

PRISCILLA J. LOONSTEN



Born:
Aug. 7, 1928--Logansport, Indiana

Died:
July 19, 2010--Estes Park, Colorado

Priscilla J. Loonsten, 81, of Little Valley, Estes Park, died at her home July 19, 2010. Priscilla Jean Conn was born August 7, 1928 in Logansport, Indiana to Edgar and Mary Margaret (Wickersham) Conn. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Purdue University and held a degree in biology from Christian College in Columbia, Missouri. After college, Priscilla became a mental health professional in Logansport and Indianapolis, Indiana. The programs she developed for mental health treatment and suicide watch and prevention were adopted, without change, by the state of Indiana and later by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Priscilla was an avid mountaineer long before she retired to Estes Park. She and her late husband, Frits Loonsten, who preceded her in death in 1988, climbed and hiked in the Swiss Alps and Scottish Highlands for over ten consecutive summers. Some years after Frits' death, Priscilla, at the age of 63, made a solo climb of the Swiss Matterhorn in his memory. As recently as May of this year Priscilla, along with Susan Signs of Estes Park, returned to Switzerland for one last stay near the Swiss Alps and her beloved Matterhorn.

Upon Frits' death, Priscilla assumed the presidency and management of the prodigious Landscape Architectural firm of Frits Loonsten, Inc. For many years she maintained the firm's internationally acclaimed standards, and was well known for her horticultural proclivity. She loved animals, especially her dogs. She was also a prominent member of the Association of Mental Health Professionals Society and a past member of the Rotary Club of Indianapolis.

After moving to Estes Park in 1966 with Richard Junghans, Priscilla served a term as treasurer and later as board member at-large for the Little Valley Owners Association. Until her death she continued to enthusiastically support the work of the association and the road board. Forever an avid traveler, Priscilla and Richard logged well over 100,000 miles in their car, as well as circling the United States several times by rail, via Amtrak.

Priscilla is survived by Richard Junghans, her life partner of more than 20 years; a daughter, Darcie Rockenbaugh of Crawfordsville, Indiana; a son Devin Hile of Mooresville, Indiana; two stepdaughters, Nancy Smith of Tampa, Florida, and Susan Reese of Indianapolis; three stepsons, Steven Junghans of Loveland, Brian Junghans of Atlanta, Georgia, and Dr. Richard P. Junghans, Jr. of Boston, Massachusetts; and two foster sons, Bill Hall of Pahrump, Nevada, and Dario Savala of Cozumel, Mexico; a brother, James Conn of Corrington, Tennessee; sisters Vera Hatt of Logansport, Indiana, and Barbara Robinson of Kissimmee, Florida; three grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, and three step great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Dorothy, brother Richard, and husband Frits Loonsten.

A gathering in Estes Park to celebrate Priscilla's life will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 2, 2010 at the open air chalet at the north end of Lake Estes. Memorial contributions may be made to: Best Friends Animal Society, Knab, Utah, or to a memorial of your choice in care of Allnut Funeral Service, 1302 Graves Ave. Estes Park, CO 80517.

To send a message to Priscilla's family, please visit: <http://www.allnut.com/>