



Shirley Mae Westlund

April 16, 1934 - August 6, 2016

Shirley Mae Westlund, age 82, of Glendive, Montana passed away on Saturday, August 6, 2016 at the Glendive Medical Center. Visitation will be held from 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. and from 6:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at the Silha Funeral Home in Glendive. A Vigil Service will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at the Silha Funeral Home with Father Xavier Arimboor officiating. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, August 12, 2016 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Glendive with Father Francis Schreiber officiating. Rite of Committal will follow in Dawson County Cemetery. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Shirley Westlund was born into the Curtis family from Manhattan, Montana at the Florence Crittenden home in Helena, Montana on April 16, 1934 and was adopted by Frank James and Mary Nina (Brownell) Westlund in February of 1935. She was raised in West Glendive and spent her summers roaming Dry Creek hunting agates, chewing grass and watching white fluffy clouds floating by in a blue sunny sky as well as throwing rocks by the hour. A cat, a dog, an occasional pig and cackling chickens chasing grasshoppers and laying eggs to be gathered and sometimes setting a nest provided entertainment for a little girl. All this outdoor activity turned Shirley into an animal lover, hunter and very amateur photographer. Always athletic, she participated in all sports although at the time she attended school the only sport girls were allowed to play on an interscholastic level was tennis.

Shirley moved into Glendive with her parents when she was eleven years old. She had many odd jobs both at home and outside the home during her school years. She loved movies and read many books. Thanks to taking shorthand and typing in high school she was able to pass the required test at the Northern Pacific Railway Company Superintendent's office and become a member of the Class A clerk's roster which enabled her to work in the various division offices in Glendive. She attended college and graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman in 1956. She taught one year and confirmed her suspicions that education was not to be a field of endeavor for her to pursue as a career. She began working in the Exchange State Bank in Glendive in 1959 and that led to many years of employment in various phases of real estate lending including nine years in the savings and loan industry in Minnesota. Her final full time employment was as an enforcement officer in the Wibaux scale. After her retirement in 1999 she spent five summers working in the national parks, one in Glacier and four in the Tetons. From these jobs she made acquaintances and friends who also were in the parks for summer work. She bowled for many years and attended eighteen national tournaments all over the United States. She was at one time a member and officer of the Does, and a longtime member of the local genealogy club. Loving to travel she spent one year driving an 18-wheel moving van for North American Van Lines and made her way through 47 states. She sold her home in Glendive in 2013.

One of Shirley's most important projects was her family history. She spent many hours in museums, libraries, courthouses and cemeteries. Along the way, she also helped many others with their family histories. She was one of several individuals who were instrumental in putting together the Dawson history book, *Our Times, Our Lives*.

Shirley never married and had no children. She had a few cousins in her adoptive family and recently had become acquainted with the families of her biological half-brother, who preceded her in death, and a biological half-sister. Memorials in Shirley's name may be made to the Glendive Public Library, the

Frontier Gateway Museum, the Catholic Daughters, or to the Genealogical Society of one's choice.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silhafuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Vigil Service

AUG 11. 7:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Homes - Glendive, Montana
221 N. Meade Avenue
P.O. Box 848
Glendive, MT 59330
(406) 377-2622
silha@midrivers.com
<https://www.silhafuneralhomes.com>

Visitation

AUG 11. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Homes - Glendive, Montana
221 N. Meade Avenue
P.O. Box 848
Glendive, MT 59330
(406) 377-2622
silha@midrivers.com
<https://www.silhafuneralhomes.com>

Visitation

AUG 11. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Homes - Glendive, Montana
221 N. Meade Avenue
P.O. Box 848
Glendive, MT 59330
(406) 377-2622
silha@midrivers.com
<https://www.silhafuneralhomes.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG **12**. 10:00 AM (MT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
316 West Benham Street
Glendive, MT 59330

Tribute Wall



“ *Shirley Mae Westlund*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *Shirley was a welcome addition to the library's book discussions for several reasons. She was really insightful about literature often adding observations no one else saw. Another benefit to the rest of us was her very broad and deep lifetime of reading. She'd compare the book at hand with classics with which she was familiar and mark similarities that, again, none of the rest of us had found.*

Rose Marie Aus - August 12, 2016 at 12:45 AM



“ *what a gift Shirley was to those who took time to visit with her was blessed to go to training with Shirley when she worked at the scale near Wibaux been friends ever since REST IN PEACE Shirley*

Richard Sadorf - August 11, 2016 at 12:37 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Mae Westlund.*



August 11, 2016 at 12:35 PM

PJ

“ Came to know Shirley over many cups of coffee at the Book and Bear. Loved her humor, and her stories of her travels and experiences. Will miss you Shirley.

Peggy Jenner - August 10, 2016 at 01:22 PM



“ Denise Schumaker Stoddart lit a candle in memory of Shirley Mae Westlund



Denise Schumaker Stoddart - August 08, 2016 at 09:41 PM

LG

“ Shirley was a great friend of my father (William J. Grzanic) She always had time to visit and help him with rides and care for his dog. I met Shirley at the community Christmas dinner and thought she was a wonderful person with lots of compassion. My condolences. Laura Grzanic Belfield, ND

Laura Grzanic - August 08, 2016 at 09:54 AM

LM

“ We are so sorry to see of Shirley's passing. Our sympathies to her family and friends. Sincerely, Gene & Leslie Micheletto



Leslie Micheletto - August 08, 2016 at 09:31 AM