



Dorothy's 99th birthday January 14, 2010
Jack, Dorothy & Stephanie Venrick (Left to Right)



Venrick family cruise to Alaska 2004
Stephanie, Jack & Dorothy Venrick (Left to Right)

Dorothy F. Venrick - Mother For All Seasons
January 14, 1911 – August 6, 2010

Dorothy F. Venrick passed away peacefully in her son's home in Enumclaw, Washington, on August 6, 2010 at 4PM after a two and half year extended illness with Alzheimer's disease.

Dorothy was born in a 4 room log cabin on the Milk River, 7 miles north of Saco, Montana. She was the youngest of five children in the family. The oldest child drowns in the Milk River at 9 years old. At least one child died at birth.

Her Father and Mother both met while attending Wildeer College in Windom, Minnesota. Her Mother was the youngest nurse to graduate at St. Barnabas Hospital School of Nursing, Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1897.

Dorothy's parents moved to Saco Montana and her Father became a station agent for the Great Northern Railroad. They lived above the terminal where three of the children were born. In 1910 they moved to a newly erected log home on the Milk River. Dorothy was born in this 4 room log home, January 14, 1911. Her Father began homesteading and started a land company buying land along the Milk River. He also did contract work building irrigation ditches with 8 teams of horses in the summer.

They ultimately exchanged this property for a home and old nursery in Great Falls. There he went into the florist business and started his invention of a wreath making machine. Mom was 14 years old when they moved to Waukegan, Illinois to be close to the sphagnum moss used in the wreath machine. Then the family and the wreath plant moved to Chicago, Illinois where her Father sells the business to investors.

The family moves again to Trenton, New Jersey to start a new plant under new patents using cheaper material because of the Great Depression. Dorothy's Father and brother work together on the design. Dorothy graduated from high school in Trenton, New Jersey.

Dorothy and her sister return to Missoula, Montana and start college. Dorothy goes to a two year business school and her sister completes her RN degree. While going to a boarding house serving dinners for students, Dorothy meets John Venrick. They are married in spring of 1942 in Missoula.



March 18, 1942 Wedding Picture
Missoula, Montana



Lincoln, Montana - John's First Ranger
District 1949 - 1951

John graduates with a B.S. in Forestry at University of Montana in 1942. He voluntarily enlists for a three year term in the U.S. Army and is assigned to 30th Engineers Topographic Battalion mapping invasions on the North Africa and Pacific fronts. Dorothy returns to Trenton, NJ with her folks to wait out the war and to become a mother.

After WWII, the Venrick's enjoyed John's 30 year U.S. Forestry career in Helena, Lincoln, Wisdom, Sheridan and Bozeman, Montana. After 30 years, John retired in Bozeman, Montana, Oct. 10, 1970. John and Dorothy wintered at Leisure World in Mesa Arizona. Dorothy loved the sun and the community life. After John passed on December 4, 1981, also from Alzheimer's, she moved down to Leisure World from Bozeman permanently.

Dorothy greatly enjoyed her time in Leisure World until 1999, when her health started to fail and she moved close to her son near Enumclaw, Washington. Ultimately it became necessary to move in with her son in March 2008. Jack took care of her at home during these trying times. Hospice was brought in twice, once in spring 2008 when the doctor gave her two weeks to two months. Jack and Stephanie resurrected her for two more years with TLC. Then in August 6, 2010, she passed on, from Alzheimer's, a horrible disease.

Dorothy is survived by her only son, Jack of Enumclaw, Washington and his wife, Stephanie and her Daughter-in-Law Nicole. Dorothy's ashes will be spread on the Madison River near John's favorite fishing hole where his were also spread, between Bozeman and Ennis Montana. She will be greatly missed.

John (Jack) R. Venrick
Enumclaw, Washington
www.freedomforallseasons.org
jacksranch@skynetbb.com