



Ann Eberhart Hillier Perkins

October 31, 1924 - November 7, 2021

Ann Eberhart Hillier Perkins, was born in South Bend, Indiana on October 31st, 1924. She is the daughter of Carol Elisabeth Eberhart Hillier and Samuel Dale Hillier. Ann died of heart failure at home in Yreka, California on November 7th, 2021. She was in the presence of three of her children and her daughter-in-law. A week earlier, she celebrated her 97th birthday with unabashed delight to blow out candles on a three-layer chocolate cake she helped make.

Ann was raised in Mishawaka, Indiana. Her great great grandparents were early settlers in Mishawaka, making Ann the 5th generation. Ann grew up with her parents surrounded by grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. When Ann was 13, her sister, Elisabeth Ellen, died unexpectedly at age 10. As a late teen, Ann worked at the "Ball Band" plant in the chemistry department. She attended Purdue University to study Home Economics, then studied a year at UCLA, finally moving to Simmons College in Boston to study retail fashion in the footsteps of her father. During WWII she worked in the Red Cross Motor Corps, and in the summer of 1944, she worked in Washington, D.C. as a decoder. While living in Boston, she met "the grey-haired ensign." Five months later, on April 26th, 1946, Ann and Ensign James Glidden Perkins of Denver, Colorado were married in her parents' home on Edgewater Drive in Mishawaka.

Ann was an energetic community member wherever she lived. At Purdue University, she began her lifelong association with Kappa Kappa Gamma. As an adult in South Bend, she was an active member of the Literary Club, where her grandmother Hillier was one of the founders. She was a member of the Antiquarian Society, the PEO, a Board member of the South Bend History Museum, and a bank board trustee. She exercised at Health and Lifestyle gym with the same group of friends for over 20 years. When she moved to Yreka at age 93, she became the fourth generation family member at the local YMCA. In Ann Arbor, she spent 30 years raising her six children and still managed to engage with International Neighbors, Planned Parenthood, Meals on Wheels and Parent Teacher Organizations among others. Ann was also quick to help friends with both fun and difficult life events.

Her love of the arts, history, and music were infectious. She exchanged books with family and friends for decades. She loved the South Bend Symphony. Taking family and friends to the Chicago Art Institute, Museum of Science and Industry, plays, and to enjoy great food was a great joy for her.

Throughout her life she loved to go for walks and picnics where she readily recognized trees, plants, and animals. Ann's love of the natural world stemmed from walks in the woods along the St. Joseph River and picnics near Diamond Lake in Cass County, Michigan with her grandparents and parents. Her love of picnics never waned! She accumulated favorite picnic spots in the greater Yreka area in her last four years. Ann's children and grandchildren embraced her passion for the natural world.

A crafter and creative, Ann is known internationally for her rolls - dinner, rabbit, cinnamon, and Christmas trees. Her special chocolate sauce recipe lives on with her children and grand children, having renewed fame locally in Yreka. Children, grand children, great grand children, and friends were regularly part of the kitchen scene painting cookies, learning to beat egg

whites into peaks, and once in a while sneaking a swipe of frosting or a just-baked cookie. Across her lifetime she needlepointed, taught decoupage, knitted, and created paper quilled scenes. She was really good with detail. Twice she knitted thread onto two straight pins for a quilled figure to hold.

Ann's curiosity was insatiable. She loved learning and was ready for new adventures throughout her life. At Purdue she was the only woman in the glider club. She also took flying lessons, soloed, and got her pilot's license. She loved to travel at home and abroad, often seeking out the back roads as well as the eateries and bookshops local people frequented. She even made her move to Yreka, at age 93, into an adventure in living. In keeping with her love for life, she made wonderful new friends and explored the back roads of Siskiyou County. At age 95 she started writing a book with a daughter. Her energy did not abate.

Family, with a broad definition, was the pulse of her life. Ann and Jim treasured and marveled at their life with their six children: Ellen Elizabeth Perkins Arnold, deceased November 3rd, 2006 (David), Nancy Carol Perkins Kemmitt (William), James Hillier Perkins (Marcia Cushman), Sarah Frances Perkins (Pamela Kaye), Samuel Lewis Perkins, and Martha Glidden Perkins (E. John Helm). Ann and Jim truly adored their 11 grand children and their 24 great grand children. Ann's husband, Jim Perkins, died February 8th, 2008, at age 84.

A celebration of Ann's life will be held in the Mishawaka-South Bend area in the spring of 2022. To leave an online condolence or to share a memory, please visit <https://www.girdnerfuneralchapel.com/obituaries/obituary-listings>

Donations in Ann's honor can be sent to a charity of your choice or to:
Madrone Hospice <https://madronehospice.org/home/donate/>

South Bend History Museum <https://www.historymuseumsb.org/support-us/giving-to-the-museum/>

Fernwood Botanical Garden <https://www.fernwoodbotanical.org/donate>

Stable Hands, therapeutic horsemanship <https://www.stablehands.org/donate>

Tribute Wall

JA

“ Hi Ruth: Thank you for the fond recollections of Mom and Dad aka Mr and Mrs P. The loss of Mom has taken me on visions of the past: remembering the back and forth between our respective households, a sandwich with Bob in your kitchen, your wonderful Mom, skating on ice covered snow from our house to your house, walkie talkies, and so on. Thank you for the the thoughts and memories. And regards to your brother Bob..Jay..

Jay - December 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Thank you, Bill Harvey! You and Missy extend our family, and we yours.

Mart Perkins - December 09, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Thank you, Faye. I believe you and I met near the time you met my mother. I stopped by with a friend before driving Mom's car across the country. I have a picture from the little tour you gave me; and I believe we left you with a historic photo of the house. I appreciate that the connections continue.

Mart Perkins - December 09, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Thank you, Ruth. I enjoyed growing up with you in and out of our household, being in yours, and then living across the street from you for a year! Feeling your love. Thank you. - Mart

Mart Perkins - December 09, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *What wonderful memories Penny. I recall visits to your Dads and hearing the tales of lives past during their respective youths. It was fun to listen to them both. Both were larger than life personalities.*

Jay Perkins - December 08, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *Thank you for the memory. The witch flies over our house in Yreka.*

Jay Perkins - December 08, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *The Perkins household was a second home to me growing up in Ann Arbor. I have so many wonderful memories of Mr. and Mrs. P. Their love and kindness I will hold in my heart forever. Nancy, Jay, Sarah, Sam and Mart, I feel so lucky to have grown up with all of you and am so grateful for the friendships made. Sending Love to each and every one of you. Ruth Schumacher Wilson*

Ruth Wilson - December 04, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *I know "Aunt Ann" is with my mother now. I don't have the words to adequately express my gratitude and love to her and to your whole family.*

Bill & Christine Harvey - November 29, 2021 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ We are so sorry for your loss. The world has lost an amazing woman. I loved her spirit. I loved her sense of humor. Her laugh was infectious and always genuine. I loved her curiosity. I loved how accepting she was and how she had a wide range of friends. I loved that she could hold her own with my Dad and how she loved him. I loved that she taught us "Hennie's" version of the star spangled banner! I loved her sense of style..oh, those wool skirts were to die for! I loved that she taught me how to make her famous chocolate sauce! But I never could master those dinner rolls! I will always treasure the time I spent with her and feel blessed that she was a part of our lives. She will be missed, but never forgotten!

Penny Cole - November 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ We have such fond memories of Ann - we were 2 of 5 who met with Ann on Sunday mornings for coffee at Panera's. She was such a joy. She told us where she lived in the house on Garden Terrace with the witch over the garage. We now live next door to that house. At the recent homeowners meeting I chatted with one of the ladies who moved in when these homes were new and Ann's name came up. Your family is blessed to have had such a wonderful mother. Linda Betz

Linda Betz - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ So sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. She stopped by our home where your grandparents lived on Race Street in Mishawaka before moving to California. I wish we had had more time for her to share information about this house. The library has a small article and that is all. How I wish I had the privilege of time with her. I wanted to send an article about the Perkins Windmill from a ribbon cutting ceremony last week. My address is 124 South Race Mishawaka Indiana 46544 and my cell is 574-261-4033. Your article in the Enterprise was so well written and interesting. I really enjoyed all the details about her long life. Please remind me when the Memorial date is here in Mishawaka. Thanks so much. Wishing you blessings Faye Sullivan

Faye Sullivan - November 20, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ RIP. So very sorry for your loss. 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Kristen Naylor - November 19, 2021 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel

A Memorial Tree was planted for Ann Eberhart Perkins - November 16, 2021 at 12:00 AM