



Edith Jay Thompson

February 8, 1930 - October 23, 2025

A new Angel arrived in Heaven in the early morning of October 23, 2025.

Edith began life in Bisbee, Arizona on February 8th, 1930, middle child of Henry and Gertrude Buff Waters. Born during the Great Depression, she knew what it was like to be poor. Even as a child she worked with her sharecropping family to tend onion fields, then later as a teen ushered at the local theater and helped her mother to clean house. She left school at 17 to marry Harold “Sonny” Denning, and she later completed her GED at LBCC at the age of 70, to demonstrate to her grandchildren the value of education.

During her nearly 50-year marriage to Sonny, they relocated many times between Arizona, California, Colorado, and Oregon while Sonny, an accomplished mechanic, tried his hand at several jobs. They raised three sons: Harley, Ron, and Rick, and enjoyed many outdoors activities through the years: camping, fishing, and hunting. Once the boys were in school, she worked as a housekeeper for Corvallis families, and continued that work into her 80s. Many of those families stayed in touch with her.

Sonny passed away in 1996, and in 2001 Edith married Ivan Thompson of Sweet Home, where they lived until his death in 2009. She briefly moved back to Arizona, but decided that Oregon was home and returned.

Edith was preceded in death by her husbands and her son Rick, her daughters-in-law Sandy, Lynn and Sharon, and step-great-grandsons Joseph and Zachary. She outlived all of her siblings: Everett Waters, Kathleen Whisman, Lorene Fields and Ron Waters. She is survived by sons Harley and Ron; grandson Heath Denning, wife Brittney and their seven children; Mike Denning and his wife Tonya and their four children; granddaughter Tamy Norton and her husband John; granddaughter Robin Denning and her daughter Chyanne; her daughter-in-law Diane Jarvi and her children Shannon, Tiffany and Shane and their offspring, including her first great-great-grandchild; and her Thompson stepchildren, step-grandchildren, and step-great-grandchildren. She loved them all and tried her best to keep up with their activities. Edith was a beloved aunt to many nieces and nephews who kept in touch and visited her often. One granddaughter/guardian angel in particular, Tamy Norton, deserves gratitude for her kindness and devotion to her Grandma in her final years.

Edith's family and friends will remember her for that friendly and cheerful welcoming smile, her accomplished quilting talent, her enduring family ties, and the example she set with a strong work ethic and spiritual faith. At Edith's request, there is to be no formal funeral service, so a celebration of life will be announced in a few weeks.

Tribute Wall

SW

“ I will forever remember her smiling. I never saw her when she wasn't smiling! So friendly and sweet. My Mom, Edda's , best friend for so many years. I am so sorry, Harley and Ron and your entire family. I will never forget Edith. Sue Reed Wery.

Sue Reed Wery - March 02 at 08:52 PM

LB

“ She was like an Aunt to me.....I grew up calling her aunt Edit (and Uncle Sonny) I still have the letter she wrote and sent to me when I moved to New Zealand. She was a great lady! .

Linda Boughman - November 12, 2025 at 05:46 PM

DC

“ Dearest Edith,
You have earned your heavenly reward, but selfishly those of us you left behind miss you greatly. It was always such a pleasure to visit you, even as age robbed you of your ability to do the things you enjoyed, except watching westerns on TV, of course. I am grateful that I happened along at the time you were ready to share the journals you had kept for decades and transcribe them into a book that is the story of your life: *The Girl from Bisbee*. I'm sure that you have been reunited with your loved ones who have passed and you are chatting about the good old days. Your family was lucky indeed to have such a loving, respectable, pleasant and reliable matriarch.
Love,
Dulcie

Dulcie Chatwood - November 10, 2025 at 09:47 AM

TN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tamy Norton - November 02, 2025 at 12:51 PM

SN

“ *I was so sorry to hear of Edith's passing. I met Edith when I first moved into Samaritan Village Retirement Community in Corvallis. She reminded me of one of my favorite aunts. We became instant friends. We shared the love of quilting, making a Christmas quilt together. I treasure that quilt and love to share it with friends. We enjoyed visiting, sharing funny stories and occasionally watching an Oregon State game. Edith will always have a special place in my heart. I hope for Edith's family that memories of her put a smile on your hearts. Sandy Nored*

Sandy Nored - October 30, 2025 at 12:39 AM