A LEADER: Betty Friedan toppled a fence of prejudice but was swept aside as the feminist movement evolved.

She also bore a truce of the little girl from Pocatla, Ill., at times giddy, vulnerable and slack on appearances. People, she once observed, was the source of all her hang-ups.

Friedan was born Betty Goldstein on Feb. 4, 1921, the year after Americans women won the right to vote. She was the oldest of thirteen children of jewelry store owner Harry Goldstein, a Russian Jew, and the former Miriam Horwitz.

Although a sickly child who suffered from asthma and vision problems, Betty (who dropped her first name after the end of her first marriage) was precocious and skipped a year of school. In high school she was a schoolmistress, but her brainchild, she said, inside her head, felt "like a freak.

Azian feminism burned her father's kush, a successful business man, from joining the country club and other elite Peoria clubs, and it killed. Betty and her sister out of high school career.

"If you're a Jewish girl who grew up on the right side of the track in the Midwest you're no count," she said, "you're not the one, you grow up as an observer.

Her mother was an un- happy housewife whose disappo intion deepened when her husband's health deteriorated and she took over management of the jew- elery business. "I Changed My Life," Friedan said her mother's discontent gave some comfort the perils of the malaise she would later call the "female mystique.

As the family expanded, the Friedans settled in prosperous Rockland County, N.Y. Though she was determined to be a "Changed My Life," Friedan said her mother's discontent gave some comfort the perils of the malaise she would later call the "female mystique.

In 1935 she married Orson Welles, the man she said she married because he was "the only man in the world who gave me a reason to live." She and Orson had one daughter, Jane, who was born in 1937. They divorced in 1941.

During the 1950s, Friedan worked as a writer for the New York Times and the New York World-Telegram, where she wrote about the experiences of Jewish women in the workplace. She was also a co-founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW), and was a key figure in the feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s.
Feminist's Moderate Views Led to a Rift

The publisher printed only a few thousand hardcover copies in 1963, but sales exploded in paperback.

LITERARY LANDMARK

THE YEAR'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL BESTSELLER

The Feminine Mystique
Betty Friedan

The book has been written for the woman, housewife, mother, and daughter who wants to know the facts about the problems of modern womanhood.

The book is divided into three parts: I. The World of the Woman, 2. The Woman and the Family, and 3. The Woman and the Liberation of Society.

The book received many positive reviews and was accepted by some of the leading women's magazines, but it was not well received by all. Some critics accused it of being too radical and too pessimistic. Others praised it for its frankness and honesty.

The book was a bestseller and sold over one million copies in its first year.

In the 1970s, Friedan became involved in the women's rights movement and founded the National Organization for Women (NOW). She was a strong advocate for women's rights and was instrumental in the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). She died in 2006.
She found that love between unequals can never succeed and she has undertaken the immense job of bringing up the status of women so love can succeed.

Gloria Steinem

GLOBAL ATTENTION

Friedan, right, with women in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1985. By then she had written "The Second Stage," which shocked many by urging women not to forsake...