

GH-R 12-8-2016  
**Ferne Opal Hart** Norris



Ferne Opal Hart, 99, of Port Ludlow, Wash., and formerly of Grinnell, died Nov. 23, 2016, just 12 days shy of her 100th birthday.

She was born Dec. 5, 1916, in Omaha, Putnam Co., Mo., the eldest of five children born to Pearl Hart and Mayme Okal Morrow. Ferne grew up in Seymour, Iowa, just north of where she was born. Her father owned several gasoline stations in southern Iowa and Missouri. Ferne attended the local schools and graduated from Seymour High School. She went to Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa, where she met her future husband, George Wilson Norris, who was born in Brooklyn. They married on May 22, 1938.

After graduation, George in 1942 enlisted in the Navy. After the war, they moved around eventually settled in Grinnell where George was employed as a high school teacher. As Ferne raised their four children, she was also active in community affairs and became the Welcome Wagon Hostess. The local schools had been unable to find a physical education teacher, so she volunteered and taught for a few years. In 1957, she became the state president of the League of Women Voters and during the two-year term she graduated from Grinnell College in 1959. She worked for the college briefly, then bought a travel agency in Grinnell where she worked until 1982, when she sold it and retired. Having begun with only one employee (herself), and no income, by the time she sold the business there were seven employees doing over \$1M in travel business each year.

the business permitted Ferne and George to travel extensively around the world, and Ferne served as escort for many tour groups, especially to Hawaii which she visited about 30 times. Ferne was also the founder and first chairperson of the Grinnell Community Planning Council, which attempted to promote long-range planning for the community.

She enjoyed painting, wallpapering, carpentering, upholstering, and even laying cement and tile. She and her husband invested in rental properties which Ferne was active in remodeling. They lived in Oakland Acres until George's death in 1996.

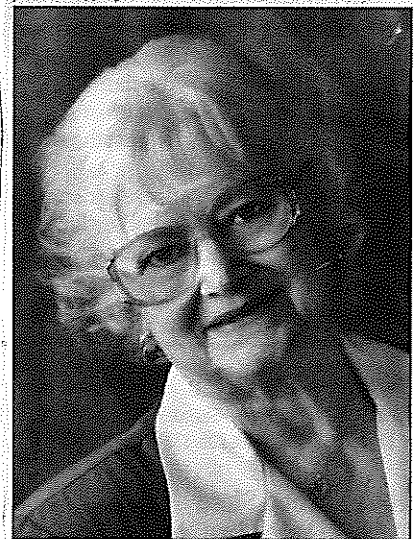
The next year she moved into Grinnell and lived on her own until 2006 when she suffered a mild stroke and moved to Mayflower for nine years until August 2015 when her health declined. Her daughter Jackie then moved her to her home in Port Ludlow, Wash., where Ferne lived the remaining 15 months of her life.

She is survived by her children Richard Lloyd Norris of Florida, Jacqueline Carole Dale of Washington, and Steven Donald Norris of California; and her brother, Ronald Hart of Muscatine, Iowa, and Florida.

Ferne was preceded in death by her son, Charles Hart Norris, and three siblings Ruby Hart Fry, Jack Hart and Carole Hart Deputy.

## Correction

### Ferne Opal Hart Norris



Ferne Opal Hart Norris, 99, of Port Ludlow, Wash., and formerly of Grinnell, died Nov. 23, 2016, just 12 days shy of her 100th birthday.

The full obituary, which appeared in the Thursday, Dec. 8, edition of this newspaper, was published under her maiden name, not her married name. The Herald-Register regrets the error.