



Helen Marie Hearing

March 4, 1924 - September 27, 2024

It is with profound respect laced with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Helen Marie Hearing, who left us on September 27, 2024, at the remarkable age of 100. Born in Broken Bow, Nebraska, to Lela Ethel Spencer and John Piper, Helen grew up with her seven siblings in a hardworking, tight-knit small town during the Great Depression. The many challenges of that era imbued her with resilience, resourcefulness, and an enduring spirit that would define her throughout her life.

In 1962, Helen and her husband, Hillary “Larry” Hearing, took a significant leap by purchasing the Gables Restaurant in Corvallis, Oregon. This establishment quickly became one of the most beloved and iconic dining spots in the Willamette Valley. The Gables was not just a business— it was a gathering place where family, friends, and generations of customers came to share meals, laughter, and memories. Though the doors of the Gables closed in 2008, the legacy of the Hearing family continues to be fondly remembered by all who experienced the warmth and generosity that Helen and Larry shared.

Helen was a passionate and loyal Oregon State Beavers fan. Even after she no longer attended games in person, she continued to cheer for her beloved Beavers with unwavering enthusiasm, faithfully watching each game from the comfort of her home.

Helen also had a deep love for the Oregon Coast, where she spent many cherished hours fishing. She also enjoyed frequent trips to Reno, particularly

to Harrah's, where luck was definitely a lady every night.

Remarkably, Helen retained her mental clarity and sharpness throughout her entire life, maintaining an active presence in the lives of her family and community until the very end. Her grace, wisdom, humor, and love will be sorely missed, but her legacy will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Helen is survived by her children, Karen Ames, Kathryn White, John Jack, Jay Jack, Phyllis Northway, David Hearing, and Michael Hearing; her beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; and many cherished friends and family members. She is preceded in death by her husband, Larry.

Helen Marie Hearing's life was a testament to love, perseverance, and the power of family. She will be remembered as one of the kindest, most generous souls to have graced our lives— a woman whose impact will be felt for generations to come.