



Norma Jean Huss

April 27, 2021

Norma Jean Huss, 91, of Willow Street, Pa., passed away Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at the Willow Valley Communities healthcare facility, after an illness.

Born in Missouri, Norma moved with her family at age five to the state of Washington. She grew up on her family's farm near Acme and graduated from Mount Baker High School in 1948.

As a young woman, Norma attended the secretarial school at Central Washington College. She secured gainful employment as a secretary in the Contracts division for Scraps and Disposals at Boeing Airplane Company. There, her most interesting assignment was to take notes for the meetings between Boeing executives and the Air Force to plan the disposal of the tooling for the discontinued legendary World War II era bomber, the B29 Superfortress.

While living in Seattle, Norma met her husband Dick, whose Navy ship was periodically stationed nearby. They were married in September 1955 at the chapel in Valley Forge, Pa. and settled in Lancaster. They raised five children together. Dick was owner and CEO of Graphic Crafts, Inc. in Willow Street.

During the child-rearing years, Norma sewed much of the clothing her children wore to grade school. She often played the piano and led family sing-alongs

of hits from the 1950s and '60s. Any family camping vacation that involved driving to another state would invariably prompt Norma to sing a song that featured the name of that state.

Norma served as President of the Willow Street Women's Club. She was also a docent for the North Museum in Lancaster where she was trained to describe exhibits to school children on "plants and birds and rocks" (and things).

As empty-nesters, Norma and Dick spent time boating on the Chesapeake Bay. They took regular boat trips on the Intercoastal Waterway and made many new friends. They also enjoyed travels to Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands, the British Isles, and other destinations around the world.

At home, Norma threw herself into a passion for writing cozy mysteries. She was a member of Penn Writers, Sisters in Crime, and the Willow Valley Communities' Writer's Group. She expanded into blog writing for her own website where she adopted the nickname, "The Grandma Moses of Mystery." The original Grandma Moses was about 80 years old when she had the first big showing of her folk art. Similarly, Norma's first mystery, "Yesterday's Body," was published just before she turned 80. By age 90 she had published several more mysteries and a book of ten short stories. She also wrote a non-fiction retelling of her father's true-life adventures in 1920's Alaska.

Norma displayed a life-long spirit of adventure and creativity. She was known for her even keel temperament and good sense of humor. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who took life's challenges in stride.

She is survived by her sister Pauline Caraker (husband Gene); four daughters, Diane Bock (husband Kerry), Donna Hedricks, Patricia Traynor,

and Sharon Roat; her son, Robert Huss (wife Cindi); her grandchildren Matthew Traynor (wife Courtney), Eric Traynor, Grant Hedricks (wife Hannah), Leah Lucas (husband Garrett), Linore Huss, Jana Huss, Sebastian Roat, and Anna Roat; and her great-grandchildren Maisy, Theodore, Miles, and Avery Traynor. Preceding her in death were her husband of 64 years, Richard Huss Jr., her parents William and Dorothy Collins, her brother Bill Collins, and her son-in-law, Rich Roat.

A private burial event will be scheduled in the future.

Tribute Wall



“ *Norma Jean Huss*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *I have had the honor and pleasure of being a writing friend of Norma's. We were thrilled when she joined our virtual critique group (through PennWriters) during the pandemic. She was so very talented and always kind and insightful. I will miss her contributions, and my deepest condolences and prayers are with Norma's family.*

Carrie Jacobs

Carrie Jacobs - May 07, 2021 at 10:29 AM



Thank you Carrie for sharing your thoughts with us. Mom felt great joy from meeting all the writing folks and exploring the world thru all your eyes and your words in her final years. Please pass on our family's thank you and love for being there for Mom!

Donna Hedricks - May 16, 2021 at 07:38 PM

TH

“ *Carole and I met Dick and Norma Huss in 1986 on a rainy weekend on Dividing Creek...a small creek off the Wye River...a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. It was the first rendezvous of our Cape Dory Club, and about 6-8 boats rafted together in this storm protected and cozy hide away.*

This was the beginning of a long and memorable friendship of kindred spirits. Over the years we continued our boating adventures...and like most sail boaters, we both transitioned to power boating. Our last boating adventure was with Dick and Norma in 2006. We both had American Tug 34's...and in tandem, we embarked on a 10-12 week adventure from the Chesapeake Bay to New York Harbor and up the Hudson River to the Erie Canal. From there, we transited the Erie and Oswego Canals to Lake Ontario. After crossing Lake Ontario, we transited the Trent-Severn Waterway across the Canadian Province of Ontario and its many unique locks to Georgian Bay. After cruising Lake Huron to Lake Erie, we turned eastward to Buffalo, transited the entire Erie Canal, and from there, repeated our route back to the Chesapeake Bay and home. Many evenings Dick, Norma, Carole, Shawn (our 12-year old son), and I would play Dominos until 2AM...it was a wonderful time, and a great "last" boating adventure.

We will truly miss both of them...our loving memories of all those adventures will live on forever.

Dick and Norma...may you always have fair winds and following seas!

Tim, Carole and Shawn Hart

Timothy Hart - April 29, 2021 at 07:19 PM

DB

Tim, Carole, and Shawn, thank you for your kind words and for sharing your stories. My husband and I remember driving from Pittsburgh to Lake Erie to meet with you and my parents when you both were docked there on your tandem 12 week journey. It's a fond memory for us. Thank you! Diane Bock (oldest daughter)

Diane Bock - April 30, 2021 at 03:45 PM

DH

“*I grew up in Norma's neighborhood in Willow Street, PA. I was a classmate and friend of her daughter, Donna. Mrs. Huss and her husband threw a memorable cast party for those of us in the Spring Musical, "The Music Man" in 1978.*

I will miss her spirited and well written letters to the editor of LNP. I see her independent spirit in her daughter, Donna.

I am so happy for Mrs.Huss. She is reunited with her love, Mr. Huss. My prayers are with her children an grandchildren.

God is so good 🙏❤️

Doreen Hershey - April 29, 2021 at 04:48 PM

 Donna Hedricks

Thank you Doreen for sharing your memories. And thank you so much for bringing Mom vanilla shakes in her last days! She loved them and was touched by your thoughtfulness. 💕

Donna Hedricks - April 30, 2021 at 07:48 PM

JH

Dick and Norma Huss were always our guiding stars throughout our decades of sailing and international travel. My husband, Jack, and I "buddy boated" with Norma and Dick on our pair of Cape Dory sloops on the Chesapeake as members of the Corinthian Sailing Association's Annapolis Chapter in the late 1980s.

In 1997 we bought our Nautical 43 motorsailer, Denali Rose. Dick volunteered to meet us in Charleston and Jack had a fantastic trip north to the Chesapeake Bay with Dick as his mentor.

When Jack and I opted to live aboard our retirement sailboat, Denali Rose, the Husses kept in touch via email while we lived in the Caribbean. When we headed to the Pacific Ocean, Dick stayed up almost all night, staring at their home computer in Pennsylvania, to witness our boat going through the Panama Canal's locks. The next time we visited them in Willow Street, Dick was so excited to show us the Panama Canal snapshots he took of us.

Both Dick and Norma shared our interest in preserving first-hand anecdotal Alaskan history. After we published our non-fiction book on Jack's parents' lifelong adventures in Alaska, Dick found us an excellent book binding firm to add hard covers on our book for our family members.

When Norma decided to publish her book about her father's college days adventures in her delightful, non-fiction book, "A Knucklehead in 1920s Alaska," Jack was thrilled to assist her with Alaska geography accuracy and facts about the Kennecott Copper Mine, where her father worked.

One of our finest adventures with the Husses was in Norma's hometown in the state of Washington. They took us to the farm where Norma had grown up. We will always remember that beautiful, sunny day when we all walked through the fields to the stream and especially our fun conversations with the friendly current owners while sitting on their front porch watching their cows.

Always willing to share international travel advice, Dick and Norma, ensured our trip to the Galapagos Islands was top notch.

One of the best compliments fellow boaters can say when friends set sail and head to sea, is, "They leave a clean wake." Dick and Norma, you certainly left a clean wake and an enduring legacy.

Jack Webb and Susan "Fred" Hankey-Webb

Jack Webb and Susan "Fred" Hankey-Webb - May 03, 2021 at 10:04 AM