



Mary Spaeth

January 30, 1932 - November 22, 2011

Mary Nichols Arragon Spaeth, 79, died Nov. 22 at her home in Corvallis. She was born on Jan. 30, 1932, in Portland to Professor Reginald F. Arragon and Gertrude Nichols Arragon. Except for a year in England, she spent her childhood years in Portland, attending the Hillside School and graduating from the Catlin School in 1949. She graduated from Reed College in 1953. It was while at Reed that she met her future husband, Joe L. Spaeth.

She got her master's degree in library science from Columbia University, New York City, in 1954. She returned to Portland, where she and Joe, then a graduate student at the University of Chicago, were married on Aug. 28, 1954, in the Reed College Chapel after a three-year engagement.

While Joe continued his studies, Mary worked in the library of the Chicago Historical Society until the birth of their first son, Donald, in December 1956, followed by Alan in March 1960. Mary remained a stay-at-home mother until 1967, when she became editorial director at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.

In 1971, she and Joe moved to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she was editor and librarian (with a variety of titles) in the Survey Research Laboratory until her retirement in February 1992. When she retired, she became an honorary life member of the American Association of Public Opinion Research.

After Joe retired the following year, they moved back to the Pacific Northwest, and settled in Corvallis. They became avid golfers, playing not only at the

Corvallis Country Club but at courses during their travels throughout the West. Mary is survived by Joe, her husband of 57 years; and by sons Donald (Tamasine) of Glasgow, Scotland, and Alan (Margaret Danahy) of Beaverton.