



Dorothy R Herscher

January 19, 1929 - October 2, 2015

Dorothy R. Herscher, 86, of Herscher, IL passed away Friday Oct 2, 2015 at her home in Herscher. She was born Jan 19, 1929 in Kankakee to John L. and Rosa (Keerbs) Herscher.

Dorothy grew up in Bonfield and attended the Bonfield grade school. She later attending Herscher High School where she was first chair clarinet in the band for all four years. She was also sophomore class vice-president and librarian her junior year. She was on the yearbook staff her junior and senior years and served as the editor her senior year. Often during Christmas vacation and on “snow days”, Dorothy accompanied her father John on his mail route through Bonfield and Essex. Dorothy’s fondest memories growing up were bike rides, roller skating and sledding with her best friends Shirley Yeates and Carolyn Van Voorst. She still owns her blue and white bike from years ago.

Dorothy attended Valparaiso University in IN (supported primarily by members of the Lutheran faith) due primarily to her many years of attending at Zion Lutheran Church, Bonfield while she was growing up. She graduated in 1950 with majors in Business/Economics/Geography and Geology, with a minor in Education. Dorothy earned a Master of Arts degree in Liberal Studies in 1966 from Valparaiso Univ.

In 1950, the year she graduated, Dorothy accepted the position of secretary to the president of the University. She worked for him for 18 years. When he retired, Dorothy chose to work for the Vice President for Academic Affairs and continued until her retirement in Aug 15, 2002, after 52 years of educational

work.

During her years at Valparaiso she also “moonlighted” as a ticket seller at the movie theater and recording secretary for The Board of Zoning Appeals and the City Planning Commission. She used her moonlighting income to fund her many travels and adventures.

In 1953 she took a five-week trip to Europe, visiting Italy, France, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Scotland and England. In 1956, she traveled for six weeks around the world, flying from Chicago to San Francisco, Hawaii, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Burma, India (visiting the Taj Mahal), Egypt (climbing the Pyramids), Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Greece and Turkey. In 1960, her travels took her to South America, including Brazil during Mardi Gras, Argentina, Venezuela, Uruguay, Ecuador, Peru, Columbia and Chile. Her last travels were in 1972 to Mexico and Central America.

In September of 2002, she moved home to the family homestead, to be with her father, John, who died in Feb, 2003 before his 103rd birthday.

Dorothy is survived by numerous cousins.

There will be a visitation from 9-11AM Wednesday, Oct. 7th at Trinity Lutheran Church, Herscher, followed by an 11AM Funeral Service officiated by Rev. Eric Brown at Trinity Lutheran Church, Herscher. Burial will be at Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Bonfield following the funeral service. Schreffler Funeral Home, Herscher Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Dorothy’s words to live by are “Be kind to people and animals: all are God’s creatures.” Therefore, memorials may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church or the Kankakee Co. Humane Society.

Please sign her guestbook at www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Zion Lutheran Cemetery

11478 W State Route 17
Bonfield, IL 60913

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 7. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
255 E. Third
Herscher, IL 60941
(815) 426-2262

Funeral Service

OCT 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
255 E. Third
Herscher, IL 60941
(815) 426-2262

Tribute Wall



“ *Dorothy R Herscher*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *I will always fondly remember Dorothy at the many Horn reunions and the stories she might share about family or her many animals with her unique voice and ALWAYS with a smile. She had a great sense of humor in telling these tales. She was kind to everyone and a true lady as she walked through her days. She was so comfortable on the family farm where she could house her many cats and tend to her chickens. She would share the farm fresh eggs with others. She mowed and took care of her flower gardens etc and I don't think I ever heard her complain once. She always would be willing to share a ride to a reunion and loved to drive. She was "smart as a whip" and could tell you how many miles it was from one point to another when we talked of going to a reunion together. She had an incredible mind and a great heart. I will never forget your kindness and spirit dear dear Dorothy. Your green acres here on earth, your pets, and your family and friends will all certainly miss you. Rest in peace.*

Debbie Horn - October 11, 2015 at 10:48 PM



“ *It was a huge surprise to find in my local newspaper an obituary of Dorothy's passing. Totally unexpected! My sincere sympathy to her many friends and family. Dorothy was my roommate at Valpo during our freshman and sophomore years. We helped initiate the Guild Halls. Too many fond memories. She will be missed. Dorothy "Potts" Potucek*

Dorothy Potucek - October 09, 2015 at 10:30 AM

HP

“ Goodbye, Dee, Dear Friend. We all give endless thanks for your savvy encouragement, your limitless patience, your ever-resourceful counsel and your always up-to date encyclopedia of information about any and every detail of VU operations, helping us all along the way. Through the decades we recall our association in the offices of Presidents, OP, AGH, and the VP's, Provost's, Dean's and Graduate School, and, oh, so specially, with the "Heritage crew": Dee Nat, Don, Lou and John on our countless, memorable, four decades of adventures to Wrigley (and a few to Sox Park too): lunches at the Cubby Bear, Old Style (never "Bud"), pubs and peanuts, hot dogs and pool games, and restaurants without number; celebrations professional and personal, camaraderie ranging from the Sixties to just a few weeks ago, service together and continuing, profound friendship. Dee, our love continues for you and your family in these sad days, and will continue as long as we can remember the infinite, irreplaceable strands of that familiar "ball of string."
Howard Peters

Howard Peters - October 07, 2015 at 08:49 AM

KK

“ Dear Dottie, my fellow Capricorn and our friend of over half a century, primary assistant in the Department of Geography during the chairmanship of my husband Ferencz Kallay, his right hand aid and special confidant, most trusted and absolutely relied upon in all situations: farewell and Godspeed. Kati Kallay

Kati Kallay - October 07, 2015 at 07:33 AM

RA

“ I had the privilege of working with Dee Herscher during the last ten years of her fifty-two years of service to Valparaiso University. As the first outsider appointed to be the chief academic officer in many decades, I was fortunate to have an administrative assistant who had forty-two years of experience working with either the president or the vice president for academic affairs. Her knowledge of the place was invaluable, and I quickly learned to seek her advice on matters great and small as well as to trust her judgment and discretion. It was fun to work with her. She always welcomed visitors to the office with a friendly smile and a cheerful helpfulness. People from across the campus knew her also as the person who rode her bicycle to work every day, rain or shine; and to this day many members of the faculty and staff remember the large ball of string that sat on a corner of her desk—until it got too big and had to be moved. It was made of short lengths of string that were used to tie together the daily mail, and it just grew and grew over the years. Dee loved the University and was extremely conscientious in carrying out her responsibilities in the academic affairs office. She was especially careful to make certain that budgets were balanced and funds expended appropriately. We became good friends; and I enjoyed visits to her farm in Herscher, always driving the special route that she devised for avoiding traffic tickets. A devoted daughter, she cared for her centenarian father and never sold the 1950 Mercury her parents gave her when she graduated from college. I suppose it is still in the barn. Dee was special, and I shall miss her. Roy Austensen

Roy Austensen - October 06, 2015 at 11:37 PM

RB

“ For my 36 faculty years Dee was the anchor in the office of periodically changing central VU administration. I remember gratefully, how with a twinkle in her eyes, she was always ready to help. Dick Brauer

Richard Brauer - October 05, 2015 at 09:14 PM

MT

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Mary Theisen - October 05, 2015 at 07:53 PM

RS

“ *What a wonderful woman! I suspect there are thousands mourning her passing. It was a pleasure to work along side Dee and it was impossible to do so without a smile on your face. The twinkle in her eyes as she told stories was heart warming. I still profit from her wisdom as I take the "short cuts" from Valparaiso to Kankakee although it's no longer necessary to drive across the one-lane, wooden, hump-backed bridge over the railroad. Thanks to the family for allowing her to share so many of her years with the Valparaiso University community.*

Reggie Syrcle - October 05, 2015 at 05:17 PM

AT

“ *Working with Dee was a delight and pleasure. She was kind and funny and always more than helpful. The ball of string that sat on her desk was a monument to her sense of humor and her resourcefulness. We were blessed in everyway to have Dee as part of our Valparaiso University community. Peace be with you*

Aimee Tomasek - October 05, 2015 at 04:47 PM

TB

“ Walking into Dee's office was always a treat, with smiles alongside the M&M's! Her stories about the homestead, including repairing the slate shingles, were an even bigger treat. She cared about everyone around her and gave them her full attention and solved problems. Thinking of Dee brings a smile to my day! We miss you, but hold you in our hearts.

Your friends in the Department of Geography and Meteorology
(Teresa Bals-Elsholz)

Teresa Bals-Elsholz - October 05, 2015 at 03:49 PM

YH

“ Dee was a very kind person. I'll always remember her smile and riding her bike to work every day.

Yvonne Hale - October 05, 2015 at 03:44 PM

DF

“ I worked in the same building with Dee for 9 years. In addition to her very pleasant personality, I remember the huge ball of string on her desk, and her bike rides to work. A beautiful, caring person who made a difference in this world.

David Fevig - October 05, 2015 at 02:58 PM

BL

“ Dee was a gem -- always quick with a smile, a cute story, anything to brighten one's day. She was a joy to work with and someone we could rely on for getting the task done thoroughly and efficiently. What a blessing to have known and worked with her!

Barb Lieske - October 05, 2015 at 02:54 PM

BK

I join the many colleagues of Dee in celebrating her singular devotion to her calling and remember with appreciation her high level of integrity.

While a joy to talk with, Dee was also a fount of wisdom and history on Valparaiso administrators. She gave me helpful perspective on numerous occasions.

Like many have already said, it was a privilege to have worked with her in the 1990s. Bill Karpenko

Bill Karpenko - October 05, 2015 at 05:32 PM

KR

“ *I knew Dorothy while I was a student at Valparaiso University in the late 60s. She was a very kind and caring person. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Karen Jackson Riml Brunswick, Maine

Karen Riml - October 05, 2015 at 10:45 AM

FF

“ *Fulk-Samuels Family lit a candle in memory of Dorothy R Herscher*



Fulk-Samuels family - October 05, 2015 at 10:10 AM