

from Switzerland ↓

Obituary

Willhelmine, whom we called Willy, was born on 11 January 1936 as the third daughter of Alfred and Emma Volken-Burgener in the hamlet of Wyler near Fiesch. She grew up with her four sisters and brother. After completing her education at the school of domestic science, she went abroad. She was first employed as a housekeeper in Willisau, Andermatt and Brämis which she later left to work in the catering industry in Crans-Montana. She spent one year in London and returned trilingual which prepared her for work in the hotel industry. She worked in Zermatt for a season and even climbed the Matterhorn, an achievement she was always proud of. She went on to work in the same hotel in Geneva for many years and then afterwards in a jeweller's shop at Geneva airport. It was in this town that she met her future husband David Fox. He was a professor of mathematics and a guest lecturer at different Swiss universities.

In 1980, David and Willy went to the United States. They lived in different places such as Alexandria in the vicinity of Washington and Minneapolis. After David's retirement they moved south and for 13 years lived in Winnsboro in South Carolina. Willy was a gifted handicraft worker. She always ran courses for knitting, crocheting, Hardanger embroidery and pearl necklaces. She also taught these handicrafts at the university of Minneapolis. Her passionate hobby besides travelling - she had visited all the 50 states in the USA, was her garden and its flowers. She was a well-loved citizen of Winnsboro and in 2014 had planned to return to Fiesch and looked forward to her stay in her new flat. Sadly cancer ruined her plans. Her illness was diagnosed in August 2013 and she died on 20 December of the same year. Her sister Anny who came over from Switzerland was at her side in the last weeks of her life. We are grateful for everything Willy has done for our family. We miss you terribly.

Your relatives.

As some members of our family live in the French part of Switzerland, the obituary is also read in French.