



Catherine Ann Cracraft

April 7, 1922 - December 26, 2019

Catherine Cracraft, age 97, of Corvallis, died Thursday, December 26, 2019. Catherine was born in 1922 and raised in Corvallis Oregon, the daughter of Fred and Anna Fischer. Her father, Frederick built and operated the Fischer Flour Mill on the Willamette River. She and her younger brother William both graduated from Corvallis High School and Kay earned her Bachelors degree at Oregon State College. The family lost William in an aircraft accident during the Second World War—a loss from which Kay never fully reconciled. When the war ended, Kay married Lieutenant Edward M. Cracraft, a handsome Missouri transplant stationed at Camp Adair as a Flight Instructor. Kay and Ed settled in Corvallis--raising two children--Laurie Ann and Edward William (Chip), and celebrated 51 years of marriage together before Ed's death in 1996.

In the early years, Kay was a housewife and mother. She returned to teaching in 1961, earned a Masters degree in English and spent 23 years at Philomath High School teaching college prep English. Her classes covered grammar, composition, poetry, literature, and Shakespeare. Her enthusiasm inspired a generation of students—many of whom, with her encouragement, went on to college—a few even became English teachers themselves! Following retirement in 1984, Kay and Ed spent many happy years socializing with their good friends in Corvallis, as well as traveling overseas to countries in Eastern and Western Europe, Russia, and Australia.

How does one do justice to a vibrant and complex life? Kay was a beloved wife, mother, successful teacher and community volunteer. She served as PTA president while her children were in elementary school; spent many years involved with fundraising projects for Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority; and devoted twenty years to the Assistance League School Bell Project.

Kay loved dancing with Ed; she loved her French cooking classes and entertaining friends. She took great pleasure in seeing her children grow up, and gave her enthusiastic support for their interests and activities: when Chip played varsity basketball, Kay and Ed were there; when Laurie and Bonnie sang folksongs, she stopped by to listen; when term papers were due, Kay red-pencilled their compositions and helped them become proficient writers. Her kids learned a lot about Shakespeare, poetry and English history. Kay was an avid and voracious reader, often quoting lines or telling stories from English literature at the dinner table.

Kay enjoyed shopping for clothes and was a sharp dresser—"Clothes make the man" she laughed, quoting Mark Twain, "naked people have little or no influence in society". And...after a busy work week, when the house had to be cleaned on Saturdays—equal opportunity reigned long before that term existed—it didn't matter who scrubbed the floors or cleaned the bathrooms—nobody could leave the house until it was clean—Ed included!

Kay is survived by her daughter, Laurie of Eugene, Oregon and son, Edward (Chip) of Melbourne Australia.

Laurie and Edward are grateful to Darla, Thaimi, Connie, and Aura—for their loving care given to Kay in the later years of her life.

Family and friends are invited to her funeral service, 11:00 am, Thursday,

January 9, 2020 at DeMoss-Durdan funeral Home, 815 NW Buchanan Avenue, Corvallis. Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at www.demosdurdan.com.

Cemetery Details

Crystal Lake Cemetery

Crystal Lake Drive, SE
Corvallis, OR

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 9. 11:00 AM (PT)

DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory
815 NW Buchanan Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97330
(541) 754-6255
<https://www.demosdurdan.com>

Tribute Wall

JS

“ *Jerri Stinson lit a candle in memory of Catherine Ann Cracraft*



Jerri Stinson - January 11, 2020 at 03:42 PM

MO

“ *Mrs. Cracraft was my all time favorite teacher. We shared our love of Nordstroms when I was in her class. I regret not reaching out to her more after graduation. May you and your brother know that she touched many lives through her teaching at PHS*

Michelle Oglesbee-flores - January 08, 2020 at 07:10 PM

DH

“ *I was blessed to have Kay in my life for the last 8 years. She was an incredible woman and loved by our family. We will miss you her., but she will always be in our hearts. Love you guys . The Hatton Family*

Darla Hatton - January 01, 2020 at 03:17 AM

CH

“ *Laurie, I see your mother has passed away. You have been a faithful, loving daughter. Because of your professional experience you knew more than most of us would have how to best support her in her final years. May you find peace in knowing this and remembering times of laughter and joy together. Blessings galore, my friend.*

Carolyn Heggen - December 31, 2019 at 10:48 AM