

Frances S. Tice

MISSOULA – Frances S. “Fran” Tice, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2005, at St. Patrick Hospital.

Born May 17, 1913, in Meadowlands, Minn., Frances was the 10th of 11 children of Peter and Winnie Stoltz. The Stoltz family moved to a ranch at Valier in 1926.

Fran graduated from Valier High School in 1931 and attended nurses training at Montana Deaconess Hospital in Great Falls. She completed her studies in 1934 and worked two years in Cut Bank and Conrad hospitals before going to Murray Hospital in Butte.

Fran joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1942 and was assigned to a Walla Walla, Wash., air base hospital. She then volunteered for flight nurse training at Bowman Field, Ky., and finished her training in 1944. She was assigned to the North Atlantic Wing of the Air Transport Command. As a first lieutenant, Fran spent the next 18 months



Tice



Tice in 1943

aboard C-54 cargo planes evacuating sick and wounded military personnel from England and France to the United States.

She married Capt. George Tice of Harlowton in New York on Sept. 5, 1945. After leaving the Army, the Tices lived in Helena for two years before moving to Billings where Mr. Tice was a partner in the Montana

 Trailer Sales and Equipment Co. for 17 years. They moved to Missoula in 1965 when her husband started his own business. Frances resumed her nursing career and worked at St. Patrick Hospital until her retirement in 1978.

Fran was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Her family meant everything to her. Her granddaughters were her pride and joy and brought her endless delight. She was thrilled about the upcoming arrival of two great-grandsons.

Frances was preceded in death by her husband; an infant grandson, Brady Bilile; and four brothers and sisters.

She is survived by two daughters, Tana (Jay) Combs of Missoula and Ginger (Roy) Bilile of Ronan; four granddaughters, Tera (Todd) Brunner of Monroe, Wash., Tracy (Curtis) Tucker of Eastsound, Wash., Brooke (Thomas) Gates of Temecula, Calif., and Brittany Bilile of Ronan; and sister Ruth Stoltz and brother Louis Stoltz of Cut Bank.

At Fran's request, there will be a private family burial.

Memorials may be made to the Missoula Food Bank, the Salvation Army or the Red Cross.