

Obituaries



Evelyn Vargo

EVELYN R. VARGO

Evelyn R. Vargo of Westland, formerly of Northville, died Wednesday Nov. 22, 1995, at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. She was 70.

Mrs. Vargo was born in Revere, Pa., Sept. 1, 1925, to Ephraim and Jessie (Ramsey) Richter. She married William Vargo in 1945, going on to live as an Army wife in places such as Japan, Germany, Virginia, Texas and Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Vargo lived in Detroit with her family following her husband's retirement from the military in 1959. In 1970 the family moved into a home on the former Maybury Sanatorium compound in Northville Township, living there briefly before Maybury reopened as a state park.

In 1972 the Vargos moved to Linden Street in Northville. Mrs. Vargo remained at that address until 1990, at which time she went to live at the Holliday Park Cooperative in Westland.

William Vargo was an employee of the city of Detroit and served as an official at the Detroit House of Correction, now Western Wayne Correctional Facility. He died in 1980.

Mrs. Vargo was active politically and in community affairs, particularly those pertaining to schools. She worked as a volunteer with the Northville Senior Citizens, overseeing weekly transportation for

shopping outings and to garden plots for seniors.

Mrs. Vargo loved music and literature and enjoyed travel, making several trips to Europe and the western United States.

She is survived by five children, Anne (Keith) Mannisto of Northville; Dana (Eric) Szanti of Garden City; Mark of Seattle, Wash.; Elaine of St. Paul, Minn.; and Amy (Robert) Buttery of Boise, Idaho.

Other survivors include sisters Lois Precella of Westland and Patricia Roberts of Pennsylvania; brothers Robert Richter of Dearborn Heights and Larry Richter of Livonia; and eight grandchildren.

Her oldest son, Michael, died in December 1993.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Nov. 25, with the Reverend Thomas Beagan of First United Methodist Church of Northville presiding. Burial took place at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville.

The family would appreciate memorial contributions to the Salvation Army or the American Lung Association.

DR. MORRIS D. KLOPFENSTEIN

Dr. Morris D. Klopfenstein died Nov. 24, 1995, at Bay Shores Nursing Home in Bay City, Mich., at age 84. He was born in Toledo, Ohio, on Oct. 22, 1911.

Dr. Klopfenstein retired as a medical doctor and spent most of his career at the Maybury TB Sanatorium in Northville Township.

He is survived by his wife, Nellie; son, Lee D. and his friend Pam Marshall, both of Bay City; daughter, Carol (Walt) Carlson of Howell; four grandchildren; Mark and Kathy Klopfenstein of Midland; Susan Klopfenstein of Lansing, their mother; Melinda Klopfenstein of Saginaw; Wally and Eric Carlson, both of Howell; one great grandson, Nathan; one sister, Edith Williams and sister-in-law, Ruth Klopfenstein, both of Toledo, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sarah and Frank; brother, Rees; three sisters, Oma, Margaret Jean and Martha.

A service was held on Monday, Nov. 27, at the Gephart Funeral Home in Bay City, with the Rev. Carter Preston officiating.

MARJORIE H. COOLMAN

Marjorie H. Coolman of Northville died Nov. 19, 1995, at Presbyterian Village, Redford Township. She was 87. Mrs. Coolman was born in Warren, Pa., on

Feb. 20, 1908, to Edward and Dorothea (Keller) Horan.

She lived most of her life in Northville and graduated from Northville High School in 1926. She was employed as a secretary for the Northville school system.

Her memberships included the First Presbyterian Church of Northville, life member of D.A.R., and life membership in the Northville Women's Club. She was also active in Northville Town Hall.

Surviving Mrs. Coolman are her son, Richard (Jean) and daughter, Rebecca Muller, both of Northville; and four grandchildren, Michael Coolman, Lorie Coolman Boshoven, Stephen Muller, and Marjorie Muller.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, in 1969.

A service was held on Monday, Nov. 27, at Casterline Funeral Home with Rev. Eldon Beery, First Presbyterian Church of Northville, officiating.

Interment took place at Rural Hill Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Presbyterian Village of Redford, 17383 Grayfield, Redford, MI 48240.

CLARA T. BARNES

Clara T. Barnes, age 89, died at Sinal Hospital in Detroit on Nov. 14, 1995. She was a homemaker and resided in the metropolitan area all her life.

Surviving her is her niece, Dorothy Pascarelli of Rochester Hills.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gabriel, in 1994.

Visitation was held at the Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home on Thursday, Nov. 16. A funeral Mass was conducted at St. Gerard's Church on Friday, Nov. 17, with Fr. Donald Archambault officiating. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Arrangements were made by Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home, Northville.

LEWIS S. DIEM

Lewis S. Diem of Milford, formerly of the Northville/Novi area, died Nov. 12, 1995, at Camelot Hall Convalescent Center in Livonia. He was 69. Mr. Diem was born on July 8, 1926, in Plymouth, Mich., to Lewis S. and Luella Rebecca (Tatton) Diem.

Before retirement he was a railroad switchman. A lifelong resident of the area, Mr. Diem graduated from Northville High

School and was a member of the Novi Baptist Church.

Surviving are his daughters, Glenda Paison of Milford and Debbie Little of South Lyon; sons, Dennis of North Pole, Alaska, and Douglas, also of Alaska; and six grandchildren.

A service was held on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at Casterline Funeral Home, Northville, with Pastor R. Dale Gross, South Hill Baptist Church in Milford, officiating.

ROBERT K. THOMAS

Robert K. Thomas of the Northville/Farmington Hills area, died Nov. 16, 1995, at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia. He was 73. Mr. Thomas was born in Highland Park on June 24, 1922, to James Curtis and Dorothy M. (Kastner) Thomas.

Mr. Thomas retired from Ford Motor Co. and was a lifelong resident of the area. He was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Northville.

His survivors include his wife, Donna (Schnute); daughters, Jennifer of Farmington Hills and Katherine (Jerry) Thomas of Arizona; sons, Jonathan R. (Catherine) of Texas and Jeffery R. of Ohio; mother, Dorothy M. Thomas of West Bloomfield; sister, Mary Jane Sturwald of South Carolina; and two grandchildren.

A service was held on Monday, Nov. 20, at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northville with Pastors Lawrence A. Kinne and Thomas M. Lubeck officiating. Interment was at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia.

Arrangements were made by Casterline Funeral Home, Northville.

The family would appreciate memorial contributions directed to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 201 Elm, Northville, MI 48167.

MARGOT P. PEARSALL

Margot Page Pearsall, age 75, died Nov. 23, 1995, in the Dorvin Convalescent Center in Livonia. She was a resident of Northville at the time of her death.

Miss Pearsall was born in Bay City, Mich., on Feb. 21, 1920, to Dr. Harry and Gertrude (Wolfe) Pearsall.

Miss Pearsall retired in 1977 as the assistant director of the Detroit Historical Museum.

She was a charter member of the Detroit Historical Society Guild.

She was a distinguished historian of

the Detroit Historical Society and in 1966, she was one of 10 women honored as Woman of the Year.

Her memberships also included the Detroit Institute of Arts, the League of Catholic Women, the Monica Build and the American Red Cross.

Surviving Miss Pearsall are three sisters, Alice Pearsall of Bay City, Sr. Winifred Pearsall of Philadelphia, Pa., and Kathryn (Robert) Redford of Northville; brother, Harry (Irene) of North Carolina; and many nieces, nephews, grand nieces and grand nephews.

A rosary was recited on Monday evening. A funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia.

Interment was at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Bay City, the following day.

Arrangements were made by Northrop-Sassaman Funeral home in Northville.

Memorial contributions to the Detroit Historical Society or Mass offerings would be appreciated.

WILLIAM W. MCKEEL

William Waters McKeel, age 90, died Nov. 26, 1995, in Bradenton, Fla. He was born on June 9, 1905, in Murray, Ky., to William H. and Eula W. (Waters) McKeel.

Mr. McKeel graduated from Murray State University.

He was employed at Western Electric Co. in Plymouth, Mich., for over 40 years as a supervisor, retiring in the 1960s. Mr. McKeel was a member of the Manette Methodist church in Florida, and a lifetime member of the Northville Masonic Temple.

Survivors include his wife, Lois (McCormick) of Bradenton, Fla.; daughter, Ann Lois (Pratt) McKeel of Milan; brother, Mason of Bradenton, Fla.; sister, Mary Smith of Fort Myers, Fla.; grandson, Chuck (Lisa) Pratt; and two great grandsons, Greg and Michael Pratt, all of Ypsilanti.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Trellis, Gaston, and Reason; and one sister, Golda Curd.

A Masonic Memorial Service was conducted on Tuesday.

The funeral service was held on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at Peoples Presbyterian Church in Milan with the Rev. Retnhold Krauss officiating. Interment took place at Marble Park Cemetery, Milan.

Arrangements were made by Ochalek-Stark Funeral Service in Milan, Mich.

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