

Alys Hansen Peterson, 91 ✓

July 24, 1909 – Dec. 26, 2000

CALIFORNIA – Alys Margaret Hansen was born in Harlan, July 24, 1909, the third daughter of Chris and Dortha Hansen. Being one of the middle of ten children, she helped out around the house as well as she was able. She graduated from Harlan High School in 1927. In the late 1920's Alys moved to Washington, D.C. where she roomed with her sister, Ruby. She got a job as a typist for the U.S. Census Bureau. In 1932, Ruby and Alys once again had their hair done, and were met by Ruby's boyfriend, George Brace. George had brought along one of his roommates, Fritz Peterson.

After a courtship of a little more than a year, Alys and Fritz were married by a Justice of the Peace in Washington, D.C. where Fritz worked at the U.S. Patent Office as a Patent Examiner in the Textiles Division. During the Second World War, the Patent Office was moved to Richmond, VA. In October 1945, a daughter, Barbara, was born to the couple. Shortly after the end of the war, the family moved to Massachusetts because Fritz was offered a job as a draftsman at a textile mill. They remained there until 1952 when they moved to Southern California to help Alys' asthma condition. After Barbara's graduation from high school in Downey, the family moved to Riverside in the citrus belt of Southern California. For the past 35 years, the family volunteered their time, efforts and monetary donations to the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, CA. Alys was a docent at the Evan Middleton Museum which is an integral part of the museum. In the summer of 1996, Alys and Fritz purchased a new home under construction, just around the corner from Barbara and her husband, Norman Johnson. Norm is a founding member of the Museum, and this brought the entire family even closer to trains, trolleys and the Museum. Alys spent Christmas weekend with Barbara and Norm and had Christmas breakfast with them and their friends from Riverside, helping Barbara prepare the turkey for Christmas dinner. Dinner was spent with family all around her including her three great granddaughters. Alys died in her sleep Dec. 26, 2000, at age 91.