Margaret Hindorff Ray was born 3 Sep 1925. She was the daughter of Eric Hindorff and (Annie) Martha Jane Gird, a granddaughter of Denver O. Lamb and Lucy Ellen Gird. Margaret attended school at the one-room Fall Brook/Reche School becoming valedictorian of the last class in 1939, when the school closed.

Margaret Hindorff married Private Otto Ray USMC on Nov 4th, 1944, when he was stationed at Camp Pendleton.
Margaret Ray devoted herself to collecting and writing about Fallbrook’s history, becoming the historian of the Fallbrook Historical Society. Owner of a large collection of photographs from the early 1900s, she restored them herself and had them published in “Images of America: Fallbrook”. (See box below on next page.) She was named Fallbrook Historical Society Pioneer of the Year in 2002. She was the guest of honor at a farewell celebration in 2010 at the Historical Society Heritage Center before she departed for Idaho to live with her eldest son, Otto.

Margaret and Otto had two sons, Eric and Otto Oren III. In addition to taking care of her family and home, Margaret worked as a clerk at Fallbrook High School, and later as Manager of Petrolane Gas Company. She was a member and past president of the Reche Club. She became a fierce advocate of the Reche School’s preservation efforts, a project begun by her parents. She also started the first Lioness Club and was a tireless member of the Fallbrook Historical Society.

Margaret and Otto were married for 52 years when he passed away on 28 Feb 1996. Margaret passed away in Jerome, Idaho, on January 15, 2021, at the age of 95. She will eventually be buried with her husband who is buried at the Oddfellows Cemetery in Fallbrook.

A memorial will be planned when it is safe to do so and will likely be held at either the Reche School where the Hindorff Adobe which her father built on their Fallbrook property has been installed, or Live Oak Park near the dance area that was dedicated to her father, Eric Hindorff.
Rebecca Farnbach is the creator of the “Images of America" series. She could not have had a better colleague for the Fallbrook edition than Margaret Ray.

Copies of this book are offered for sale at the Fallbrook Historical Society Museum Gift Shop and on the Fallbrook Historical Society Webpage at fallbrookhistoricalsociety.org
In this 2003 Fallbrook Vintage Car Show poster by Jack Ragland, Margaret Ray is featured as a young girl sitting on the step of the Fallbrook School. The caption goes on to say: “Born in Fallbrook in 1925, she attended this school through the eighth grade, graduating on May 23, 1939. She is also shown as she was in 2003 standing behind the Packard talking with a parent. Margaret is a member of the Reche Community Club and very involved with the Fallbrook Historical Society. We salute Margaret for her service to the Fallbrook community.”

A large collection of Margaret Ray’s photographs are available for viewing at the Fallbrook Historical Museum. Stop by when we are able to open again to see the history of Fallbrook brought to life!