



Mary Catherine Hagen

June 11, 1928 - February 12, 2026

It is with profound sadness and love that we announce the passing of Mary Catherine Hirsig Hagen, who left this world on February 12, 2026, at the age of 97. Born on June 11, 1928, in Racine, Wisconsin, Mary was the first daughter of Herron Albert Hirsig and Catherine Lucille Bancroft. She grew up with her sister Barbara on a sheep ranch in Wyoming. Her life was a tapestry of adventure, and learning, woven with the threads of family, education, and a deep connection to the natural world.

A proud graduate of the University of Wyoming, Mary earned a degree in Education and devoted her career to teaching reading and writing. Her passion for learning was matched only by her love for storytelling, which led her to write and publish numerous historical fiction books, countless articles on various subjects, historical reference books and hiking guides. She was also an avid photographer, painter, geology enthusiast and historian.

In partnership with her husband, Harold Hagen, Mary also helped establish a successful family trout farm, which became a cherished legacy. They traveled the world together and went on many adventures. Their marriage was a testament to deep love, commitment and partnership until Harold's passing in 2014. Together, they raised a son, Hal Hagen, who preceded Mary in death, a loss she bore with remarkable strength and grace.

An avid outdoorswoman, Mary found joy in skiing, hiking, camping, and cross-country skiing, pursuits she shared with her friends and family. Her zest for life and adventure was an inspiration to all who knew her. She was a woman who embraced every moment with a spirit of resilience and joy, qualities that endeared her to her family and friends.

Mary was an active member of several local book clubs, where her love for literature and lifelong learning flourished. She was known for her toughness, her enduring commitment to her family, and her affection for her dogs, who were her constant companions over the years.



Mary is survived by her sister, Barbara Kirkman, who shared with her a lifetime of memories and the bond of sisterhood. She leaves behind her devoted granddaughter, Catherine Gibson, and her husband, Matthew, along with their children, Ollie and Otis. Her legacy continues through her grandson, Taylor Hagen, his wife, Kristin, and their children, Charlie and Sophia. These grandchildren and great-grandchildren will carry forward the values and passions that Mary instilled in them.

In accordance with her wishes, a private memorial ceremony will be held to honor her life and legacy. The family expresses their heartfelt gratitude to all who have been a part of Mary's remarkable journey.

As we bid farewell to Grandma Mary, we hold her memory in our hearts with deep affection and respect. The family wishes to say that we love Grandma Mary and will miss her dearly. Her spirit will forever be a guiding light in our lives, reminding us to live with courage, spirit, and an unyielding thirst for knowledge.

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ Sending my deepest sympathies to the Hagen family; Mary was a wonderful person and neighbor whose kindness and legacy will never be forgotten. She will be truly missed.
My husband and I first met Harold and Mary when we moved down the road from them. We baked cookies and took them over and talked for hours. My daughter Sarah and I loved to pop in and say hello to Mary when we were on walks. She watched my daughter grow up over the years and was always kind to ask how she was doing with a little Motherly advise. I much appreciated it. We had a lot in common from losing our dear husbands to plays and musicals. She was a beautiful friend   May she rest in peace with her loved ones in God's kingdom.

Laura and Sarah Jorgenson - February 22 at 04:31 PM