



Frances "Norene" (Byfield) Palmer

April 28, 1922 - January 11, 2012

Frances Norene (Byfield) Palmer, former long time Yreka resident, passed away on January 11, 2012 in Eugene, Ore.

She was born on April 28, 1922 in Ridgeway, Colo. Norene had a very full and eventful life. After graduating from high school, she worked for Climax molybdenum mine in Climax, Colo. as an overhead crane operator.

Then in 1944 during World War II, Norene joined the U.S. Navy as a WAVE in the Hospital Corps. While stationed at the Naval hospital in Norman, Okla., she met and married Herbert Byfield, a hospital corpsman, in 1945. Norene resigned from the Navy to start a family and Herb remained in the Navy until 1963, when he retired and moved the family to Yreka. In 1964, they started a much needed ambulance service in Siskiyou County, where they selflessly served the community for 20-plus years. Norene married Albert Palmer in 1993. They, together, were active members in many community organizations and loved to travel. Albert passed away in 2007.

Norene was a longtime member of Soroptimist International, Friends of the Library, American Legion and NARFE, as well as serving on the Siskiyou County Grand Jury. She passed away very peacefully, following a long battle with dementia and a failing heart. She gave much to her community. She was well loved and will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her brother, Bill Overman of Yreka; her children, Annette Seaman of Yreka, Louise Heitz of Post Falls, Idaho, Dr. Clyde Byfield of Eugene, Ore., Jean Ryan of Haymarket, Va. and Marilyn Palmer of Yreka; and

her grandchildren, Tim Seaman, Heather Meigs, JD Maplesden, Patrick Byfield, Mary Galka, Patrick Connolly, Joe Connolly, Luke Connolly, Kim Mahon, Kevin Ryan and Kelly Ryan.

Memorial service will be held in Girdner Funeral Chapel on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in Yreka with military honors provided by the California Honor Guard. Girdner Funeral Chapel is assisting the family with the local arrangements.