

New Mexico Library Association Member Obituaries

Last Updated January 6, 2013

Asplund, Julia Brown

Mrs. Rupert F. Asplund, a 1901 graduate of the Drexel Institute School of Library Science where she was also an instructor, Mrs. Asplund came to New Mexico in 1903 when it was still a territory. She came to organize the library of the University of New Mexico. As the first, and for many years the only, trained librarian in New Mexico, she was a trustee of the Albuquerque and Santa Fe public libraries, the first director of the State Library Extension service, organizer and consultant to the State Library Planning Board and the first Chairman of the State Library Commission. Mrs. Asplund received the American Library Association's Citation of Merit in 1949 for her leadership in the development of library service in New Mexico over a 46 year period. Mrs. Asplund died in 1965.

Barrett, Mildred A.

NMLA Newsletter
October, 1986

Mrs. Mildred A. Barrett, retired assistant director of the New Mexico State University Library, died on September 10. Mrs. Barrett joined the NMSU Library staff on August 1, 1945, as reference librarian and supervisors of circulation and government documents. She held the position until 1960 when she became public services librarian. She served as assistant director from 1965 until her retirement in June 1973.

Mrs Barrett graduated from Western Reserve University completing both a B.S. and M.S. in Library Science. Her master's thesis, *Development of Library Extension Service in New Mexico*, was completed in 1958.

During her tenure at NMSU, she actively participated in the New Mexico Library Association and served as the 1967-68 NMLA President. Her professional colleagues recognized her in 1973 when she was presented the NMLA Distinguished Librarian of the Year Award. She also served as president of the Rio Grande Chapter, Special Libraries Association during 1961-62.

A special fund has been established to purchase library material in Mrs. Barrett's name. Contributions should be addressed to:

The NMSU Foundation
Box 3590
Las Cruces, NM 88003

Please designate on the check "The Mildred Barrett Library Fund.

Bogel, Myrle

San Juan College
January 16, 1995

Myrle Bogle, San Juan College's Director of Library Services, died suddenly in her home on the weekend of January 6. Originally from Clovis, Myrle came to SJC from Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas, in 1993. During her tenure here, she was responsible for numerous advancements in the college library, including its computerization, establishing electronic data linkages and its internet connection, and greatly increasing the circulation and the library's responsiveness to student needs. Over this past Christmas break, she supervised the installation of the 8,000-volume San Juan County Law Library collection in the SJC library. She was also a great supporter of literacy. In her two-plus years at SJC, Myrle had made many good friends who will greatly miss her warmth and quick wit.

Funeral and burial services were held in Clovis on January 11. A memorial service was held at San Juan College on January 14. Myrle is survived by her daughter, Belinda Bogle and mother, Glenette Deen.

Caffey, Helen P.

Helen P. Caffey, 86, passed away in Albuquerque on August 15, 1992. She was director of the Thomas Branigan Library in Las Cruces from 1950 to 1971. She was born in Decatur, Georgia, in 1906, earned two Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Colorado in 1928, and a Bachelor of Arts in Library Science from Emory University in Atlanta in 1930. She was particularly proud of the research she did while serving as an assistant librarian at the Carnegie Library in Atlanta for Margaret Mitchell in writing *Gone With the Wind*. In lieu of flowers, her family suggests memorial contributions to the Helen P. Caffey Collection at the Branigan Library in Las Cruces.

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Caffey, Helen P.

Las Cruces Sun-News
August 19, 1992

Local librarian helped famous author research her book
by Terrance Vestal of the Sun-News

Helen P. Caffey, director of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library for 21 years, will be remembered by many who visit the library as the founder of the library's New Mexico Collection.

"She was a fine lady who was very involved in Las Cruces and the community," said Don Dresp, the library's director. The New Mexico Collection has more than 4,500 books.

Caffey died Saturday in Albuquerque. She was 86.

Caffey received two bachelor's degrees from the University of Colorado in 1928. She earned a third bachelor's in library science from Emory University in 1930 in Atlanta, where she served as an assistant librarian at the Carnegie Library.

Caffey helped Margaret Mitchell research *Gone With the Wind*.

Caffey was instrumental when Mitchell needed to know whether double-barreled shotguns existed during the Civil War, she showed Mitchell the shotgun owned by her grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Caffey.

Caffey worked for the Atlanta Library from 1930 to 1948. She started work at the Branigan Library in 1951.

Caffey, Helen Pauline

Albuquerque Journal
August 18, 1992

Helen Pauline Caffey, passed away in Albuquerque, NM., on Saturday, August 15, 1992 after nearly eighty six years of a generous life. She was born on December 4th, 1906 to Helen Winn Mead of Decatur, Georgia and Lochlin W. Caffey of Lowndes County, Alabama at Camp Keithley, Mindanao, P.I., where her father was an officer in the U.S. Army. She earned two Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Colorado in 1928, and a Bachelor of Arts in Library Science from Emory University in Atlanta in 1930. She served as an assistant librarian at the Carnegie Library in Atlanta, and was particularly proud of the research she performed for Margaret Mitchell in writing *Gone With the Wind*. She served as head librarian at the Inman Park branch library at Little Five Points until 1947 when she accepted a library position in Ventura, California. She became head librarian of the Thomas Branigan Library in Las Cruces, New Mexico in 1950 where she established a renowned collection of Southwestern Literature and Maps, and from which she retired in 1971. She is survived by ten nieces and nephews and their spouses who, together with numerous nieces and nephews to the 4th generation, recall her gentle and supportive presence in their lives. The family also wishes to remember her special friends and devoted caregivers, Angelita Martinez of Las Cruces and Carlotta Deherrera of Albuquerque. She will be Interred at the Kirkwood Cemetery in Decatur, Georgia on Wednesday, August 19, 1992 at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions may be made to the Helen P. Caffey collection at the Branigan Library in Las Cruces, NM. Arrangements by Crestview Funeral Home, 7601 Wyoming Blvd., Albuquerque, NM 87109.

Camp, Bert Ellen

El Paso Times
August 30, 1990

Bert Ellen Camp of Roswell died Monday (Aug. 27, 1990). Funeral will be at 10 a.m. today in New Mexico Military Institute Chapel. Burial will be in South Park Cemetery. Survivors include her son, John D. Camp. She was a retired librarian [worked at New Mexico Military Institute]. Arrangements are by Ballard Funeral Home.

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Carlisle, Myrtle Whitehill

NMLA President 1932-33

Albuquerque Journal
January 8, 1987

Myrtle Whitehill Carlisle, age 82, of the Kingdom of the Sun Retirement Center, died early Monday morning at Mimbres Memorial Hospital. She was born June 19, 1904 in Faywood, NM to a prominent Luna County family. She attended Deming schools and the University of New Mexico, graduated from Western New Mexico University, and the University of Southern California Library School. Her professional career was that of a Librarian and teacher having served 21 years in that capacity with the US Government, 10 years with the Otero and Luna County Public Schools, and 5 years as Librarian at Western New Mexico University. Her memberships included the local and state chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames, Pan American Round Table, Delta Zeta Sorority, Kappa Delta Pi, Delta Kappa Gamma, and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. She was also a past President of the Luna County Historical Society and the NM Librarian [sic] Association. She was an active member of St. Luke Episcopal Church. Visitations will be from 2:00 to 8:00 on Friday at Baca's Wheeler Funeral Chapel. Funeral service will be Saturday afternoon at 2:00 at St. Luke Episcopal Church with the Rev. Marion Canterbury officiating. Cremation will follow. Survivors are a brother, Harvey Whitehill of Albuquerque; brother-in-law, Silas Storres of Alamogordo; two nieces, Lean Napier of Cloudcroft, NM and Carrine Gore of Redding, CA; two nephews, Harvey Whitehill, Jr. of San Antonio, TX and Dr. Harry Whitehill of El Paso, TX; also numerous grandnieces and grandnephews. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Deming Public Library, St. Lukes Episcopal Church, or ones favorite charity. Baca's Wheeler Funeral Chapel, Deming, in charge of arrangements.

Darbyshire, Mary

Alamogordo Public Library's
90th Birthday Party Invitation

Obituary of Mary Darbyshire January 21, 1936

The death of Miss Mary Darbyshire occurred at her home on 12th St. between Michigan and Indiana Avenues Tuesday morning about one o'clock. She had been ill for a number of months from an illness believed to be cancer.

Funeral services were conducted at 2:30 p.m. Wed. At the Baptist Church by her pastor, Rev. Earl R. Keating, assisted by Rev. J.M. Perry, of the Methodist Church. Interment was in Monte Vista Cemetery.

The ladies of the choir, all very dear personal friends sang a number of hymns that had been favorites with Miss "Darby" as they called her. They also sang two selections at the cemetery where the ceremonies were concluded.

Miss Darbyshire was greatly beloved by a large circle of friends and her acquaintanceship was large. She had been librarian of the Alamogordo Public Library for almost a quarter of a century.

The deceased was born at Westlight, Lanchester, Eng., July 1873. She was a niece of the late Samuel Holmes, of Alamogordo, and resided in his household for many years. She came to Alamogordo about 1910. Her brother died at his home in Iowa several years ago. She has other brothers and sisters who remain in England. Also she has many other relatives over in England, but no close relatives in this country with the exception of a niece.

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Duhrsen, Lowell Russell

Las Cruces Sun-News

May 15, 1993

Lowell Russell Duhrsen, associate dean of the library at New Mexico State University, died Friday after he had a heart attack. He was 51.

'Lowell Duhrsen dedicated his life to N M S U,' said University President James Halligan. 'He made a significant impact on the library, particularly the New Library.'

Duhrsen joined the NMSU library faculty as assistant director in 1973 and was named associated dean in 1987. Twice he served as acting dean. He also was a professor.

Duhrsen was named Librarian of the Year by the New Mexico Library Association in 1990. An association member since 1973, he served on the executive board and on various committees.

He had been a member of the American Library Association since 1965 and served as a member of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library Board.

A native of Denver, Colo., Duhrsen graduated from the University of Colorado in 1963 with a major in history and a minor in education. He received a master's degree in library science from the University of Washington and a doctorate in library science from the University of Southern California.

Before joining the NMSU faculty, Duhrsen held positions at the Cleveland Public Library, the University of Wyoming, and the University of Iowa.

From 1966 to 1968, he served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

Besides his professional interest, Duhrsen served as president of the Las Cruces Tennis Association and as board member of the Las Cruces Aquatic Team.

Duhrsen's survivors include his wife, Nova; a son, 2nd Lt. Jeff Duhrsen and wife, Julee, of Fort Wainwright, Alaska; a daughter, Heather of Albuquerque; a sister, Roylynn Miercort of Denver; and an aunt, Ethel Fauver of Denver.

Memorial services will be at 4:30 p.m. on May 25 at St. James Episcopal Church. Gets Funeral Home of Las Cruces is handling arrangements.

Memorial donations can be made to the Library Associates in care of the NMSU Foundation, Box 3590, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, 88003.

Dwyre, Mamie Russell

MRS. BURTON G. DWYRE was made an HONORARY LIFE MEMBER in recognition of 30 years of service on the State Library Commission, 1945-1971, and as Chairman for the 17 years from 1954-1971.

Mrs. Dwyre's teaching experience during the 1920's in the rural New Mexico communities of Santa Rita and Des Moines contributed to her strong interest in statewide library services. She was a member of the original State Library Planning Board of which she was chairman. Working with the board, the state's librarians and legislators, legislation was achieved which set the standard for library development in New Mexico. Mrs. Dwyre can be credited with obtaining passage of legislation to erect a permanent building for the State Library. Her wide geographic, economic and political knowledge of the state combined to make her an important leader in New Mexico's library development. A former state senate majority leader said "she educated those of us in the Legislature to the values of a state library system. Mrs. Dwyer was awarded Honorary Life Membership by the New Mexico Library Association in 1972.

(Mrs. Dwyre died in 1980.)

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FitzHugh, Evelyn R.

"Evelyn R. FitzHugh, a longtime Truth or Consequences librarian and retired schools secretary. Passed away Saturday, Oct. 12, 1991, at Sierra Vista Hospital.

Memorial services for Mrs. FitzHugh, 82, of 300 S. Foch St., were held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15 in the French Mortuary Chapel of T-or-C with members of the Hot Springs Chapter 58 Order of the Eastern Star officiating.

She was born Feb. 7, 1909, in Michigan.

She and her first husband, Frank Allin, and their son, Kenneth, left Detroit, Mich., and settled in Hot Springs (now Truth or Consequences) in the spring of 1942 for Mr. Allin's health.

They immediately became involved in community service with Evelyn working on the OPA rationing board and Mr. Allin with the Sierra County War Board and ASCS until his retirement in 1962.

Evelyn worked for the County Agent's office for several years. She moved to California but returned to T-or-C within months to marry Douglass K. FitzHugh, a local attorney, in April, 1945. He preceded her in death in April, 1954.

Mrs. FitzHugh resumed working in the T-or-C Public Library, but upon the death of Mr. FitzHugh she became executive secretary for Ray L. Stinnette, then superintendent of the T-or-C Municipal Schools.

She continued her work at the library as much as possible but after 15 years of service as a librarian she resigned due to the demanding work load at the schools. She served as schools secretary more than 23 years.

Mrs. FitzHugh was a member of the T-or-C City Library Board and the Geronimo Springs Museum Board.

She also was an active member of the Pilot Club and Hot Springs Chapter 58 Order of the Eastern Star.

She is survived by a son, Kenneth Allin of Mesilla; two step-daughters, Collene Berger and Bonnie Lee Hotchkiss; their children; and many friends. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Truth or Consequences Pilot Club's scholarship fund.

Cremation arrangements were by French Mortuary or T-or-C."

Sierra County Sentinel, October 16, 1991

Gibson, Vida "Vi" Hollis

NMLA President 1977-78

Vida (Vi) Hollis Gibson, 70, passed away at her home in Cimarron on Monday, September 28. She retired after 25 years of service with the Rural Services Program of the State Library in December, 1986, and went on to become Mayor of Cimarron. She was active in the New Mexico Library Association and was president in 1977-78. She is survived by her husband Sam. Following cremation, services were held at the Cimarron cemetery on Wednesday, September 30. Donations may be made in Vi's name to the Colfax General Hospital, 615 Prospect, Springer, NM 87747. Letter of condolence may be sent to Sam Gibson, RR 1 Box 17, Cimarron, NM 87714.

1992

Gibson, Vida

Cimarron Mayor Vida Hollis Gibson died after a short illness early Monday.

Raton Range
September 29, 1992

Gibson, 70, had served as mayor of the village since 1990 and presided over several significant projects.

Gibson was also known for her decades of work with the New Mexico State Library's Northeast Bookmobile.

Godfrey, Lois Erwin

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Grilly, Mary Hedwig

Los Alamos Monitor
September 5, 1971

Mrs. Mary Grilly of 1467 42nd died Friday afternoon in the UCLA Medical Center after a lengthy illness.

She had long been employed at Mesa Library, had lived in Los Alamos for more than 20 years, had served as county clerk, was still serving on the Southwest Regional Library Assn. and the New Mexico State Library Comm., and had been an active golfer and bridge player.

Her husband, Ed, served two terms as a State legislator. She is survived by her husband, a daughter, Mrs. Janice Carey, a son, David, of Albuquerque, two grandchildren, a brother, Ernest Withalter and her mother, Mrs. Hedwig Withalter.

The family has asked that donations be made to the Los Alamos Cancer Society in lieu of flowers.

The funeral is to be at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the First United Methodist Church of Los Alamos. A private interment in Guaje Pines will be at a later date.

Harris, Phebe

Santa Fe New Mexican
September 30, 1988

Phebe Harris, 81, retired longtime head librarian of Santa Fe Public Library and past president of both the New Mexico Library Association and Santa Fe Chapter of the American Association of University Women, died Sept. 6 at St. Vincent Hospital. Cause of death was not available. Cremation has taken place.

Despite her busy schedule, Mrs. Harris found time to become a highly-regarded gourmet cook and collector of recipes and cookbooks from around the world. More than 200 cookbooks were included in her personal library, and despite her wide ranging skills as a cook. Mrs. Harris maintained that her favorite recipe was for chocolate fudge.

After retirement she traveled extensively to Russia, China, Africa and Europe.

Hatch, Orin

Hobbs Daily News
January 17, 1992

Funeral services are schedule at 10 a.m. Saturday in the First United Methodist Church here for a former Hobbs resident, Orin Walker Hatch of Kerrville, Texas.

The Rev. John Platt and Rev. Judy Clavert will officiate.

Graveside services will be held 11 a.m. Monday in the Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery on Houston, With the Rev. Grady Hallonquist officiating.

Kerrville Funeral Home is in charge of funeral arrangements.

Hatch, who was 61, died Thursday at this home.

He was born Dec. 17, 1930, in Manning, Texas.

He married Francis Mae Zeigler on June 17, 1960, in Houston, Texas.

Hatch was a veteran of the Air Force and a member of the First United Methodist Church in Kerrville. He had been a 24-year resident of Hobbs and had been employed at New Mexico Junior College as a librarian and professor, until his retirement. He had lived in Kerrville for the past three and a half years and had worked for Schreiner College here as a librarian. Hatch was a member of the Kerr County Genealogy Society, Kerrville Kiwanis, treasurer of the Kerr County Historical Commission and was editor of the Southwest Heritage Magazine for 10 years.

Survivors included his wife of the home; one daughter, Rebecca Anne Hatch of Kerrville; a son, Robert Andrew Hatch, also of Kerrville; his mother, Lois W. Hatch of Houston; a brother, Bernard L. Hatch II of Houston, a sister, Mary Hatch Lewis of Houston; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one son, Edwin Lewis Hatch.

Memorials may be made to the Heart of the Hills Hospice or the William Logan Library at Schreiner College of the First United Methodist Church Youth Fund.

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Jordan, Frances

Frances Jordan, 79, of Hatch, died September 18, 1991 at Memorial Medical Center.

Las Cruces Sun
September 24, 1991

She was retired from Sears-Roebuck as a bookkeeper, and was also the head librarian in Hatch until 1933, when the new library was completed. She was a member of the Garden Club, a member of the Friends of the Library and was on the Library Board. She was also involved in various community projects. She was in the Altrusa Club in Tucson, AZ and was past-president of the Business and Professional Women of Arizona.

She was survived by her husband, Arledge of Hatch; two daughters, Mary Frances Walton of Hatch and Allie Beth Kenner of Sacramento, CA; one sister, Nell Weiler of Hatch; a nephew, Rod Weiler of Hatch; ten grand-children; twenty-one great-grandchildren, and one great-great granddaughter.

Memorial services and private burial will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Hatch Public Library, 5053 E. Hall, Hatch, New Mexico 87939.

Arrangements by Getz Funeral Home, 1410 E. Bowman, Las Cruces, NM.

Kimball, Philip Roger

Albuquerque Journal
October 16, 2011

KIMBALL -- PHILIP ROGER Age 66, of Corrales, NM, passed away suddenly at home on Wednesday, October 12, 2011. He was born on May 8, 1945, VE Day, in Ontario, OR to Captain Roger Elwood Kimball and Helen Elaine Smith. He was preceded in death by his father, a pilot who was killed in action in the Korean conflict. He is survived by his son, Alex Kimball of Albuquerque, NM; longtime life companion, Ruth Pirttinen; parents, James and Elaine Bow; brothers, Stephen Kimball, Bob Bow, all of Alpine, TX. Phil attended high school in Alpine, TX, and earned a degree in Spanish from Texas Tech University. He later completed teacher certification classes at Boise State University in Idaho, and received a master's degree in library science from the University of Arizona. After college he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he was a Spanish-language radio operator stationed in Panama, Nevada and Washington, D.C. He was a reporter at the El Paso Times in the mid-1970's, then taught Spanish, English and humanities for years in the schools in Boise, Rio Rancho, Los Lunas and Albuquerque. He was a manager of the South Valley branch of the public library until he retired in 2010. Phil was known for his outgoing personality and inquisitiveness. Travel was the love of his life, having visited Spanish Pyrenees, Panama, and many other major cities of Western and Eastern Europe. Phil enjoyed conversing in Spanish whenever the opportunity presented itself. Phil enjoyed oil painting and many of his pictures hang on the walls of friends' homes. A Memorial Service will be held at 10:00 am, Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at Central United Methodist Church on the corner of University and Central in Albuquerque, NM.

Kutcher, Margaret C.

The Hitchhiker
January 27, 1992

Margaret C. Kutcher, who was a Reference Librarian with the State Library from 1968 to 1981, died January 15, 1992, at the age of 76. She has lived in Albuquerque since 1959. She attended UNM for her undergraduate work and the University of Oklahoma for her MLS. Memorials can be made in her name to Living Through Cancer, 323 8th St. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

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- Libetore, David G.
The Hitchhiker
February 14, 1992
- David G. Libertore, 47, died of cancer at his home on Wednesday, February 2. He was the director of the Albuquerque Public Schools' District Library Instructional Technology Services. A resident of Albuquerque for 29 years, he was born in Canton, Ohio and graduated from UNM with a BA in Political Science in 1971 and an MA in Education Administration in 1976. He held a variety of positions on the faculty and in the administration of APS and with professional organizations during his career. Honors such as Teacher of the Year in 1977, member of the KNME-TV board of directors, and recipient of the Association for Supervision and curriculum Development's leadership award in 1991 were among the benchmarks of his career. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to the Children's Cancer Center at University of New Mexico Hospital.
- Linscheid, Chester H.
NMLA President 1952-53
- Chester H. Linscheid, 77, died Sunday at his home in Kerrville, Texas. He was a graduate of Bethel College and received his master's degree in library science from Michigan State University.
- McGuire, Walter J.
The Hitchhiker
February 20, 1989
- Walter J. McGuire of Mesilla died February 5 at Memorial General Hospital after an illness at the age of 74. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor of science degree and a master of arts degree. His career as a professor and librarian spanned 34 years. He retired in 1980 after 20 years with the New Mexico State University library cataloging department. He is survived by his wife, Esther, of Las Cruces and his son, Timothy, of Lake Jackson, Texas.
- Myers, Dwight A.
- Mr. Myers was an executive vice-president at Prentice-Hall, Inc. He spent 35 years in the publishing business before retiring in 1994. He is well-remembered by the state's librarians as he made his annual trips throughout the state to sell a new list. His generosity, infectious smile, humor, energy, honesty and curiosity created a multitude of friendships, allowing him to exert a great deal of influence among the state's librarians. He is well remembered for his creation of the New Mexico Book League and its publication, "Book Talk." Mr. Myers established the New Mexico Library Association's "Grass Roots Award," under the sponsorship of Prentice-Hall, Inc. He was awarded Honorary Life Membership in the state association in 1988. Mr. Myers died in 1995.
- Neal, Mildred C.
El Paso Times
January 23, 2000
- Mildred C. Neal, 92, of Carlsbad died Saturday (Jan. 22, 2000). Memorial service will be at 2:30 p.m. Monday in First United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Crowell Cemetery-Crowell, Texas. She is survived by many nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by four brothers and two sisters. She was a teacher and a librarian. She was a long-time area resident. Arrangements are by Denton-Funchess Funeral Home.
- Nicholas, Elizabeth C.
Albuquerque Journal North
August 6, 1996
- Elizabeth C. Nicholas, 79, of Santa Fe died Saturday. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma, and received her master's degree in Library Science from the University of Florida. She worked as head librarian at the Roswell Public Library from 1958 to 1960. She is survived by her daughters, Lyle York of Berkeley, Calif., O'Brien Young of San Francisco, and Elizabeth Crichton of Mamaroneck, N.Y.; son, Jerome Greene of Guilford, Conn.; grandchildren, Miranda Joseph of La Jolla, Calif., and Nicholas Young of Mill Valley, Calif.; great grandchildren, Kyra and Brian Joseph of La Jolla, Calif. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Planned Parenthood or the Archaeological Conservancy, 5301 Centra Ave., Suite 1218, Albuquerque, NM. Private memorial services will be held.

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Nicholas, Elizabeth C.

Santa Fe New Mexican
1996

Elizabeth C. Nicholas, a long time resident of Santa Fe and Roswell, died Saturday of cancer at her Santa Fe home. She was 79.

Known as Betty, she was born in Tulsa, Okla., where her father, Chester Copmann, worked in the oil business. At the University of Oklahoma she excelled in English and drama. After graduating she performed with the drama department of New Mexico Normal University in Las Vegas, now known as Highlands University, and produced plays for a traveling Oklahoma drama company.

Later she working in advertising in New York City, taught high school English, and earned a master's degree in library science at the University of Florida.

From 1958 to 1960 she was head librarian at the Roswell Public Library. In 1960 she married Edward Nicholas, an author, businessman and owner of the Ave de Paso Ranch in Roswell. He died in Santa Fe on March 2.

She had been a frequent visitor to Santa Fe since 1949, when her parents, Elizabeth and Chester Copmann, opened the Santa Fe Gift Shop on DeVargas Street. Betty and Edward Nicholas moved permanently to Canyon Road in 1975.

They were supporters of Santa Fe's School of American Research, the Archaeological Conservancy and the Canyon Road Neighborhood Association.

She is survived by three daughters, Lyle York of Berkeley, Calif., O'Brien Young of San Francisco and Elizabeth Crichton of Mamaroneck, N.Y.; a son, Jerome Greene of Guilford, Conn.; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be private. The family requests that donations go to Planned Parenthood or to the Archaeological Conservancy, 5301 Central Ave. NE, Suite 1218, Albuquerque.

Peck, Irene S.

The Hitchhiker
July 15, 1991

Irene S. Peck, Executive Secretary of the State Library Extension Service from 1941-1959, passed away Thursday, July 4, 1991, in Santa Fe at the age of 97. The New Mexico State Library Extension Service was the precursor to the New Mexico State Library and the "Executive Secretary" became the "State Librarian" at the time the change occurred. During Mrs. Peck's tenure the State Library Commission was created in July, 1941; State Aid to Public Libraries was initiated in 1952; and the State Library Bookmobile Service was established in 1956. Mrs. Peck called the early years of her tenure as State Librarian the "Dark Ages," and recalled how she reveled in her visits to the struggling libraries in the field. Her service to the library community during those crucial years paved the way for so much that has been possible since.

She was cremated in Santa Fe at McGee Memorial Chapel.

Peck, Irene S.

Irene S. Peck, 97, of Santa Fe died Thursday at La Residencia. The cause of death was not available. Ms. Peck serviced as executive secretary of the State Library Commission until 1959. No services are scheduled. Cremation has taken place. Funeral Home: McGee Memorial Chapel, 983-9151.

New Mexican, July 9, 1991

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Peck, Irene S.

New Mexican
July 19, 1991

She brought books

Mrs. Irene Peck brought the world of books to New Mexico.

She started with two small rooms in the Palace of the Governors. One room held all the books then owned by the State Library. The other room, even tinier, was furnished with a table where she worked - with insufficient help - packing and unpacking books that she sent to schools around the state. She sent her off hours consulting teachers, book lovers and private citizens. She went through second-hand book catalogues and added as much to the state's collection as her meager stipend would allow. When the library outgrew its quarters, she called on friends to move her stock to the Laughlin house at Don Gaspar and DeVargas. We came again to help her move the State Library to the former women's quarters of the Old Penitentiary. The state did not help!

Legislators ignored her, or tried to, telling her to be grateful for a roof over her head. Her gentle assaults on them continued through another move, behind the Scottish Rite Temple, before the current building was erected. She used packing crates for bookcases, she started the Bookmobiles, she worked ceaseless hours, and she enriched the lives of countless schoolchildren and country people, who walked miles to meet the Bookmobile and exchange books to be read and reread until it came again.

Mrs. Peck was the State Library. The people of New Mexico owe her a huge debt of gratitude.

C.M. Geis
Santa Fe

Pepmueller, Calla Ann
Mrs. Armin Pepmueller

Working at Sandia National Laboratory's Technical Library (1956 to 1983), retiring as the Library Manager, Mrs. Pepmueller had considerable influence on the state's library community. She was an original member of New Mexico's Library Development Council which contract for the 1969 A.D. Little Survey of the State's Library Resources; taught at the University of New Mexico and was a member of the 1977 Task Force on a statewide interlibrary cooperative system for New Mexico. She was a strong supporter of professional development, not only for her staff but for the entire state. Served as president of the state library association and the Rio Grande Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. Mrs. Pepmueller was named an Honorary Life Member of the New Mexico Library Association in 1983.

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Rayson, Jenny Mooror

Las Cruces Bulletin
November 26, 2012

It is with deep sorrow and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, niece and friend, Jenny Mooror Rayson, 54, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, on Friday, November 16, 2012 at Casa de Oro Care Center. She was born March 21, 1958 in Morristown, New Jersey to Charles and Ruth Mooror. Jenny grew up in several towns in Nebraska and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Nebraska Wesleyan University. She then continued her education and received a Master of Arts in Library Science from the University of Missouri at Columbia. Jenny continued her career as a Librarian at New Mexico State University, the University of Texas at El Paso, and within the Las Cruces Public Schools where she worked at Oñate High School, Booker T. Washington Elementary, and most recently at Mesilla Elementary school. She never ceased to desire to learn with the near completion of a master's degree in education at New Mexico State University. Jenny enjoyed working with students at all levels, and her love of learning was contagious. She was an active member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Las Cruces where she sang in the choir, assisted in teaching confirmation classes, and participated in many programs within the Church. In all things with her deep faith was always evident and all knew there was "something special" about Jenny.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents and two brothers. She is survived by her loving husband, Gary Rayson; her son, Kevin Rayson, and granddaughter, Krystin Rayson; her parents, Charles III and Ruth Justice Mooror; a sister, Lynn Mooror; a brother, Bob Mooror. Other survivors include numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

At Jenny's request cremation will take place and a Celebration of Life Service will be take place at a later time in St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Private Inurnment of Cremains will take place at a later date.

Jenny was a very loving and caring person who will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Reb, Eunice

Sierra County Sentinel
March 7, 1979

Mrs. Eunice Reb, wife of Everett Reb of 711 W. Ninth St., Truth or Consequences, passed away Monday, March 5, 1979 in Bataan Memorial Hospital, Albuquerque, after a lengthy illness.

Funeral services are pending at French Mortuary.

Mrs. Reb was the librarian at the local library at one time and more recently was the gift shop curator at the Geronimo Springs Museum.

Besides her husband, Ev, she leaves two daughters, Rene Reb of T-or-C, now attending college at Abilene, Texas and Roberta Allen of Chicago; one son, Richard Reb of Chicago; a brother, Charles Brookley and a sister, Patricia Richard, both of Maryland.

There are also three surviving grandchildren.

Redman, Helen F.
Mrs. Leslie F. Redman

NMLA President 1957-58

Mrs. Redman was head of the Report Library at Los Alamos National Laboratory, becoming Head Librarian in 1953 continuing until her retirement in 1970. She had great interest in inter-type library cooperation. She was Chairman of the state's Library Development Council during the time of the A.L. Little Survey of New Mexico's Library Resources and was President of the New Mexico Library Association. Mrs. Redman was instrumental in founding the Rio Grande Chapter of the Special Libraries Association and served as its first president. She was a dynamic and fantastically capable person who served as a constant inspiration to her colleagues, both older and younger, in the decades of the 1950's and 1960's. Mrs. Redman died in 1978.

New Mexico Library Association Member Obituaries

Last Updated January 6, 2013

Rosen, Dorothy Engstrum
Mrs. Roy Rosen

Mrs. Rosen's devotion to and work on behalf of libraries at the community, state and national level are well known to librarians in New Mexico. She was a member of the State Library Commission for 12 years, serving as Chairman from 1971 to 1974. She assumed the chairmanship at a critical time for library development in New Mexico and filled that position admirably, guiding the five-member policy-making body through a period which called for vision and rapid adaptation to change in the development of library services for New Mexico. She was active in the American Library Trustee Association and the American Library Association from 1965 to 1975. Mrs. Rosen was a member at large of the Council of the American Library Association for five years. She was named Trustee of the Year by the New Mexico Library Association in 1974; received the trustee citation of the American Library Association in 1975; and in 1979 was awarded Honorary Life Membership in the New Mexico Library Association. Mrs. Rosen died in 1979.

Speare, William Martin

October, 1968

William Martin Speare, long-time librarian at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, died in Socorro General Hospital Monday evening.

He was 60 years old. He was a 1926 graduate of Socorro High School and received a bachelor of science degree from New Mexico School of Mines in 1931. He attended graduate school at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., and at Wester State College, Gunnison, Colorado.

He began his career at the New Mexico School of Mines in 1936, as an instructor in Spanish.

He became assistant librarian in 1937, and became head librarian and assistant professor of Spanish in 1941. He served in this position until his death.

He was a long-time resident secretary of the New Mexico Tech Alumni Assn., and was well known to every graduate of the institution.

He is survived by his widow, Thelma; his daughter, Mary Louise; a brother, Raymond E. Speare; and a sister, Mrs. Isabel VanDeWater.

Speare was one of the best known residents of Socorro, and was the oldest member of the New Mexico Tech staff in years of service.

Watkins, Dorothy Jennings

1st New Mexico State
Librarian

[The Hitchhiker, #1179.](#)

October 21, 1996

Dorothy Jennings Watkins, the first New Mexico State Librarian, died Friday, October 11, at the age of 91. She was named State Librarian in 1961 and retired in 1970. Miss Watkins' legend at the State Library is her reputation as a strict disciplinarian. Susie Vigil, the only staff member at the State Library who worked under Miss Watkins' directorship, remembers her as a tactful and gracious person. Under her directorship, the State Library was designated as one of five regional depositories of federal documents, and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped was established. The Southwest and Rare Book Room and the Rural Services Program were begun, and the State Library moved into its present building. She was born in Grayville, Illinois, and received her Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University in 1931. In 1932 she received her Bachelor of Science degree from Simmons College School of Librarianship in Boston. After graduation she worked in the Washington, DC, Public Library as assistant curator of the Washingtoniana Collection. She left there to go to the Public Affairs Information Center in the Denver Public Library as documents librarian before arriving in New Mexico. In 1955, she was hired by the State as a field librarian for the New Mexico Library Extension Service and became its director in 1959 after Irene Peck retired. When the State Library was established in 1961, Miss Watkins was named State Librarian. Current State Librarian Karen Watkins, said, "I never met her, except for a congratulatory note from her when I was named State Librarian. She commented on the coincidence of our having the same last name." The New Mexico Library Association honored Miss Watkins with a Life Membership. She moved from her Santa Fe home into the El Castillo Residences for Retirement in 1985. Gifts in her memory may be made to the Santa Fe Public Library.

New Mexico Library Association Member Obituaries

Last Updated January 6, 2013

Winkles, Jeanne N.

New Mexico State Library
Hitchhiker, June 27, 1994

Jeanne N. Winkles died June 20 after an extended illness. She was director of Lovington Public Library for 18 years before her retirement in 1991. Her career spanned 40 years. She was a legal secretary for 20 years, working for the military, oil companies, and educational institutions. While involved with the library, she served on the executive board on the New Mexico Library Association, and also as Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. She also was president of the Municipal Librarians' Association of the New Mexico Municipal League. She was named Library of the Year by NMLA in 1984. In 1982 she was appointed by the Governor to the New Mexico Advisory Council on Libraries and served until 1988. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital, or Assurance Home in Roswell.