gillette, and Carol S. Harper and her husband Neil of Glenrock; her sister Glada Roe and her husband Ben of Cheyenne; seven grandchildren; and 15 great grandchildren who lovingly called her "Grandma Joe".

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Joe on Oct. 26, 1985, and her daughter, Kathy A. Burney.

Serving as pallbearers will be Troy Lake, Bret Richendifer, Nicholas Hopper, and Christopher Hopper.

Serving as honorary pallbearers will be Darby Roe, Steven Roe, Jack Pownall, Don Hullinger, and Marvin Nail.

A memorial to the Campbell County Memorial Hospice, P.O. Box 3011, Gillette, WY 82717 would be appreciated by the family.

Gorman Funeral Homes - Platte Chapel of Wheatland is in charge of the arrangements.