**Damaris Peck Obituary**

**Damaris Peck Reynolds died July 29, 2012, after a brief illness.  She was born June 25, 1913 to Alice and Willys Peck in Peking, China, in what had been a temple.  Willys Peck had also been born in China and was a career United States Foreign Service officer.  Damaris’ early childhood years were spent in China, principally in Peking, and she always felt a close affinity with China and the Chinese people.  When Damaris was thirteen, her father was transferred to the State Department in Washington, D.C., where she attended Western High School, from which she graduated in 1930.  Damaris entered Mills College in Oakland, California and her parents returned to China where her father was Counselor of Embassy in Nanking.  Damaris visited her parents and decided college life was not for her.  She married Lincoln “Tom” Reynolds, a member of the Embassy staff, on Christmas Day, 1932.  After a few years in China, Damaris and Tom Reynolds moved to Miami, Florida as Tom joined the management of Pan American Airways.  From Miami they moved first to New York, and then to California where Tom headed the Pacific-Alaska Division of Pan Am.   In 1976 they moved to Corvallis.  Tom died in 1985.**

**Damaris was active in the Benton County Historical Society and in the Benton County Genealogical Society, and enjoyed researching not only her own family but also those of her sons-in-law and grandsons-in-law.  Damaris is survived by daughters, Gretchen Morris and her husband, John, of Corvallis and Alice Sigmund and her husband, Julius “Dutch” of Beaverton, and by grandchildren, Kimberly (and Paul) Mahr of Chengdu, China, Courtney Morris (and Jose Baer) of Sacramento, California, Charles Sigmund (and Tracy O’Connor) of Salem, and Joanna Sigmund (and Michele Gaines) of  Portland, and nine great-grandchildren: Corrissa and Jane Mahr; Isaac and Sophia Baer; Jordan, Aaron and Matthew Sigmund, Ben O’Connor, and Mia Sigmund-Gaines.**

**A celebration of Damaris’ life will be held on Sunday, August 5, at 2:30 p.m. at the Benton County Historical Society & Museum, 1101 Main Street, Philomath, OR 97370.**