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## **Irene Freeman**

MONTROSE - Irene Freeman, age 88, of Montrose, died Wednesday morning, July 28, 2004, at the Valley Manor Care Center in Montrose.

Irene Elizabeth Miller, the daughter of Beryl and Lloyd Miller, was born near Las Animas, Colo., on Feb. 5, 1916. She grew up in Northern New Mexico and graduated from high school in Dawson, N.M. Her last year in high school, Irene met and fell in love with Jack Freeman. They were married on May 12, 1934, in Trinidad, Colo. Their first child, a daughter Catherine, was born in Dawson, N.M., on April 5, 1935. Their second child, a son Russell, was born in Mancos, Colo., on July 7, 1938.

Shortly thereafter, the couple moved to Silverton, Colo., where Jack was engaged in the salvage of old mines, mills, railroads and other properties. During World War II, while Jack was serving his country in the United States Army, Irene and their children lived with Irene's parents in Albuquerque, N.M. After Jack was discharged from the U.S. Army, they stayed in Bernalillo, N.M., for two years before returning to the Silverton, Colo., area.

The Freeman family lived in Eureka, Colo., now a ghost town, while salvaging the mine and mill properties there. In late 1952, Jack and Irene moved their family to Montrose, Colo., where they established a business on West Main Street. They continued to live on West Main Street until they sold the business and retired in 1985. After their retirement, they moved to 402 South Mesa Ave. in Montrose, where Irene continued to make her home after Jack passed away in 1988.

Irene is survived by two children: Catherine Irene Spengler, of Denver, Colo.; Lloyd Russell Freeman, of Pagosa Springs, Colo.; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and her younger sister, Mildred Viola Miller, who is at the San Juan Living Center in Montrose.

A memorial service will be officiated on Sunday, Aug. 1, at 3 p.m. at the Grace Baptist Church in Montrose. Inurnment will follow in the Valley Lawns Cemetery, south of Montrose. The family suggests memorial contributions may be made to: Montrose Memorial Hospital, In Memory of Irene Freeman, 800 S. Third St., Montrose, CO 81401 or Grace Baptist Church, In Memory of Irene Freeman, 1020 S. Fifth St., Montrose, CO 81401.

Arrangements are being handled under the direction and care of the Crippin Funeral Home & Crematory of Montrose, (970) 249-2121.