

Helen Tihista Marks

PASADENA, Calif. — Helen Tihista Marks, 83, formerly of Glasgow, Mont., died Saturday, July 3, 2010, at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena.

A vigil service begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 8, with the Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Friday, July 9, both at St. Raphael's Catholic Church in Glasgow. Interment will be in Highland Cemetery. Bell Mortuary in Glasgow is in charge of arrangements.



HELEN MARKS

Helen Marks was born prematurely in Poplar, Mont., in 1927 and kept alive in an improvised shoebox incubator, kept warm by the family cook stove. Even after beating the odds and surviving, she shared the same destiny as every other baby girl of her time, some school, then marriage, children, grandchildren and life on the farm.

However, early on she realized she had a gift. She could help people and make their lives better. She didn't settle for the easy way; she chose her own destiny.

She married, lived on a farm, had four children and six grandchildren. But first, she graduated from nursing school in 1946 just after the end of World War II, caring for returning veterans. She met and fell in love with one of them, Everest Marks, and they were married for almost 40 years. Throughout that time, she continued her nursing career, giving her all to help her family, her friends and her community. Eventually she became Head Nurse at the Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital in Glasgow.

In 1999, she moved from Glasgow to Pasadena to be with her daughter and her family.

She was humble, quiet, unassuming and cared deeply. She gave of herself unselfishly and willingly, even when it seemed she had no more to give.

On Saturday July 3, Helen suffered a heart attack and died suddenly. She was surrounded by family and friends.

She is survived by her four children, Suzanne Marks (Tony Nino) of Pasadena, Steven Marks (Debbie) of Port Charlotte, Fla., Mitchell Marks (Mel Holm) of Plymouth, Minn., and Paulette Schneider (Doug) of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.; six grandchildren, and her ex-husband, Everest Marks of Saco, Mont. She will be greatly missed.