



Dorothy M. Forsell

July 24, 1924 - May 2, 2020

Dorothy Forsell, 95

July 24, 1924-May 2, 2020

Dorothy Forsell took her last breath listening to music on Saturday, May 2, 2020, shortly before noon.

Dorothy Mae was born in Independence, Missouri, on July 24, 1924, to Joe and Mary (Toth) Ponack (shortened from Serbian Potkonjak). Nine months later, they packed their new car and moved to bustling Butte, arriving during a snowstorm, Dorothy sick with whooping cough. Joe was a miner and later a barber with shops on Wyoming, then East Park Street.

The family settled in McQueen on Willow Street, and at age 2 Dorothy met her lifelong friends, Mary Petritz, who lived next door, and Elaine Hosking, who lived across the alley on Hazel. After first grade at Franklin School, Dorothy moved to 2255 Hickory Street in East Butte, where the family lived until Dorothy's eighth-grade graduation from Harrison School. Her freshman year, they lived in the Amos Flats, 932 E. Mercury, and then they moved to 122 S. Warren. Dorothy shared fond memories of East Butte backyard gardens and riding the street cars and the Dinky to the movie theaters and candy stores Uptown.

She graduated from Butte High in 1941 and went right to work – first at Western Plumbing and Electric, a little later as secretary to the president of Hennessy's. She loved office work, including at Cooney Brokerage, Hall-Perry,

Jimmy Shea Insurance, Don Ulrich Insurance, and finally retiring from FNI Insurance in 1982.

She met her future husband, Bob Forsell, while working at Gamer's Shoe Store with Bob's uncle, Freddy Pfaff. They married on January 20, 1946, a union lasting 48 years until his death in 1994.

Love of dancing brought them together, and they spent many happy evenings at the Elks. They also loved to bowl and play cards.

Bob built the family home at 2011 Carolina, and Dorothy was happiest when her kitchen table was full of family and friends playing games or sharing meals. She remained there until 2015, enjoying her views of the rising moon and Our Lady of the Rockies.

Dorothy belonged to the Copper City Women's Club, the Carpenters Union Ladies Auxiliary, and prayer groups at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, where she also volunteered after retirement. In addition, she was on the organizing committee for all of her high school class reunions.

Survivors include daughters, Arlette Chew, Pat (Dick) Wright, and Bobbi (Mark) Stauffer; grandchildren, Robert (Samanthika) Tate, Kristin (Kevin) Cullen, Whitney (fiancé Zach) Wright, Taylor (Bryce) Foley, and Dylan and Lauren Stauffer; great-grandsons, Mason Tate, Konrad and Keaton Cullen, and Carter Foley; sister, Nadine Langan, and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents and husband, she was pre-deceased by in-laws, Morgan Langan, Adeline and Albert "Swede" Forsell, Jim Forsell, and Barbara and Bill Lehfeltdt, and her second long-time dancing partner, Barney Petrich.

The family is grateful for the staff at The Springs, where Dorothy lived independently these last five years, with special thanks to Cherie and Andrew. Sadly, due to COVID-19, only private family services will be held. Memorials may be made to the Spirit of Columbia Gardens Carousel. Dorothy was so happy she got to enjoy several rides!

Cemetery Details

Mountain View Cemetery

3910 Harrison Avenue
Butte, MT 59701

Tribute Wall

JF

“ I'm sorry to hear of your loss. I remember your mother well. My earliest memory was when she lived on Warren Ave. and my mother and I would often visit as we walked from my grandmother's house on East Park Street. I saw her last with toy, Pat, at the Folk Festival. Once again, My condolences.

Joe Fontana

joefontana - May 12, 2020 at 06:23 PM

PW

Thanks Joe! We created many fond memories with your folks, Louis and Ann, as children. I fell so blessed to have had Mom for so long!
Pat Wright

Pat Wright - May 24, 2020 at 11:50 AM

LR

“ *My sincere condolences to all of your family, I first met Dorothy when my husband, Dave, and Bob were both carpenters in Butte. Dorothy and I served on the Carpenter's Auxiliary together I enjoyed seeing her at St. John's Church and Safeway. I also met one of her daughters through my daughter, Laurie Rossberg when she was teaching her kids. My prayers are with you. Sincerely, Pat Sullivan*

Laurie Rossberg - May 11, 2020 at 08:36 PM

PW

Thanks Pat! She always enjoyed running into you. Hope you are well and hello to Laurie. She taught my family at East!!
Pat Forsell Wright

Pat Wright - May 24, 2020 at 11:53 AM

KC

“ Dorothy was a class act and I am so grateful I had the chance to know her. My deepest sympathy to her lovely family.

Karla Canavan - May 09, 2020 at 12:09 PM

JP

“ Dear Patti, so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. Sounds like she was a wonderful person. Sincerely, Jim Polich

Jim Polich - May 07, 2020 at 10:42 AM

EW

“ So very sorry for your loss. I know you have many fond memories of Dorothy. Our thoughts and well wishes are with the Forsell family.”

Ed and Susan Wakefield

Ed Wakefield - May 06, 2020 at 05:26 PM

BF

“ We are so sorry to hear of your loss. May fond and loving memories help you to find peace. Our thoughts are with you.

Sincerely, Bill and Becky Finnegan

Becky Finnegan - May 06, 2020 at 04:44 PM

WS

“ So sad to read Dorothys obit but joyful for the wonderful life she lived and the beautiful light she was in the world. Happy I got to know her. Sorry for your familys loss. Love and Light Wanda Swann

Wanda Swann - May 06, 2020 at 10:11 AM



“ *Marlette, Pat, Bobbi and all of Dorothy's family. I am honored to have been mentioned in her obituary she was like family to me and truly a classy gal full of life and zest. I will always cherish the great memories I have of her and all our time together. She loved our old fashioned sing alongs, mind grind word games and tea parties at my place among others. I will miss her hug after her appointments. I loved her like my own family! And she offered her grandmotherly opinion of different hairstyles I would get and my tattoos. Love and thinking of you all!*

Andrew Zemljak - May 05, 2020 at 11:00 PM



“ *Our condolences to you all on the loss of your Mom, Grandma, Great grandma! She was a lovely, feisty lady with a ready smile. Prayers from Judy and Randy*

Judy Senf - May 05, 2020 at 01:29 PM

LJ

My thoughts and sympathy to Pat, Bobbie and Arlette for the loss of your mom. She had a good life and I'm sure she's doing what she loved, dancing in heaven! God bless all of you.

Louette Jaeger - May 06, 2020 at 04:33 PM

GO

“ *Bobbi, sorry to hear the news. Your mom was so joyful and engaging and you could see it in her children. What a nicely written obituary notice. She had a full life in true Butte fashion and you should all celebrate that.*

— *Gerry O'Brien and family from Oregon.*

Gerard OBrien - May 05, 2020 at 11:35 AM

DH

“ My deepest condolences to Dorothy's family. I got to know Dorothy over the past few years as her and my Aunt Fran were best buds at the Springs. She was an angel and a beautiful soul. She was a dear friend all the way to the end with my aunt. She would sit with her in the afternoons until I arrived there. She would then go down to dine and stop to say goodnight on her way back. She was adorable and always had a hug for me. Pat and family I appreciated her and am sending you my love and prayers. Dawn Holter

Dawn Holter - May 04, 2020 at 05:32 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - May 04, 2020 at 04:35 PM