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Miles Rodda

St Ignatius, Montana

February 15, 1930 - November 14, 2015

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Obituary

RONAN – After 18 months alone, Miles Rodda, encircled by five of his six living children, was reunited with his wife of 62 years, Janet, on the evening of Saturday, Nov 14, 2015. Born on his family’s 16-section homestead on Upper Rock Creek outside of Philipsburg on Feb. 5, 1930, Miles rode his horse, Buck, five miles to the community grade school. He completed high school in Philipsburg just down the hill from where his grandfather managed Granite Mine. He met Janet through a playful prank and their paths reconvened as she cooked for a haying crew. They were married a month later.

The couple spent extended periods of time in their early marriage in Portland with their first child, Juanita Kay, as she struggled to overcome a congenital liver disorder that claimed her at 18 months of life. By that time, their daughter Terri was born. The family joked that she was the only one of the next six children born in five years that was planned. Miles was very well read and routinely improvised witty poems to his young wife. His children remember their open affection and marvel that though they could bicker, the couple was never observed to have openly fought despite the challenges of their life. The stories woven at this bedside bronzed his image atop his horse on the cliffs over his Rock Creek Ranch. His twin sons, Russ and Ken, have inherited and passed on his natural ability and legacy to fly fish that creek.

The couple sold the ranch and moved to Arizona to pursue Miles’ budding career as a wildlife artist. He worked for the Arizona Fish and Game Department for several years studying wildlife in their habitat, which enhanced his artwork. After eight years in Arizona and finishing his art studies, they returned to Montana where the art market was more viable. Much of his work can still be seen locally. He and Janet were independent until the last 10 years, then they were cared for tenderly by the staff at St. Luke’s Extended Care Facility.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Janet; daughter, Juanita Kay; two grandchildren; and one great grandchild. Miles is survived by his children, Terri (Dennis) Kreps of Portales, New Mexico, Carol Rodda of Miles City, Peggy (Tim) Orr of St. Ignatius, Brenda (Rick) Costilla of Polson, Ken (Mary) Rodda of Ronan and Russ (Marti) Rodda of St. Ignatius; 22 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

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TRIBUTE ARCHIVE

Events

There are no events scheduled. You can still show your support by sending flowers directly to the family, or plant a tree in memory of Miles Rodda.

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