



Doris Caldwell

July 4, 1914 - January 9, 2011

After 96 and a half years of lovely living, Doris Charlotte Conger Caldwell died peacefully in her sleep on the morning of January 9th at her Corvallis home. She leaves a wonderful legacy for her family, her friends and the Corvallis community. Doris was born on the Fourth of July in 1914 near Jacksonville, Oregon. She always said that was the best day for a birthday, as the whole country celebrated. She was the third of four children born to her farmer parents, Henry and Emma Conger. Doris originally attended a one-room schoolhouse and later graduated from Medford High School.

As a teenager, she worked as an usher in a family –owned theater, and after graduation, worked several years for the Jackson County Home Extension Service and Newberry’s Department Store to save money for college.

In 1936, Doris came to Corvallis to attend Oregon State College. She majored in secretarial science, and joined the Sigma Kappa sorority, a membership she treasured the rest of her life. She worked as a secretary in the chemistry department, where she met Professor Dr. William E. Caldwell (Bill), whom she married in 1938.

After Doris’ graduation from Oregon State in 1941, the couple was sent by the U. S. Army to serve with the Chemical Corps in Maryland during World War II. While they were there, their first two children, Kathy and Will, were born. After the war, the couple returned to Oregon State, where Bill resumed his chemistry professorship. Two more children were born in Corvallis: Lynn and Karen.

Doris became active in the community, and was a bridge enthusiast, longtime badminton player and avid golfer. She was proud to be a member of the Corvallis Country Club for more than 72 years, and was the first person to hit a golf ball at the opening of Oregon State University's Trysting Tree Golf Course. She was also a member of the OSU Folk Club for more than 70 years.

In 1967, Doris was one of the original organizers of the Assistance League of Corvallis, and became a charter member and early president. She continued to be active in the league for 40-plus years. She was also a loyal member of Chapter CL of PEO for 46 years. In her later years, she was instrumental in the development of Stoneybrook Retirement Village.

Doris and Bill traveled all over the world, often taking their children on educational trips. They felt that "A rolling stone gathers no moss, but acquires polish." On her 75th birthday, Doris took a hot-air balloon trip over Kenya, Africa, and recited a favorite family poem upon landing.

Doris was always generous, loving, cheerful and kind. With her husband and family, she shared enormous time, energy, pride and leadership in local schools, the city, politics, philanthropy, OSU and church.

Bill Caldwell died in 1972, but Doris is survived by her four children, Kathryn Wood and Lynn Nordhausen (with Harald), both of Corvallis, Will Caldwell (with Julie) of Sun Valley, Idaho, and Karen Hogensen of San Antonio, Texas. She also has eight grandchildren: Kelli (Ross Segelken), Karina (Joe Stoner), Jesse (Jacque Nordhausen), Hannah (Jeff Hamilton), Wyatt, Henry, Yancy and Scarlet; and twin great granddaughters, Ruby and Violet.

A celebration of life will take place at 2 pm Saturday, January 15th at First Presbyterian Church, Eighth Street and Monroe Avenue in Corvallis. Memorial contributions to the Assistance League of Corvallis are appreciated and can be made through McHenry Funeral Home 206 NW Fifth St., Corvallis, Oregon 97330. A private burial will take place at Oak Lawn Memorial Park.