

A decorative border with ornate floral and scrollwork designs in the corners and along the top and bottom edges of the page.

Sara Jarvis Huckin 'Sally' Becker

September 25, 1945 - June 7, 2011

Sara Jarvis Huckin "Sally" Becker, 65, died Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at her home in rural Hot Springs County.

Sally was born Sept. 25, 1945, in Englewood, N.J., to Shirley Jarvis Huckin and Paul T. "Pete" Huckin while her father was a naval officer at sea in the Pacific during World War II.

As a 15-year-old, Sally went on a fast to lose weight, slipped into a coma and woke up a type-1 diabetic without a functioning pancreas. That incident profoundly influenced the rest of her life. Sally received a bachelor's degree in nursing from New York's Alfred University, made lifelong friends, car camped across Europe and started her nursing career at Jackson Hole's St. John's Hospital.

Sally married Keith Becker on Jan. 18, 1969. In 1971, she moved her career to Lander Valley Regional Medical Center in Lander. They moved to Fred and Marjorie Becker's family farm in 1973 in Hot Springs County and she began 30 years of nursing at Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital while simultaneously partnering in calving, trailing and working cattle, and raising her family.

In 1983, Sally learned that her kidneys were failing. Dr. Martha Stern suggested the possibility of a new experimental pancreas transplant surgery. Sally's sister Barbara offered Sally half of her pancreas. Being uninsurable, only an extraordinary output of support from the Thermopolis and Jackson communities, plus friends around the globe, made the surgery possible in December 1983. Following the successful transplant, Sally continued nursing at Hot Springs Memorial Hospital until her vision failed during December of 2004.

She loved sunshine and open spaces, skiing, boating, gardening and travel. On the school board, she listened and learned before voicing an opinion.

Sally is survived by her husband; sons, Karl (Kim) of Occidental, Calif., and Monte (Paola) of Coyhaique, Chile, South America; daughter, Sonja of Thermopolis; sister, Barbara (Dick) of Jackson; brother, Tom (Christiane) of Utah; and numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Cremation has taken place and at Sally's request, there will be no formal services, only a family gathering in July.