

## PONSFORD

MARY ELIZABETH (LIBBY) COWELL PONSFORD passed away on Tuesday, April 28, 1992, after a long illness. She had lived in El Paso since her marriage in 1936 to George Ponsford, member of a pioneer El Paso family who came here in 1897. Libby Ponsford was born in Whitesboro, Texas, the daughter of Rebecca and Harry Cowell. She was Valedictorian of her graduating class at Whitesboro High School and graduated from the University of Arizona with a BA in English. While at the University of Arizona she was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority. Mrs. Ponsford taught school in Whitesboro and in Scottsdale, Arizona, where she was head of the English Department. During her years in El Paso, Mrs. Ponsford has been active in many organizations. She was a charter member of Chapter A.J of the P.E.O. Sisterhood which she served in many capacities including president. She was a 50 year "Golden Girl" member of P. E. O. and was the granddaughter of Mary Florence Cowell who organized the first P. E. O. chapter in Texas. Mrs. Ponsford has been a member of the Trinity-First United Methodist Church for over 55 years where she taught Sunday School and was active in Circle 5 of the United Methodist Women. She is a past president of the YWCA of El Paso as well as past president of El Paso Alumnae Panhellenic representing Gamma Phi Beta Alumni. She was a member of the Woman's Club of El Paso and the Book Club of the Woman's Club. She was a charter member of the Thursday Book Club which was organized in 1950.

Mrs. Ponsford was a member of the El Paso Historical Society, the Members Guild of the El Paso Art Museum Association, and the Rebecca Stoddert Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was Red Cross volunteer during World War II and a volunteer at Providence Memorial Hospital for many years. Libby Ponsford is survived by her husband, George Alfred Ponsford; her daughter and son-in-law Mary Jo and Everett Melby; her sister Joharlie Hemenway, all of El Paso; her grandchildren Kinn Melby of Los Angeles, California and Katherine and Mary Victoria Melby of Austin, Texas. She is also survived by her aunt Litrelle Orr of El Paso and uncle and aunt Henry and Goldie Simpson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; her sister-in-law Sara Wilson and Lucille Tillman and brother-in-law Albert Ponsford, all of El Paso; nieces Jann McFarland and Jo Vos of Seattle, Washington; and many other beloved family members. Libby Ponsford is also survived by many friends whom she loved and who loved her. Funeral services will be held Thursday at 10:00 A.M. at Trinity-First United Methodist Church, Rev. Charles Crutchfield, Dr. Brodace Elkins and Rev. Andrew McGown officiating. Interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Television Endowment Fund at Trinity-First United Methodist Church. Arrangements by Harding-Orr & McDaniel Montana Avenue. 320 Montana 533-1646