## **Evelyn Livingston Furman**

Born April 1913 Died February 16, 2011

With deep sorrow, the family of Evelyn Livingston Furman announces the end of her life here on earth. Evelyn now resides in her Heavenly home where she rejoices with Jesus her Savior, her family, and friends. Pioneer spirit was the "steering wheel" of her life. The road map included significant stops along the way:



- a young woman seeking a college degree
- a young woman taking a summer job with the family of a geologist to travel from the prairies of Minnesota to the majestic mountains of Leadville. The geologist was working on a mining venture with the now famous "Baby Doe Tabor"
- a young woman now deciding to stay in this spectacular, historical city and make it her home forever marrying a miner...Gordon Furman and living in a miners cabin not far from Baby Doe and the Matchless Mine
- a young woman going door-to-door selling first one Maytag washing machine then two, finally building a furniture and appliance business with her husband who had just lost his right arm in an ore crusher.

Her aptitude for business now unleashed, success in this area generally reserved for men was guaranteed. Interest in the Tabor family history grew through the years and when the Elks Lodge decided to sell the Tabor Opera House in 1955, this woman found a way to purchase it and preserve its history. During the summer months the Tabor was the highlight of her life as she shared the past with visitors from all over the world before tourism was an important part of Leadville. Then the author in Evelyn appeared as she wrote four books about the infamous Tabors. This was a woman who didn't know or even care to know what discrimination was, she simply saw a need, took up the challenge, and fought her way to a successful completion of each venture. One of the first two women to vote, she proudly cast her vote in Leadville. This country with its freedom to pursue dreams was fiercely important to her during the almost 98 years of her life.

Evelyn treasured her family and gave from her heart all that she had to give. She is survived by one daughter, Sharon Bland (Bill), two grandchildren; Heather Cumpston (Ted), and Richard Krueger. Great grand children; Nikole Cumpston, Marc Cumpston, and Kyler Krueger. Through Sharon's marriage to Bill the family wrapped its arms around Bill's son Jeff Bland, daughter Jackie Hunt (Brian) and three more great grandchildren; Josh, Bethany, and Austin.

A viewing at the Bailey Funeral Parlor in Leadville will take place on Saturday February 19th from 1:00PM - 3:00PM. Fulfilling Evelyn's wishes, the funeral will be held in the Historic Tabor Opera House, Sunday, February 20th at 2:00 PM. For those that would like to attend but can't make it, we will be webcasting the services live at www.taboroperahouse.net. There will be a reception following the service at the Elks Lodge where all are welcome.