



Kathryn Frischknecht

September 29, 1921 - November 2, 2015

Kathryn Sorensen Frischknecht of Corvallis passed away peacefully in her home with loving family at her bedside on Nov. 2, 2015 — a few weeks after her 94th birthday.

She was born in Ephraim, Utah, to Soren O. and Mary (Tooth) Sorensen on Sept. 29, 1921. Kathryn attended Ephraim schools until age 16 when her family moved seven miles to Manti, where she graduated before heading off to college. She was a skilled seamstress and during high school made most her own clothes for school, church and social activities. Kathryn was active in athletics including swimming, diving, tennis and track & field hurdles. She took up fencing in college.

Soon after moving to Manti at age 16, she met her future husband of 72 years, W. Dean Frischknecht. They were both students at Utah State University when they were married on Feb. 20, 1941. When Dean completed his master's degree, he joined the Marines and served in the Pacific during World War II, and Kathryn returned to Manti to sew parachutes for the war effort. When the war ended, Dean had a position waiting for him as sheep manager for Deseret Livestock Company, and Kathryn was homemaker for their growing family, managing three different households as the family moved three times a year to different locations to be near the 40,000 sheep on 500,000 acres of range land in Northern Utah. Winter home was in the Great Salt Lake Desert, spring meant a move to the hills of the eastern slope of the Wasatch Range and summer was spent in the high country near Monte Cristo.

For eight years their spring and summer homes were rustic two-room cabins with wood stove and no electricity or running water. Their first winter home had more amenities, including running water and a kerosene-powered washing machine. When their oldest child was ready for first grade, the family moved to the small desert town of Grantsville and for the first time enjoyed electricity in their home. In 1956, Dean accepted a position with the Extension Service as Livestock Specialist at Oregon State University, and Dean, Kathryn and their four children relocated to Corvallis. Kathryn kept busy with children's school, church activities and building a large circle of friends. She served as 4-H sewing judge and enjoyed the Corvallis Garden Club. Kathryn was an avid reader and built an impressive personal library. She worked 24 years in the OSU Bookstore which meant her grandchildren and great-grandchildren received many children's classics for birthday gifts and other special occasions. Kathryn was a lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She is remembered for her devotion to family and compassion for those in need. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren will miss her ready smile, hugs, 4 o'clock treats and freezer full of ice cream. Kathryn is survived by son Dean (Irina); daughter Diane (Greg) Merten; daughter-in-law Candace Hayes (Dale C.); sister-in-law Jean (Clair); nine grandchildren; and 28 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by husband, Dean in 2013; son Dale C.; daughter Doris Frischknecht Opager; and grandson Scott F. Merten.

A private family memorial will be held and burial at Manti, Utah, City Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

BW

“ *Diane, My condolences on the death of your mother. My memories of her are all of a bright, cheerful, and helpful lady. Best personal wishes to you. Bill Wilkins*

Bill Wilkins - November 10, 2015 at 04:42 PM

SS

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Kathryn - one of my "Moms" at the OSU Book Store. Such a hearty laugh and sense of humor. A very strong woman, who dealt with the loss of children at young ages. She was always so willing to help me out when I used to do the scheduling for rushes, the Post Office, and the cashier's office. I missed seeing her when I was in Corvallis this year, and now I'm very sorry.....Hugs to the family! From Nebraska, Stan Selfridge*

Stan Selfridge - November 03, 2015 at 04:36 PM