

# COMMUNITY

## A LOOK AT BORDERLAND

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community.  
Call the Journal at 285-7411

### OBITUARIES

The Journal publishes paid obituaries in Wednesday and Saturday editions and on its Web site at [www.ifallsjournal.com](http://www.ifallsjournal.com).  
Obituaries must be submitted by 10 a.m. Tuesdays to be published in the Wednesday edition, and by 10 a.m. Thursday to be in the Saturday edition.  
All obituaries must be prepaid before they are published.  
Obituaries can be faxed to the Journal at 285-

7206; e-mailed to [tammiec@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:tammiec@ifallsjournal.com); or mailed to The Journal at 1602 Highway 71, International Falls, MN 56649.  
We encourage electronic delivery of obituaries and any accompanying photos.  
If desired, The Journal will e-mail or fax a proof of the obituary to the funeral home handling the service.  
For more information, call Tammie Calder at 285-7411.

## Marion Elenore Skurkis, 87

Marion Elenore Skurkis, 87, of Ranier, Minn., passed away Wednesday, March 11, 2015, while spending the winter in Mt. Dora, Fla.  
She courageously battled cancer and successfully completed treatment three years ago. Sadly, her cancer reoccurred and the Lord called her home.  
Born on March 3, 1928, in Scranton, Pa., Marion grew up in Cicero, Ill.  
She met and married the love of her life, Al Skurkis, and raised seven children in the home they built in Westmont, Ill.  
During a vacation on Rainy Lake in 1971, they found a cabin on Stop Island that was to become their summer retreat.  
Marion taught school at Our Lady of Peace Catholic School in Darien, Ill., which allowed her to spend summers with her children at the cabin.  
She loved to garden, paint, quilt, bake and use her creativity in numerous ways, encouraging her children and grandchildren to do the same. The cabin walls display many pieces of the resulting artwork.  
Marion enjoyed spending time with friends on the island. A highpoint was achieved when a surprise 40th wedding anniversary party was held for Marion and Al. Their children managed to decorate the cabin, set up food and drinks, and shuttle guests from their good friends and neighbors, Verner and Olga Reuter, distracted them from what was happening next door. Marion was touched by the many people who came to celebrate this special day with them.  
Marion valued education and was the first in her family to graduate from college

when she was awarded a bachelors degree from Governors State University, a feat she accomplished while working full-time and raising a family.  
She began her 29-year teaching career as one of the first teachers in a new school where she taught a combined third and fourth grade class. Having seven children of her own, she was undaunted at the prospect of teaching a class of over 40 young children.  
She later taught sixth grade full-time as well as sixth, seventh and eighth grade science classes. She organized science fairs and inspired her students to excel, many of whom won awards at local, regional and state competitions.  
She enjoyed teaching and voluntarily tutored students who needed extra attention.  
Upon her retirement, she was honored with a Mass, followed by a reception where she was given a binder full of letters from former students who described how she touched their lives in so many ways.  
Upon her retirement, Marion and Al sold the family home and headed north to make the cabin their permanent residence. Each year they anxiously waited for the ice to break so they could return to Stop Island.  
They would plant flowers and vegetables everywhere and were known on the lake for all of the hanging baskets, flower boxes and potted plants that decorated their deck. Marion often sent her children and grandchildren out to gather tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini and other veggies when she was preparing meals.  
Marion and Al would stay on the island until the lake started icing up before heading south to Florida for the



winter.  
Marion had beautiful blue eyes, a sunny smile, an infectious laugh and an unfailing devotion to her husband, family and friends.  
She was a devout Catholic and relied on her faith to overcome life's many challenges.  
She was preceded in death by her parents, Dominic and Ann Miller; her sister, Helen Bakutis; her brother, Joseph Miller; and her in-laws, Peter and Bernice Skurkis.  
She is survived by Al, her husband of 65 years; her sons, David (Judith), Barry (Cheryl), Bruce (Nina), Brian (Gloria) and Chad (Michelle), all of whom reside in Illinois; her daughters, Pamela Ripley (Brian) of Apopka, Fla., and Cheri Skurkis (Ed Rogers) of Littlefork, Minn.; and her grandchildren, Krissy (Chris), Lauren, Gareth, Ryan (Hope), Jake, Kayla, Katelyn, Jacob and Claire.  
She will be dearly missed and will forever hold a special place in the hearts of those who loved her.  
A memorial service to celebrate Marion's life will be conducted at St. Columban Catholic Church, Littlefork, to be scheduled at a future date.  
Donations may be made in Marion's name to the American Cancer Society.  
Condolences may be left at [www.Never-Gone.com](http://www.Never-Gone.com).

## ROTARY GUESTS



Marge Terry and Teresa Rom were the guests of Rotarian Ashley Hall at a recent meeting of the International Falls Rotary Club. Terry and Rom are local coordinators for the Relay for Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

# LOOKINGBACK

**25 YEARS AGO**  
International Falls tracksters Joe Roberts and Cody Christensen showed well over the weekend at the Intra State Invitational in Blaine in which the Falls placed first overall among six schools.  
Team members Molly Wood, Amber Hardwig, Becky Lindgren and Dan Wagner helped their team win a first place finish in the 4x800-meter relay at the Intra State Invitational track meet in Blaine Saturday among six other schools.  
**40 YEARS AGO**  
Jackie Geving, a senior at St. Scholastica, Duluth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Geving, will present a piano recital in Backus Auditorium on Sunday at 2:30 p.m.  
Susan M. Dahl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dahl of the Falls, has been initiated into the Rho Chi Society, a national honorary pharmacy society at North Dakota State University.  
Senior center Steve Friendt and junior forward Larry Davison were named to the Iron Range

All-Conference basketball team.  
A boy was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Frahm.  
**50 YEARS AGO**  
A girl, Candy Lynn, was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Courtland Herbert; 6 pounds, 1 ounce.  
A girl, Deborah Ann, was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Larson, Loman, 8 pounds, 13 1/2 ounces.  
Ray Berg, Backus Junior High School art teacher, has graduated from the Famous Artists Schools of Westport, Conn. Mr. Berg specialized in cartooning during his three-year course with this home study school.  
**60 YEARS AGO**  
Otis Bergvall and Alex Glowack of Air-O-Gas, Inc., 507 Third St., attended a short course gas school conducted at the University of Minnesota last week.  
Twins, a son and a daughter were born to Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Swenson, Loman Route, early yesterday morning at Falls

Memorial Hospital. The girl, Diane Gwen, weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces and her brother, David Glen, weighed 6 pounds, 6 1/2 ounces.  
Mrs. Henry Brown, Ray, was surprised with a party on her 66th birthday Wednesday.  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Katrin, 513 Ninth St., who owned and operated one of the city's oldest neighborhood groceries, announced they had turned over the business to their son, Alex, and son-in-law, Lowell Blais.  
**70 YEARS AGO**  
Louis Mannausau lost one of his best cows Thursday, when she slipped, breaking one of her legs.  
Mrs. Oscar Bergsing (nee Carolyn Bennett) was honored at a postnuptial shower at her home in Jameson Addition. Lunch was served by the hostesses, Mmes. Roger Jerome and Franz Larsen.  
Border lakes and streams have started to rid themselves of their overburden of ice, causing old-timers to search their memory for recollections of an earlier breakup. George Watson, who has lived on the bank of the Rat Root at Ericsburg for 43 years, said he couldn't remember any time when the ice moved out as early as this year.  
The Oscar Anderson family of Nett River moved to Holler last week where they will make their home while Mr. Anderson is employed in the Falls.

# There's a little HERO in all of us!

Watch for THE FLOCK around town!

## Bust out your SUPERPOWER and donate this March!

As part of the Minnesota FoodShare Campaign, Border State Bank will be a drop point for this community-wide effort. Like years past, we will match up to \$1,000.00 of funds donated!

### BE THE HERO : FIGHT HUNGER!

All donations will directly benefit Falls Hunger Coalition.

Everyone welcome to give! Need not be a BSB customer to participate!

### FIND DEALS

in The Journal Classifieds

### I WANT YOUR

Unwanted or broken gold & silver jewelry. Come on in and see Rob today!

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COMMUNITY BANKING AT ITS BEST!