



Josephine Hopkins

June 25, 1924 - December 25, 2014

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Having lived a full life, Jo Hopkins, a longtime resident of the Wenatchee Valley, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Christmas day and will be dearly remembered by her family and friends. Jo was born in San Fernando Valley, CA, and grew up on a farm that had its own fruit stand, and eventually, a grocery store. After graduating high school, she worked for Universal Studios in the mail room, but can be seen in the last scene of an Abbott and Costello movie, Here Come the Coeds. In 1945, she moved to New York City, where she did some modeling, ultimately returning to Los Angeles, where she met and married Allen Hopkins. In 1951, Jo and Al moved to Wenatchee and had a succession of businesses, including Cascade Radiator and the South-End Food Lockers. Their daughter, Michelle, was born in 1953, and a son, Jon, came along a year later. In 1966, the couple purchased a cherry orchard they named, April Showers and that became their passion for the next 45 years. April Showers cherries were known for their large size and were often requested by Japanese fruit brokers for their exclusive markets. In addition, the top-of-the-line cherries were packed for and sold by Harry and David, for more than a decade, as part of that company's fruit-of-the-month club. An avid reader and the editor of several books, Jo was also well-known for her

cooking, from Americana to old-world recipes passed down from her Sicilian mother.

Jo was preceded in death by her parents, Michele and Lucia Sorce; her husband, Allen; and her two sisters, Teresa Sorce and Bernice Johnson. She is survived by her daughter, Michelle Dent; her son, Jon Hopkins; her grandson, Ed Dent; and her brother, Joseph Sorce.

The family will hold a Private Ceremony, but family and friends can visit her, where she will be inurned, next to her husband, in the mausoleum at Evergreen Memorial Park in East Wenatchee. Arrangements are made by Telford's Chapel of the Valley, East Wenatchee.