

Mary-Jo Burles

October 30, 1927 to October 15, 2009

Mary-Jo Burles (née Hutchinson) passed away October 15, 2009, at Pincher Creek two weeks shy of her 82nd birthday. Born in Winnipeg on October 30, 1927, Mary-Jo grew up in Gladstone, Manitoba, and after graduating from high school she received her teaching certificate and taught in three communities in Manitoba.

On summer vacation in Alberta in 1949, a chance meeting led her to a teaching position at Olin Creek in a one-room school north of Cowley in the Porcupine Hills. In 1950 she married Bob Burles and settled at Cabin Creek Ranch where they raised six children.

Mary-Jo embraced ranch life and wrote about her experiences for publications like the *Family Herald* and *Chatelaine*. After her children were grown, she turned her large vegetable garden into a magnificent display of sunflowers and gladioli. In a weekly column for the *Pincher Creek Echo*, she wrote about her life, her garden and her travels, visiting her adult children in the NWT, Nunavut and Germany.



After moving to Pincher Creek in retirement, she started Cabin Creek Printers, publishing several of her own books, including *Cabin Creek Ranch: 100 Years on the Homestead* and *First and Second Kings, Maurice and Harold*, both of which are in the Glenbow Archives in Calgary. In 1998, after sixteen years of studying by correspondence, Mary-Jo received her BA from the University of Waterloo.

Left to mourn Mary-Jo are her husband of 59 years, Robert Burles, her children, Noel (Teresa), Jacquelyn (Ben), Warren, Mark (Monica), Heather (Gerd) and Gillian (Brian), numerous grandchildren and her sister, Daphne, as well as neighbours and friends throughout North America.

She was predeceased by an infant son, Lyndon, in 1963, and her brother Derry.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, October 22, 2009 at St. John's Anglican Church, Main St., Pincher Creek, AB, with Reverend Michael Tipper, officiating.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may donate to Kotenai Brown Pioneer Village.

P.O. Box 1226, PincherCreek, AB, T0K 1W0.

