



Fern Marvel (Hackenjös) Kaehr

April 11, 1941 - January 13, 2026

Fern Marvel (Hackenjös) Kaehr, 84, of Lynden, WA (formerly Berne, IN), passed away at 8:20 pm on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at Highgate Senior Living in Bellingham, WA.

Fern was born on April 11, 1941, in French Township, Indiana -- the 6th child of Andrew and Silvia (Kohler) Hackenjös. She married Ronald Kaehr on October 18, 1964 at the Apostolic Christian Church, Bluffton, IN. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Ron, in March of 2007, her brothers Glenn, Myron, Carl, and her two sisters Phyllis Smith and Nilah Fischer. Left to mourn her passing are one sister, Dema Hackenjös of Iola, KS; three sons, Kenyon (Donna) of Iola, KS, Jason of AZ, and Aaron (Joe Musielak) of Bow, WA; and one daughter, Denise (James) Chatterton of Lynden, WA. Fern had eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Fern will be remembered most by the hundreds of birthday, graduation, and wedding cakes that she made for neighbors and friends in her hometown of Berne, IN. She also judged cake decorating at the 4-H fair and eventually became a participant at the Northwest Washington Fair and received 1st place for one of her decorated cakes.

She was also the society editor for the Berne Witness newspaper and wrote for the Berne Tri-Weekly. One of her favorite things about working at the Tri-

Weekly was her “Cook’s Corner” spotlight, where she interviewed a local “cook of the week” and shared their picture along with several of their favorite recipes. Additionally, she edited The Berne Shopping News. She enjoyed calling random people on Thursday nights to see if they knew in which ads the two pots of gold were hidden that week. She was always happy when they did know, and they enjoyed winning \$25! Fern enjoyed crafts. She made baskets, painted ceramics, and made handmade greeting cards. She collected many things, such as dolls, nativity sets, Longenburger baskets, teacups, paper dolls, and, most recently, Little Golden Books. She was involved in many community clubs over the years, including Keep Trim Club, Mother’s Study Club, Caring Cluster, and Herb Club, to name a few. She was also an avid reader.

There will be no services, per her request, but a private burial service will happen at a later date at MRE Cemetery in Berne, IN.

Cemetery Details

M.R.E Cemetery

2610 W State Rd 218
Berne, IN 46711

Tribute Wall

MG

“ *My sympathy goes to your family! Fern was a good friend and I enjoyed her dry wit. Ron and my husband, Leon were first cousins so we did things together! She was a special lady. Loved her obituary-such a talented gal.*
Mary K. Gerber

Mary K. Gerber - January 16 at 09:08 PM

NS

“ *Aaron and Denise.*
Craig let me know about your mom's death. I was just in Lynden a couple of weeks ago and we reminisced a bit about your family and the good memories of South Adams. Please know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Take care.
Neva Schwartz

Neva Schwartz - January 16 at 02:11 PM

RK

“ *I well remember when Fern was the bookkeeper at my father's farm store, the Berne Master Feed Mill. My sister, Bev, and I would go there and pester her (we thought we were helping!). I think we were more glad to see her than she was to see us. But, she put up with us. If I'm thinking correctly, she loved the comic strip Apartment 3G which was in the Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette. She was a very good help to my dad. Occasionally I go to that building, which is now Liechty's Heating & Plumbing. I love seeing some old posters on the walls in the shop, that would have been hung up when Fern worked there.*

Ron Kipfer - January 16 at 01:52 PM