



Ethel Ashley

January 30, 1922 - September 10, 2015

Ethel Ashley passed away peacefully in her sleep Wednesday, September 10th in Fort Collins. A Fort Collins native, Ethel was born January 30th, 1922 at a time when the town's inhabitants numbered about 6,000 souls. Her family lived on West Vine St., 1110 W. Mountain Ave. and then 724 Smith St., a house she helped her mother buy after her Father's death. Ethel attended Fort Collins High School and after graduation, attended Stephens College in Missouri where she graduated in 1942.

Her fondest memories are of her courtship, marriage and life with Kenneth R. Ashley beginning in January 1942. WWII intervened delaying their romance by 2-1/2 years but throughout those war years, Ethel and Ken ("Ash") exchanged many letters. Ash sent South Sea shells to Ethel and Ethel found a way to send Ash a .45 caliber pistol. Letters were censored by the War Department, so Ethel never knew Ash's exact whereabouts. During this time, Ethel worked for the Fort Collins Express Courier, a predecessor to the Coloradoan as a classified advertising manager.

Their long distance romance ended December 1, 1945 when Ash returned to Colorado after the war and was reunited with Ethel at Denver's Brown Palace Hotel. They were married seven days later at the 1st Methodist Church in Ft. Collins. In 1947 Ash accepted a position with the National Park Service allowing them to live in some of America's most beautiful places – Yosemite,

Mount Rainer, Yellowstone, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Ethel helped advance Ash's 30 year career by hosting, entertaining and feeding Park dignitaries and visitors at a moment's notice. These years were filled with many adventures and lifelong friendships creating memories and stories recounted throughout the years.

In 1969, Ethel returned to college earning an elementary teaching degree from Radford College, Virginia. She taught second grade in Virginia, Nebraska and Colorado, retiring from teaching in 1983. One of her lasting legacies is the hundreds of students who were fortunate enough to have Ethel as an inspirational and supportive teacher.

During Ethel's retirement, she was active in numerous civic activities including Avery House Guild, book club, investment club, P.E.O and DAR. She and Ash welcomed and entertained many people to their home on the east side of Fort Collins where she enjoyed gardening and many outdoor activities.

She loved people and helping others. She will be remembered for her ready smile, her love of life, her generosity and the love she enjoyed sharing with her family and friends. Ethel was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Kenneth R. Ashley, and is survived by their two children Jan Brunk (Ron) of Whitefish, Montana and David Ashley (Sandi) of Helena, Montana, and grandchildren Laurie Ashley (Chad Dear) and Eric Ashley (Olivia), and three great grandchildren (Jacob Ashley and Zoe and Maya Dear).

Memorials may be sent to Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 West Olive, Fort Collins, CO, 80524. Memorials can specify the Avery House Guild or Timnath Presbyterian Church.

A memorial service is scheduled for 10:30 Tuesday September 15 at Timnath Presbyterian Church at 4020 Main Street, Timnath.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **15**. 10:30 AM (MT)

Timnath Presbyterian Church
4020 Main St. Timnath, CO US 80547
Timnath, CO 80547

Tribute Wall

PB

“ *Ethel and Ash were wonderful people. I delivered their mail for years. They were always so happy and friendly and appreciative of all I did for them. I loved when I had something for them to sign or a package to deliver, so I could see them. Out of the 31 years I delivered mail, they were some of my most favorites!! My condolences to the family. I will always remember the Ashley's as beautiful people! Peggy Brewster*

peggy brewster - September 21, 2015 at 10:53 AM

NL

“ *Our condolences to the family of Ethel. We have such loving thoughts of Ethel -- she and Ash were the first 2 people to welcome us to CO. 10 years ago.*

Ethel was an outgoing, friendly and wonderful lady who will always be in our memories.

*Our prayers are with you all,
Nellene and Bob Lemmon, Wellington*

Nellene Lemmon - September 14, 2015 at 06:00 PM

BO

“ *Ethel Ashley was a lovely lady with an infectious smile and tender heart. She and Ash were good friends with my parents, Frosty and Margaret Freeman, and I was privileged to get to know them through my parents. Mother and I last saw Ethel in June when we drove to Fort Collins to catch up with old friends. Ethel was her usual gracious and vivacious self that afternoon and that is how we will remember her. She was so proud of all her family and talked of you all the time. My condolences at her loss. I will remember her and Ash so fondly forever and will miss her presence. Barb Olsen*

Barb Olsen - September 13, 2015 at 09:25 PM

JH

“ *Our condolences to all of Ethel's beautiful family. She was such a wonderful person and always willing to help. We did lots of things together at the Avery House and yard; she was so cheerful and fun to be with! We enjoyed being with Ethel and Ash the many times we saw them at the Fort Collins Symphony and at dinners together over the years.*

Jane and Roger Hail

Jane Hail - September 13, 2015 at 04:17 PM