

EAST OREGONIAN

Wilma Margaret Gorton Hanks

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Hanks

Wilma Margaret Gorton Hanks passed away at her home in Pendleton on March 18, 2017, at the age of 90. Wilma was born January 29, 1927, in Salem, Oregon, to O.W. (Bob) and Lois Gorton.

For the first 22 years of her life, Wilma lived in Salem where she attended grade school, high school, and college. As a teenage girl in the 1940s Wilma demonstrated her support for the war by volunteering as a plane spotter, riding her bike to a nearby field with a pair of binoculars around her neck to search for enemy planes. Wilma was also very involved in volunteering at the local hospital during the war. She took classes from the American Red Cross and received her Nurse's Aide cap in 1945.

Wilma's interest in nursing led her to Willamette University where she majored in biology. Shortly after she started college Wilma met a fellow student, a tall dark-haired guy with a car. She and Blaine T. Hanks were married in Salem on July 12th, 1947. Wilma continued her studies at Willamette and graduated in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

In late 1949, Wilma and Blaine moved to McMinnville so that Blaine could pursue his radio broadcasting career. In 1952, they made another career move to Portland where they lived for 16 years. Wilma spent her Portland years as a very busy mom and homemaker for her husband and five children. Wilma was an excellent seamstress and made many clothes for herself and her children. She also enjoyed bowling and for many years was a member of a bowling league in Portland and later in Pendleton.

In 1968, the family moved to Pendleton so that Blaine could start a radio broadcasting program at Blue Mountain Community College. Now that her children were becoming more independent, Wilma was able to pursue some of her own interests. She took classes at BMCC and was an active of the Community College Theater where she worked as the props manager on many plays and also served as vice president of the theater board. Wilma showed even more of her creative side during this time by taking up photography and painting.

In 1974, Wilma started working as an administrator for the East Central Oregon Association of Counties (now CAPECO). She assumed increasing responsibilities over the years until her retirement in 1992. After her retirement, Wilma continued to work part-time for the Pendleton Downtown Merchants Association and the Grand Finale



Consignments clothing store.

Wilma loved her family, her friends, the Oregon coast, Hawaii, planting flowers in the springtime, movies, chocolate and animals, especially cats and hippos. Her lifelong passion was for the written word, her love of reading and solving crossword puzzles was legendary. Wilma also loved to spend time at the Great Pacific Wine and Coffee Company owned by her daughter Carol Hanks and partner Ken Schulberg. Wilma spent many an hour there sharing meals with family and friends or sitting alone reading her book and enjoying a glass of wine.

Wilma was able to live in her home until her death. Over the past two years, she enjoyed many visits from her family and friends including almost daily visits from her longtime friend, Pat Amsberry.

Wilma's family and friends will greatly miss her warm smile, her gentle spirit, and her delightful sense of humor.

Wilma is survived by her brother Dale Gorton of Independence, Ore; daughters Nancy Hanks Kroy (Patrick Kroy) of Ojai, Calif., Mary Hanks (Donna Hudson) of Seattle, and Carol Hanks (Ken Schulberg) of Pendleton; son Stephen Hanks of Weston, Colo.; grandsons Blaine Ryan Hanks of Caldwell, Idaho, and Addison Hanks Schulberg (Zoe Holmes) of Pendleton; daughter-in-law Tammy Card and her son Mitchell Card of Caldwell, Idaho; and many nieces and nephews.

Wilma was preceded in death by her brother Lloyd Gorton, her sister Jean Wehri, her husband Blaine T. Hanks, and her son David M. Hanks.

The Hanks family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the medical staff at CHI St. Anthony Hospital and to the staff at CHI St. Anthony Hospice for their excellent care of Wilma. A special thank you goes to Jane Nichols Fleming and Angela Boston for their compassionate care of Mom and kind support to the family.

Wilma's family and friends are invited to an informal "Celebration of Life" which will be held on Sunday May 7, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Great Pacific Wine and Coffee Company.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.pioneerchapel.com



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