



Helen Bowman-Oshel

June 28, 1931 - April 30, 2007

Helen Bowman-Oshel, a longtime resident of the Philomath area, passed away Monday at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center. She was 75. She was born June 28, 1931, in Carlsbad, N.M., to William and Malinda Birchell. In 1946 Helen's family moved to Pedee, where she graduated from high school. Helen met Ernest "Ernie" Bowman in 1948, and they were married July 1949 in Dallas. In 1950, Helen and Ernie moved to Philomath, where they had three children and a wonderful life together.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ernie, in 1989.

She met Dale Oshel and they were married Jan. 5, 1992. Her second husband preceded her in death in 1995.

Helen was a hard-working woman; she eventually retired from Hewlett-Packard in 1991. She was deeply spiritual, and her heart was always close to the Lord. She loved to travel, garden, watch Blazers basketball and was an avid bird watcher and wind chime collector. She was very involved with her church and her large family.

Helen was preceded in death by her brother, Richard Birchell, and sister Mary "Mimi" Snowden.

She is survived by her brother, George Birchell of Dallas; sisters Alma Irish of Monmouth, Dottie Richardson of Philomath and Willie Jane Nordall of Salem; her three children, Judy and husband Greg Gerding, Dennis and wife Anna Bowman, and Jeannie and husband Roy Gaffney, all residents of the Philomath area; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

A celebration of her life will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 5, at Philomath Middle School, 2021 Chapel Drive, Philomath.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or flowers in care of De-Moss Durdan Funeral Home, 815 N.W. Buchanan Ave., Corvallis, OR 97330.