

# Obituaries

## Gretchen Dakin

March 26, 1934 – September 14, 2020

Gretchen Dakin passed away September 14 from pancreatic cancer at the age of 86. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Bill Dakin, who died in 2012.

Gretchen was born in Winnetka, Illinois, on March 26, 1934. After graduation from New Trier High School, she graduated from Skidmore College with a degree in medical research. She then moved to California to do research at UC Medical Center in San Francisco. It was there that she and Bill started dating. They were married on January 31, 1959, in Illinois. In 1960 they moved to Marin County, California, where they raised two sons, Bill and David.

One of the greatest gifts she shared with her family was her love of the outdoors. Skiing and backpacking were

regular family activities.

In 1993 Gretchen and Bill retired to Sisters. Sisters was the perfect place for them to enjoy the outdoors. They both loved to ski, hike, camp and fly-fish. They were involved with the Deschutes Basin Land Trust in the protection of Indian Ford Meadow and preserving critical habitat in Central Oregon.

In 2015 Gretchen moved to Paradise Valley Estates in Fairfield, California, to be closer to her family.

Gretchen was extremely active, continuing to hike, ski and travel well into her mid-80s. She enjoyed trips with her family to Lake Tahoe, hiking and spending time with friends. She also loved horses and looked forward to feeding the horses at Rush Ranch every week.

She is survived by her two sons, Bill and David, daughters-in-law, Julie Haney and Laura Dakin and



her loving granddaughters, Kristi and Alyssa.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to one of the following:

- Deschutes Basin Land Trust, 210 NW Irving Ave, Ste. 102, Bend, OR, 97701
- North Bay Hospice, 4520 Business Center Dr., Ste. 160, Fairfield, CA 94534
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust, PO Box 809, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956.

## Gale Larson

On the morning of September 17, Gale Larson left his flesh vessel, surrounded by his wife and children. In recognition of his abhorrence for ceremonies, no formal gatherings will be held. The family asks that in lieu of flowers or donations, people will plant a tree in his recognition.

His family most remembers him for his love of the outdoors, specifically trail shortcuts on the family backpacking trips. "Godforsaken, rhody-ridden, vine-maple-tangled shortcuts through rock slides and thunderstorms," says his son, Erik Randall.

"The kids wondered if they would see the trail again," says his widow, Molly, "And the shortcuts added miles to our trips. I had to pack extra candy to keep the kids from crying."

But lovers of the outdoors they all became. His two daughters followed him into U.S. Forest Service firefighting; Lynne Marie married a fellow firefighter, Ron Whitley; and Elaine Kirsten stayed on with the Forest Service for 13 years.

The family celebrated his transition with a hike on the

Metolius River in record density smoke from wildfires.

Gale lived a charmed life. Norma and Lars Larson reared him and three brothers in Newport, Washington during the country's boom-time logging days. Gale worked summers in a remote logging camp, and as a pick-up firefighter, while attending Washington State University for a forestry degree. A draft notice arrived just as he finished his degree and married Marilyn (Molly) Bookter. The two lived the forester's life till retirement, and promptly joined the Peace Corps, which tasked them with helping to preserve native jungle on the Philippines island of Palawan.

A move to Sisters introduced the couple to a thriving Habitat for Humanity chapter. Gale joined the building crew and, with Molly, led several work crews on international builds.

Gale's final shortcut lasted several years. He received a newly developed treatment for metastatic melanoma known as immune therapy. Free of cancer for the rest of his life, he lived with the crippling effects of treatment, which eventually took his life.

## Dallas D. Rollins-Hallingstad

August 13, 1944 – August 9, 2020

Dallas was born in Springerville, Arizona. She grew up and went to school in Snowflake, Arizona. The family moved to Sisters in the early 1960s. She worked at Ruth's café for three to four years then moved to Petersburg, Alaska, in 1977 where she met and married the love of her life, Casper Hallingstad.

They bought a lot and turned it into a used car lot and named it Rerun Auto. She loved working on old cars and getting them running and reselling them.

After the death of Casper, she moved back to Central Oregon to be closer to her family.

She was preceded in death by her father, Harold Rollins; her mother, Ruby Rollins; and two brothers, Walter Rollins and Timothy Rollins.

Survivors include her daughter, Vicky Churchill of Redmond; grandson, Dylan Eyn of Washington; sisters, Patti Bartels of Powell Butte, Carol Sims and Ruby Sherritt both of Lebanon; brothers, Richard Rollins

of Culver, Steve Rollins of Sisters, and Edward Rollins of Cottonwood, California; many nieces; and nephews.

Services will be held at a later date at the Camp Polk Cemetery in Sisters.

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