Lily Engelbright

June 30, 1913 - December 14, 2013

Lily Engelbright, age 100, passed away on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at the Prairie Community Hospital in Terry, Montana. Visitation will be held from 9:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at the Silvernale-Silha Funeral Home in Glendive, Montana. A Life Tribute Service will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, December 14, 2013 in the Chapel of the Silvernale-Silha Funeral Home in Glendive with Celebrant Sandy Silha officiating. Interment will be held in the Dawson County Cemetery in Glendive. Silvernale-Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements. Lily Gwenith was born on June 30, 1913 to Pete and Georgia (Honzo) Davidson in Russel, North Dakota. She had four siblings. James, Lila (Green), Clyde, and May (Stortz). She moved with her family to Lindsey, Montana when she was thirteen years old. She attended Dawson County High School in Glendive where she graduated with the class of 1933. Lily married John "Johnny" August Scheitlin on June 14, 1933 and to this union nine children were born; their first son died at birth, then she had John Joseph "Joey" (LaVera) Scheitlin, Robert "Bob" (Faye) Scheitlin, Ann "Marie" (Jim) Davis, Nancy May (Mel) Kernutt, Lily "Eileen" Treadway, Pete (Lyla) Scheitlin, George Scheitlin and Kay (Bernie) Schaaf. Lily was a grandmother to twenty-six grandchildren and many many great-grandchildren. She lost her husband, John in 1957. In 1962, she was remarried to Bill Engelbright and together they lived on a farm in Fallon, Montana; something that was loved by many. Lily's grandson Stuart went to school telling his kindergarten teacher that his

grandma had a zoo. She had everything from peacocks to donkeys. This started a tradition of bringing kindergarten classes from all over to visit her animals. She fed bum lambs, had miniature goats and milked cows until she was in her late eighties. Lily gave many people milk and eggs over the years and anyone that would visit the farm couldn't leave without a few peacock feathers. Lily was preceded in death by her parents; both husbands; all her siblings; son, Robert, son-in-law, Jim Davis; daughter-in-law, Lyla Scheitlin and grandson's, Jared Scheitlin, James "Jimbo" Davis, and Ryan Treadway. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silvernale-silhafuneralhome.com. Eulogy: Lily Engelbright enjoyed just over a century of living, loving, caring and giving. Her life was filled with a large family, friends and neighbors, many birds and animals, busy hands, and a caring heart. Lily experienced the joys of rural living, and the busyness that goes with large families and a close knit farm community. She experienced the heartbreak of losing family too soon, and in unexpected ways. Lily was blessed with a tremendous inner strength and an uncomplaining nature that got her through the tough times and helped her enjoy the ordinary and extraordinary days of her life. Born in rural North Dakota, Lily was the oldest of five children. When Lily was 13, her parents moved the family to the Lindsay, Montana area. Lily finished up her education at Dawson County High School with her graduation in 1933. Shortly thereafter, Lily married Johnny Scheitlin, a young man she came to know when he worked as a hired hand for her father. Lily and Johnny lived in a small, two room house on the farm. There was no electricity and no running water in the house, and it was here that Lily and Johnny began their life together and started what was to be a large family. Lily and Johnny’s first son died at birth. Eight more children followed, Joey, Bob, twin girls, Marie and Nancy, who were born on Lily’s birthday, Eileen, Pete, the proclaimed favorite, George, and Kay. With babies in the house for many years, Lily was kept very busy and learned to be efficient with her chores. She found that in the winter if she washed the diapers and hung them outside to freeze, the diapers would dry more quickly after being frozen. She would then

bring them inside and put them by the wood stove to dry. The older children remember a home that was small, but always full of people. Lily had an open door and a welcoming way, and her home was a gathering place for family and friends. Even though the house was small and already full of family, Lily would sometimes board the school teachers who taught at the rural school close by in Lindsay. Lily kept a very neat and clean house, and her son Pete claims you literally could have eaten off her floors. Daughters Marie and Nancy remember her doing the “white glove” test to make sure no dust was left behind. They also remember their mother being very strict about how things were done. Money was scarce, and Johnny and Lily raised all their food. Between milk cows and chickens, a large garden for vegetables, gathering berries, hunting game in the area, about the only groceries they bought in town were flour and sugar, and the kids knew if their parents brought home bananas that there had been an extra dollar. Lily milked cows, even into her eighties, she gathered eggs, canned the fruit and vegetables, churned her own butter, made cheese, baked her own bread. She was a wonderful cook and could make a meal out of anything. Lily will be remembered for her delicious food, because she fed everyone who crossed her threshold. She did a lot of baking, donuts coated in sugar for the kids and grandkids, pies, and batches of cookies. Everything always got a sprinkle of sugar. At Christmas, the Scheitlins and all the neighbors would have a cookie exchange as a holiday tradition. Lily’s home became a gathering place during holidays, with wall to wall people, eating, playing cards, exchanging gifts. Every thing was homemade, as Lily sewed and embroidered for all the family. Lily saved everything, and was good at putting it to use. She might make a footstool by putting five cans in a circle and covering them with material. She saved all the greeting cards the family received and would make all the Christmas ornaments. Lily made do with what she had and made everything from scratch, enjoying the making and the results. She was very self-sufficient and Lily always made sure everyone was taken care of before herself. She

was the last to sit down to eat and she always fed the men first. If she thought someone took to much food on their plate, she would remove it, making sure there was always enough to go around. On Saturday nights the family would listen to the radio, which featured the Grand Ole Opry and they would enjoy popcorn, or maybe apples. For fun, Lily loved to dance, even square dancing, and playing cards, which was a competitive sport for the family. When television came along, Lily enjoyed Hee Haw and she loved the Lawrence Welk show. Although there was not money for many boughten pleasures and extras, Lily's children never felt poor. Lily saw to their wants and needs, she kept their hands busy with household and farm chores; the family and community interaction filled the social needs of everyone. They were rich in love, friendship, and purpose. Lily was a quiet personality, a listener, with a good sense of humor. Her beautiful blue eyes often had a twinkle, and a quirky smile could be seen playing around her lips. You couldn't lie to her, she always knew, and if she used your middle name, you knew you were in trouble. When she wanted your attention, she had a dead–eye as she would nail you with her wet dishrag from across the room. She was fearless and protective of her family and her animals. She couldn't swim and was afraid of water, but once jumped into a pond to rescue a bum lamb she thought was in trouble. Lily always did what needed to be done for those she cared about. Life abruptly changed for Lily and the family in 1957 when her husband Johnny and her mother were killed in a two car head on collision. After the accident, Lily did not return to her and Johnny's home, but instead Lily moved in with her father. She also learned that she was pregnant once more, and later gave birth to her and Johnny's daughter, Kay. During the time she lived with her father, Lily met Bill Engelbright, a farmer who had borrowed a tool from her father. They were married in 1962, and Lily and her younger children moved to Bill's farm in Fallon, Montana. Lily and Bill acquired a menagerie of animals and birds, all of which Lily cared for. They became like pets and included bum lambs, miniature goats, rabbits, pot bellied pigs, donkeys, cows, chickens, geese, turkeys, and peacocks to name a few. Over the years, Lily

gave away many eggs and containers of milk. And you didn't leave the farm without peacock feathers in hand. With her large family of children, it soon expanded to include grandchildren, many who lived in the area. Lily never lost her sense of adventure and always had time for her grandchildren and their curiosity when they visited the farm. Granddaughter LeAnn remembers her grandmother taking time to check out a big turtle LeAnn had found. Lily poked it with a broom handle and the turtle snapped the handle in half. Lily and LeAnn decided that it would be best to leave that big turtle to his own devices. Grandson Stuart started his own tradition with his grandmother. He went to school when he was a kindergartener and told his teacher about his grandmother's "zoo." That instigated many field trips over the years by local schoolchildren to see and experience Lily's "petting zoo", something everyone, kids and Lily alike, enjoyed. When it came to her children's spouses, Lily was a great mother-in-law. She often would take their side and defend them to her children. Lily was a giver and if she knew you liked something and were coming over, she would make it for you, banana cream pudding for LeAnn, apple pie for son-in-law, Bernie. It was Lily's way of showing care and affection, and making each person feel important. Over the years, Lily had many sayings she would repeat over and over to her family concerning life. "If you make your bed and do your dishes, people will think you are a good housekeeper, even if you can write your name in the dust." "If you pat your husband as much as you do your pillow when you make your bed, you will have a good marriage." "Use your head, or your feet will have to do the work." These are just a few of Lily's wisdoms. Lily's last years were spent in the nursing home in Terry, Montana, where her daughter Kay and son-in-law Bernie could look after her. On Lily's hundredth birthday, they held a big party for Lily and it was a good day as she was alert and could enjoy her family and friends honoring her. Throughout life, Lily was easygoing, liked everyone and everyone liked her. She was a terrific woman, mother, and grandmother. In her hundred years of living, Lily accepted the things life brought to her, and seemed content with her life, her family, her

accomplishments. Her family admires her uncomplaining attitude, and especially noted her quiet inner strength that has carried Lily through a century of living. This wonderful lady has influenced and touched the lives of many. Lily was greatly loved and she will be greatly missed.

Tribute Wall

Lily Engelbright

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM