

Elizabeth Cicely Ridley

September 26, 1927 – December 23, 2008



Elizabeth Cicely Ridley (nee Taylor), atmospheric researcher and mother of four died Tuesday, December 23rd, 2008 at Juniper Village, an assisted living facility in Louisville, Colorado.

Cicely was born on September 26, 1927 in Leicester, England, daughter of Leslie and Hilda Taylor. Her sister Anne was born in 1930. Cicely was educated at Wiggston Grammar School from 1942 to 1947 where she became head girl. She won a scholarship to Newnham College at the University of Cambridge in 1947. Cicely received an MA (first class) degree in Physics in 1951, and then went on to earn a PhD in Physics at Cambridge under Professor Douglas Hartree in 1955.

Cicely married Brian Ward Ridley in Leicester on June 24, 1954. After graduating from Cambridge, Cicely and Brian worked at the UK Atomic Energy Laboratory at Harwell where Cicely employed her new skills to calculate the electron structure of uranium. She retired from Harwell in 1958 to become a full-time mother and had four children between 1957 and 1962.

The family moved to Boulder, in 1964 when Brian was appointed Professor of Physics at the University of Colorado. The family enjoyed many years of hiking, camping, skiing, and exploring the western USA on holidays. They made many friends in the university, mountaineering, and Scottish dancing communities.

Cicely resumed her professional career in 1968 at

the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder where she worked on computer models of the atmosphere of Venus and Earth. Cicely

continued working there until her retirement in 1995. She considered NCAR to be her ideal work environment and was very fond of her colleagues.

In her retirement Cicely enjoyed visiting her grandchildren, weaving and traveling. She especially enjoyed the time she spent with her friend John Griffin and family in Cape Town, South Africa.

Cicely enjoyed theatre and classical music and expressed her creative nature through sewing, knitting and weaving. Cicely was also an enthusiastic hiker, skier and camper.

Cicely is survived by her ex-husband Brian Ward Ridley; four children Katharine Anne, Elizabeth Sarah, Charles Aidan and James Edward; and six grandchildren Anna and Garret children of Katharine, Chris and Sam children of Aidan, and Harrison and Flynn children of James.

The immediate family gathered on January 3rd to reminisce and celebrate Cicely's life. A memorial service is planned for July in Boulder when more family and friends will be able to attend and celebrate her life in the outdoors that she enjoyed so much.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Colorado Public Radio, Boulder Family Hospice or a charity of your choice.