



# *In Loving*

M E M O R Y

## **Visitation**

Saturday, January 13, 2024 ~ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Stevenson & Sons Funeral Home  
Miles City, Montana

## **Funeral Service**

Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 1:00 pm  
Stevenson & Sons Funeral Home  
Miles City, Montana

## **Officiating**

Don Buerkle

## **Eulogy**

John Edgell

## **Music**

Chuck Sawyer

## **Pallbearers**

John Edgell, Bobby Wiedmer, Gene Weinriess,  
Ken Stein, Watty Taylor & Dean Wang

Following the funeral service,  
a luncheon will be held at the Parlor, 1806 Main.  
Everyone is invited.

## **Interment**

Custer County Cemetery  
Miles City, Montana

Arrangements By  
Stevenson & Sons Funeral Home



In Loving Memory Of

**Joyce Almy**


June 30, 1932 - July 13, 2020

And

**William Ellery Almy Jr.**

September 7, 1926 - January 6, 2024





**William Ellery Almy Jr.**, born in Philadelphia to William and Gertrude Thayer Almy on September 7, 1926, was a trailblazing adventurer with a vibrant intellect and skilled hands. As the eldest of seven children, he embraced life with boundless curiosity, demonstrating his problem-solving prowess at every opportunity including constructing a treehouse atop the tallest tree on the family property. Engaging in such endeavors not only cultivated his ability to communicate the rationale behind his choices but also fueled his unquenchable thirst for exploration.

Skipping conventional high school completion, Bill finished a summer Latin class before embarking on college where he refused to let formal schooling hinder his quest for an education. His billiards and card-playing talents flourished more rapidly than his mechanical engineering studies and he transitioned from academia, having acquired what he deemed sufficient skills, to embark on a series of diverse adventures.

As an Army Air Corp Cadet toward the end of WWII, Bill aspired to learn to fly. When the war concluded, and the urgent need for new pilots diminished, he seized the chance to receive his pay and chose civilian life. At a poker table with departing cadets, he accumulated enough cash to enroll in a private flight school, using their cash to fund his flying lessons.

Oregon beckoned him, and he scaled trees to hold mirrors for his coworkers, aiding in recording measurements for topography maps. Always eager to climb higher, both for better pay and personal challenge, Bill never shied away from striving for new heights.

In a pivotal move, Bill arrived in Albion, Montana, to work at the Jim Oliver ranch. This marked the beginning of a new chapter, presenting new opportunities for adventure, skill acquisition, and weather acclimatization as he hoped to journey north to Alaska. Two enduring passions captured his heart and bound him for a lifetime — the resilient school marm, Joyce Darlene Ochsner, he met in August and married in November, and the ranch work that would test his grit and provide him with a lifetime filled with challenges and triumphs.

Over the next 68 years, they weathered the storms of life, building a partnership that involved music, dancing, card games, caring for cattle, ranch ownership, livestock auction management, and the upbringing of four children. Their committed partnership allowed them to evolve as individuals and meld their strengths into a formidable team.

In 1960, the ranch at Ismay was purchased and became the canvas for Bill's progressive vision. With the help of family and dedicated employees, Bill cared for the land, ensuring that led to the development of an innovative watering pipeline system. Embracing cattle AI programs and venturing into the exotic cattle and club calf business showcased his commitment to advancing the livestock industry. Despite lacking a legacy background in agriculture, Bill ardently pursued knowledge through collaborations with experts, extension services, and research stations.

Recognizing a need for improved livestock marketing, Bill along with many other ranchers in the region, helped bring into being Baker Livestock Auction. Quite unintentionally he became the manager at BLA and later purchased the market to continue its operation. In his 60's Bill launched Ismay Livestock Yards to ensure his ability to buy and sell livestock no matter where he lived.

His remarkable journey through life was characterized by an insatiable curiosity and a relentless pursuit of knowledge beyond

ranching. He read voraciously and took business, economics and ornithology courses. He participated in the MSU Steer of the Year scholarship program to encourage others into agriculture and ever the mentor, Bill, delighted in guiding young ranchers into the industry he cherished.

Beyond his ranching pursuits, Bill found joy in big band and old cowboy trail music and his talented wife's singing at the piano. Music filled the Almy home and vehicles, momentarily silenced only during livestock reports so he could stay abreast of market trends. Attending events where he could dance with his wife or strategize at the card table brought him great pleasure as well as sitting in the church pew when his wife had the opportunity to preach.

For those who worked alongside him, the rallying cry of "More Cattle!" defined Bill's ethos—a call to action, a reminder to hustle, and a commitment to achievement regardless of circumstances. May his legacy as a respected cattleman resound through the pastures he tended, inspiring us to excel and echo his spirited call, "More Cattle!"

Remaining to continue their earthly journeys are his children/spouses/families: son William E. III (Barb) Almy, grandchildren William E. Almy IV, Gwen (Fr Aaron) Warwick and Emmelia, Adrian, Dominic, Simone, Susie Almy, Lydia, Lucia, William John Henandez, Deborah Almy; son Curtis (Patsy) Almy, Toby-Jeanne Almy; daughter Dawn (Lary) Lamoreux, Rachel and Jimmy Minor and Addison, Cale and Samantha Lamoreux, grandchildren Michelle, Garrett, Noah, Christin and Andrew Sullivan, Emry, Landon; and daughter Libby Almy (Don), grandchildren Chantelle Hemberry (Joel), Leah and Lucas Mostad, Kt (Eric) Foster, Kiana (Jeffery) Johnson, Devon Solberg. Bill is also survived by his sister Nini and brothers John, Charles, and Chris. He is preceded in death by his wife Joyce and siblings who died in their youth, Ann and George.

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After 88 laps around the sun, at the intersection of Covid19 and Alzheimer's, **Joyce D. Almy** left this life for the next on Monday, July 13, 2020.

She was born in Dupree, South Dakota to William Jacob and Elizabeth Jenny (Jeffries) Ochsner. She attended school in Dupree and was active with music and drama in high school. Upon graduation in 1950, she attended a summer of college and immediately began teaching at a one-room school near Eagle Butte, SD. As her father dropped her off at her new job, she said she cried, "How will I teach the little ones to read?" --but she did!

The following school year, she taught at Albion, Montana. Shortly after her arrival to the neighborhood, she collared some locals including a young cowboy from the Bud and Maxine Enerson (Jim Oliver) ranch to perform in a school play. He was smitten and by that Thanksgiving in 1951, they became Mr. and Mrs. William Ellery Almy Jr. They continued to live in the Albion area on the Davenport place and her many roles soon included being a mother when William E. Almy III was born in 1952, Curtis Thayer Almy in 1954, and Dawn Darlene Almy in 1957. Elizabeth Ann was born in 1963 after the family moved to Ismay, purchased the Hamilton brothers' ranch, and began operating it as Keystone Ranches, Inc.

Each Sunday morning was spent in church and even when cow-calf pairs needed to be trailed at 5 AM, Joyce would go out about 3 hours later to the fresh pasture and children would dismount their horses to ride in a warm pickup truck, headed to church. "The children will not miss Sunday school and church!" Joyce would say. More than just taking them to Sunday school and church regularly, she, The Mother, taught her offspring about our Heavenly Father and reminded them almost daily that faith requires constant attention and effort. She loved to teach the Word to anyone and was a gifted instructor. Her faith never faltered and she sang hymns with her children until she passed.

Music was an essential part of Joyce. She started piano at a young age and played tuba in high school. She played piano and organ for church and directed church choirs. On summer days music would float from the grand piano out the window to the Quonset and Bill nicknamed her "Joyous Joyce". Music was woven into the fabric of the family to become an integral part of the heritage.

If there was ever a situation where an actress was needed, Joyce was there! Her quick wit coupled with humor was infectious when she was given an audience; do you recall Clarabella Nussbaum's weekly Baker Livestock market report? Perhaps the livestock prices weren't great, but she somehow found a way to make folks chuckle and tune in to listen.

Joyce loved a good party. Tupperware party, Rubbermaid party, Tiara party, and even a jewelry party. She earned a nice supplemental income as well as national recognition for her "party plan" sales. At the urging of Bill, she passed the state insurance exam and sold life and health insurance for Bankers Life and Casualty.

Later in life she enjoyed flower gardening and weeding...and weeding...and weeding. No matter where or when, she saw 'em and if there was time, the weeds got yanked. Her children's lives were "gardens" to be tended, even into adulthood if she saw "weeds" in their lives, she had a comment or two! She had an eye for the end result, the harvest of the fruit of the garden. This explains why she chose to teach in every congregation in which she found herself. It also explains her sincere interest in everyone everywhere, even during her last year spent at a memory care facility.

During the mid 60's she wrote "Ranch Life" each week for the Miles City Star. It was another talent that perhaps we took for granted until our frail attempt to scribe this obituary to retell her life's highlights.

Remaining to continue their earthly journeys are her husband of 68 years, William E Almy Jr., her children/spouses/families: son William E. III (Barb) Almy, grandchildren William E. Almy IV, Gwen (Fr Aaron) Warwick and Emmelia, Adrian, Dominic, Simone, Susie (Gabriel) Henandez, Lydia, Lucia, William John, Deborah Almy; son Curtis (Patsy) Almy, Toby-Jeanne Almy; daughter Dawn (Lary) Lamoreux, Rachel and Jimmy Minor, Cale Lamoreux, Christin and Andrew Sullivan, Emry, Landon; and daughter Libby Almy, grandchildren Chantelle (Kyle) Mostad, Leah and Lucas, Kt (Eric) Foster, Kiana (Jeffery) Johnson, Devon Solberg. Joyce is also survived by her sister Alice (Jerry) Swanson, and niece Shawna.

The end of each of our lives is nearer today than it was yesterday. May we all who knew and loved Joyce check over the gardens of our own lives to see if they could stand some water, fertilizer, or weeding.