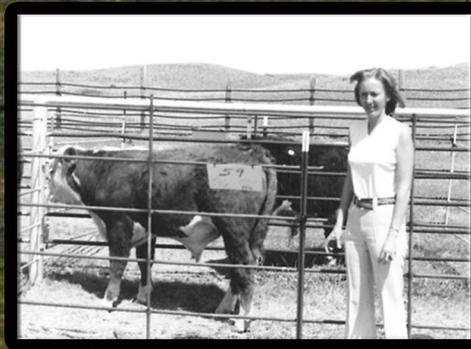


The first of John and Anne (Lane) Pehl's children, Carol was born Oct. 9, 1954 in Terry Mont. She attended twelve years of school at Terry, graduating as Valedictorian in 1972, and excelling in music and academics. She was active for 9 years in 4-H, attending several State 4-H congress events, and the National Citizenship short course in Washington DC. Attending Montana State University on an academic scholarship, Carol Anne graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Ag Production - Range Science, with highest honors. Awarded the outstanding student in Agriculture in 1976, she served in many organizations while at the University including: MSU Range club officer and judging team delegate to International SRM meetings twice, President of Association of Women Students, member of and crew leader for MSU Range research projects for summers throughout the state, International Farm Youth Exchangee to Australia and Tasmania for 7 months, and life member of Society for Range Management. She was also a TA mostly to Dr. Don Ryerson and was remembered by many for teaching his Range 203 class and labs spring quarter for 3 years. After graduation, Carol remained close with Drs Ryerson, Taylor, and Payne as well as their families. She even started a scholarship in their names. She organized three "Range Reunions" for students and staff to keep in touch. She also helped with Montana Range Days as an instructor and trainer a few times, and she took children to participate, including her own. If you attended a 4H or FFA range contest in southeastern Montana it was a safe bet that she had helped set it up or had students there competing. Carol met Tom at a SRM national meeting in Nebraska in February 1976, and would marry him September 23, 1978 in Terry. They lived at Miles City, Melstone, Hyattville Wyo, Colstrip, and Rosebud before coming back to the Sparks family ranch near Plevna Montana. To this union four children were born: Frank Andrew, Katherine Anne, George Thomas, and William Lee. Through the years on the ranch Carol Anne was a member of WIFE, Ag in Montana schools as an instructor until it closed, Willard Homemakers for 40 years, Red Butte Ramblers 4-H leader for 30 Years, Member of the Baker Community Church for 40 years serving in all capacities at various times, and served 12 Years on Fallon County Library Board . She also was a member of Miles Community College Advisory Board, MSU College of AG Advisory Council serving as Chair for many years, worked with Sustainable Ag Grant to monitor Rangeland throughout

Eastern Montana, served on the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund committee, and was a recipient of Honorary Chapter and State Farmer Degrees from FFA, as well as had four children that received American Farmer FFA degrees. Carol was an advocate for donating blood and was an organ donor. Carol was also an entrepreneur, starting a business called Montana Prairie Products with her friend Jan Pratt in 1984, and becoming sole proprietor 3 years later. During blooming months, she rarely went anywhere without a shovel and plant press. This business provided range plant mounts and agronomy seed identification for high school and collegiate students in nearly every Montana school ag program and many in North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming to this day. Over 15,000 plants have been sent out. She also developed a plant identification program called virtual herbarium. Carol Anne was a very thorough, gracious and accomplished leader, devoted to her family, church and an inspiration to all. Raised as a farmer's daughter near Terry she quickly adapted to ranching and became an integral part of Sparks Herefords. She loved morning chores and checking water as well as running equipment including swather and raking hay. She also enjoyed hosting several IFYE students through the years as well as kept in touch with the families that had hosted her. Survivors include Husband Tom, Son Frank, Daughter Katy, Son George and wife Jessica, Son Will and wife Jimmie; Grandchildren, Paige, Kix, Coy, Charlee, Cotton, Guthrie; Brothers Andrew, (Nancy) Pehl, Terry, MT; Wade (Velda)Pehl, Bozeman; Sister, Mary, (John) LeMeiux, Manning ND. Brothers-in-law, James Sparks, Stanford MT, Donald (Judy) Sparks, Bowman, ND. Preceded in death by her parents, John and Anne Pehl. In lieu of flowers please make a contribution to the Payne/Ryerson/Taylor Scholarship Montana State University Foundation, PO Box 172750, Bozeman, MT 59701 or Baker Community Church in memory of Carol.

Carol Anne Sparks

October 9, 1954 - October 19, 2025



Mom

Goodbyes are never easy
At least for me anyway
There is just so much left to do
So much left to say

We will think of you each season
When the grass and hay begins to grow
When chinook winds bring relief
And melt the winter snow

Your special care for calves and grandkids
You gave to all in need
Were firm and strong and always there
To make sure we all succeed

A lifetime helping others
That went unnoticed somehow
A life of dedicated service
That went overlooked until now

We know that you watch over us
As we do our best to make it through
We will gather all the strength and courage
That we have because of you

You taught us all so well
To have a friend in Jesus
So it brings us comfort now
To know you're both looking over us

We will carry on
Not because we can, but because we must
We will follow in the footsteps
That you laid out for us

But by far, the hardest part
Of all we have to do
Is face each tomorrow knowing
That we have to do it without you



Carol Anne Sparks

FUNERAL SERVICE:

Monday, October 27, 2025 10:30 a.m.
Baker Community Church
Baker, Montana

PRAYER SERVICE:

Sunday, October 26, 2025 4:00 pm
Stevenson Funeral Home
Baker, Montana

OFFICIATING:

Pastor Sherwood McKay

MUSIC:

Synneva Meldahl & Holly Seifert

PALLBEARERS:

Calvin Thornberg	David Pratt
Fred Sparks	Ben Pehl
Jim Reetz	Wayne Leininger

INTERMENT:

Lame Jones Cemetery
Rural Plevna, Montana

ARRANGEMENTS BY:

Stevenson Funeral Home
Baker, Montana

*Lunch will be served at the Sparks Ranch
following the committal service.
Everyone is welcome.*