

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2768

Cottrell, Ida Dorothy Ottley

(1902 - 1957)

Born 16 July, 1902, Picton New South Wales Australia

Died 29 June, 1957, Florida United States

Occupation Author, Journalist, Print journalist

Summary

Dorothy Cottrell moved from New South Wales to Ballarat, Victoria, with her parents while still an infant. She contracted infantile paralysis and was confined to a wheelchair from the age of 5. Cottrell's parents separated and she was raised by her grandmother, her aunt and her uncles, in various parts of New South Wales. She was educated by governesses and attended the Royal Art Society of New South Wales.

From 1920, Cottrell lived at Ularunda, Queensland, where she was active in hunting, swimming, rowing and driving. In 1922 she married Walter Mackenzie Cottrell, and the newlyweds eloped to Dunk Island. They later moved to Sydney and travelled around New South Wales before returning to Ularunda, where Dorothy began to write fiction. Her novel *The Singing Gold* was published in London and Boston in 1929 after appearing as a serial in the *American Ladies' Home Journal* and later, the *Sydney Mail* and the *English Women's Journal*.

The Cottrell's moved to California in 1928, and two years later Dorothy published *Earth Battle*. In 1942 they moved to Florida, where Dorothy worked as a journalist and writer of short stories. In 1953 she published *The Silent Reefs* – the story was serialised in the *Saturday Evening Post* and made into a film.

Dorothy died of heart disease in June 1957, survived by her husband and adopted son.

Events

1940 - 1950

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

The Women's Pages: Australian Women and Journalism since 1850, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2008, <http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/cal/cal-home.html>

Resource Section

Cottrell, Ida Dorothy Ottley (1902 - 1957), Ross, Barbara and Rutledge, Martha, 2006, <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080134b.htm>

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Papers of Dorothy Cottrell, 1929-1970 \[manuscript\]](#)

Author Details

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