



Yvonne Catherine Peckham

November 24, 1934 - April 6, 2017

Yvonne Peckham, 82, passed away peacefully with her immediate family present at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Her life journey began in Garden City, Kansas, born to Clarence and Catherine Speer, also of Corvallis.

Her memorial headstone is below her parents' on their plot at Oak Lawn Memorial Park.

She lived in Boise, Idaho, Mountain View and Twain Harte, California, where she met her future husband, soulmate and best friend, Chuck. They were married in Sonora's historic Red Church in December 1955.

Because her Dad was a contractor, she never lived in the same house more than two years until moving to Corvallis in 1965 where she lived in the same home for 50 years.

Vonne attended San Jose State and Westmont College. After marriage she earned her PHT degree (Pushing Hubby Through) in San Luis Obispo.

Being a voracious reader, she worked for both libraries at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and U.C. Berkeley. Her job was to read new books so they would be

cataloged accurately.

She helped remodel the Spanish style Arch Street firehouse into their home in Berkeley.

As the family grew she quit work and was a 'full-time' mom helping in Blue Birds, Cub Scouts, Boys and Girls Club and 4H.

She volunteered in Assistance League and the OSU Thrift Shop and was a President of the OSU Folk Club. She was member of PEO chapter DQ.

Yvonne was a camper. Even though she had a trailer or RV most of her life, she needed to 'tent camp' at least once a year. In fact, one time after buying a new RV, she gave the beds to our guests and set up a tent. In the middle of the night, when we had to use the outhouses, we roared with laughter at the irony of our situation.

She was a skilled abalone pounder, crab cracker, frog skinner, oyster shucker, and clam and crawdad steamer. Once, seeing three fishermen on a bridge over the Santiam River, she stopped and, lacking a pole and reel, dropped her line from a spool down to the water. She immediately pulled up a trout, hand over hand, and repeated successfully two more times. She left when the men crowded her out of her place.

Vonne enjoyed and encouraged family travel by car throughout the United States while her children were in elementary and high school so they could experience U.S. history and cuisine. Later, she and her husband travelled extensively, often by car, through Mexico and Guatemala where she was fairly fluent in Spanish.

Yvonne is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, Charles 'Chuck'

Peckham and daughter Peri Anne of Portland, twin sons Kirk and Kenneth of the Seattle area; grandsons Bret, Flynn, Cade, Cole, Blake and granddaughter Devyn.

Vonne's compassionate heart, sympathetic ear and sense of humor will be missed by everyone her life has touched.

A celebration of life will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 20 (yes, the day before the eclipse) at the First Presbyterian Church Dennis Hall. Enter on 9th Street. Food will be provided and a visit to Oak Lawn Memorial Park will follow.

Donations can be made in her memory to OSU Thrift Shop or the Benton County Museum.