

OBITUARIES

CHRISTINE ANN SIMONDS, 49, died Thursday, March 29, 2007, at home in Laconia. Christine fought a long and courageous battle with brain cancer. She was born in Franklin, the daughter of the late Clarence H. and Beatrice K. (Riley) Hackett.

Among surviving family members is her sister, Linda Downes of Andover.

JOHN "JACK" FALVEY JR., 82, of East Side Drive in Concord, died April 4 at Concord Hospital.

Among surviving family is his son, Michael D. Falvey of Andover.

WYMAN C. "STUB" STETSON, 81, of Norwich, Vermont died April 19 at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon. He was born in New London, a son of Clarence and Stella (Burnor) Stetson. He graduated from high school in Andover in 1943.

He is predeceased by his parents and a brother, Richard Stetson of Andover. Among surviving family are brother Ralph Stetson and his wife Winnie; sister-in-law Grace Stetson; and nephew Mark Stetson, all of Andover.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in Norwich. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Upper Valley Humane Society, 300 Old Route 10, Enfield 03748.

RONALD JAMES MUDGETT, 67, of Franklin, died suddenly on April 25 at Franklin Regional Hospital. His family includes his stepsons, Ernest E. Elliott III of Hill, John F. Elliott of Andover, and Edward R. Elliott of Franklin; and stepdaughter Linda A. Shaw of Salisbury.

WILLIAM O. WRIGHT JR., 61, died April 25 at home in Contoocook. Among surviving family members is his half-brother, Ralph Doe of Andover.

DORIS R. McDONALD, 89, of Lawrence Street, died April 29 at Franklin Regional Hospital. She was born in Hartford, Vermont, the daughter of Frank and Grace (Perkins) Richardson. Mrs. Mc-

Donald graduated from Andover High School in 1935 and resided in Andover for over 80 years. She worked in the laundry for Proctor Academy for more than 20 years and was a former member of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Andover Historical Society.

Mrs. McDonald was an avid reader whose greatest joy was spending time with and caring for her family. She also had a large extended family of neighborhood children through the years who always thought of her as "Grammie." Her husband, Donald A. McDonald, predeceased her in 1982.

Members of her family surviving include a son and his wife, John and Donna McDonald of Andover; a daughter and her husband, Marjorie and Reggie Roy of Andover; grandchildren Melinda Roy and Jason Roy, both of Andover; step-grandchildren Rebecca Keith of Northfield and Cleo Roy of New Jersey; two sisters, Polly Richards of Andover and Barbara Furman of South Royalton, Vermont; and nieces and nephews.

There are no calling hours. Graveside services will be held on Saturday, May 5, at 10:30 AM in Proctor Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Andover Rescue Squad, PO Box 209, or the Andover Public Library, PO Box 45, both in Andover 03216.

GRAVESIDE SERVICES for James B. Hersey, 92, of Franklin Highway, East Andover, who died on February 13, will be held on Saturday, May 12, at 2 PM at Lakeside Cemetery on Route 11 in East Andover.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE for the late **Chester W. Perreault** of Bristol, formerly of East Andover, will be held on Sunday, May 20, at 2 PM at the American Legion Hall Post #26, 11 Spring Street, in Bristol.

Interment will be the following day, Monday, May 21, at 10 AM at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, 110 Daniel Webster Highway, in Boscawen.

ANDOVER HIGH ALUMNI

By Judy Poblentz Perreault
Andover High School '53

I had the pleasure of a phone interview with Thelma Miller Heath, class of 1940. Thelma was born and brought up in East Andover. Her parents were William and Bessie Miller. Her mother made the most beautiful braided rugs. My mother won one in a raffle over 50 years ago, and I still have it. Thelma had four brothers, Donald, Leland (Si), Clayton (Skip), Freddy, and two half brothers, Bill Miller and John Wheeldon. I forgot to ask her what it was like growing up with six brothers.

She attended the East Andover Elementary School and remembered Miss Carleton who taught grades one to four. She knew Mrs. Buswell as she was one of her piano students. The teachers, she said, changed often, about every two years. She thought maybe they didn't like dealing with the older boys. She also remembers the ruler punishments. One of the boys, after enduring this punishment for quite a while, stood up, made a fist at the teacher, and said, "That's enough."

Thelma skipped the third grade so she was in the same class as her brother Skip. There was a lot more skipping and holding back in those days. Some of the eighth grade boys stayed in that class until they were 16 and could quit school.

Thelma moved on to the high school. Her classmates were Gertrude Cunningham, Helen (Wildcat) Eastman (now deceased), Warren French, Virginia Gray, Fannie Gilbert (deceased), Mary Huntoon, Joy Harlow, Clayton Miller (deceased), Robert Newcomb, Barbara Richardson (deceased), Dorothy (Dolly) Shaw, and Rose (deceased) and Belle Whittemore. Mr. Harlow was the principal and George Corson was her Chemistry teacher.

Thelma took the train to school but walked home or sometimes got a ride with the Cushman Bread man. Bob Stewart from Danbury was dating Marjorie Colley and used to walk her home, and Thelma said she tagged along. Bet they loved that. Bob would take the 7 PM train back to Danbury. Marjorie later married Thelma's brother Donald.

Thelma took a lot of science courses, as her lifelong dream was to be a nurse. She liked sports and practiced basketball, but when the uniforms came in, the top fit but the pants didn't, so the teacher wouldn't let her play. Her on-and-off boyfriend from first grade to graduation was Rob Newcomb. She still has a valentine he gave her in the third grade. Thelma's summer jobs were working at the Log Cabin at Webster Lake, at Daniel Webster

Inn (long gone), and babysitting.

Some of her special memories are of night skating on Highland Lake, where they would build bonfires in front of the Newcombs, and of the Senior Class Trip, three days in Boston where they stayed at the Manger Hotel (demolished in 1986) at North Station. They rode the Swan Boats and saw the sights.

Thelma graduated at 16 and had to wait two years to go to the Laconia School of Nursing. During this time she did babysitting, which only confirmed her aim for a career. She graduated from nursing in 1945, and soon after became reacquainted with an old schoolmate, Edwin Heath. She said I didn't like him in high school. He had long blond hair and was very shy and quiet. They were married 54 years and had five children, one girl and four boys.

She managed to balance a family and career working at Laconia Hospital as Night Supervisor where she delivered three babies. She worked private duty nursing at Franklin Hospital, NH State Hospital three different times, State Prison, Concord School District, and she and her husband owned two stores, one in Danbury and one in Concord. A lot of these endeavors, she said, only lasted a couple of years, although her oldest son bought the Concord store, and Thelma works there two or three days a week.

I asked if she had any scary moments at the State Prison. She said one day a prisoner who had murdered his whole family came into her office. Usually she had an officer with her, but he had stepped out. The prisoner said he was feeling "jittery," and Thelma said, "Have you ever felt like this before?"

"Yes," he said "Just before I killed my family." Thelma managed to keep him calm until the officer came back.

One of Thelma's hobbies is dancing. She has a dance partner and they go dancing every other week at the VFW, where they occasionally see Freddy Shaw and his wife.

If you invite Thelma to dinner, don't serve chicken. It seems one of her brothers raised chickens, and it was a regular on the menu, and then in training - yep, lots of chicken. Maybe they were buying them from her brother.

Thelma has never missed a Fourth of July celebration since they first started 64 years ago. That is quite a record. She is also looking forward to the annual reunion and said she had a wonderful time last year. Remember, it is Saturday, July 7, at 11 AM at the Ordway Recreational Area in Danbury.

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