OBITUARIES

Phyllis Krehely

Seamstress for the Rifkin Co., Hanover Township

Phyllis C. Krehely, 82, of West Main Street, Leola, died Tuesday, June 19, 2001 at her daughter's home. Born Nov. 21, 1918, in Edwardsville, she was a daughter of the late Andrew and Mary (Giza) Kush. She attended the Larksville Area schools. She was a seamstress for the Rifkin Co., Hanover Township, retiring in 1972. She was a member of Holy Name-St. Mary's Parish Community Church, Shoemaker Street, Swoyersville.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph P.; twin brothers, Bronislaus and Stephen; brothers, Edward, Andrew Joseph, Adolph and Henry Edmund Kush. Surviving are her daughter, Joan Meyers, Leola, with whom she resided; sons, Robert T., Califon, N.J.; and Joseph P., Strasburg; five grandchildren; sisters, Stella Pollick, Swoyersville; and Genevieve Anastasia Keefe, Pringle; brothers, John Kush, Swoyersville; and Joseph Kush, Dallas; nieces and nephews.

Albert Shirko

Served on Board of Directors for Exeter Little League

Albert T. Shirko, 89, of the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas, and formerly of the Midtowne Apartments, East Sixth Street, Wyoming, died Friday, June 15, 2001 in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Born in Exeter, he was the son of the late John and Emma Lipka Shirko. He was a graduate of Exeter High School, class of 1929.

He resided in Exeter most of his life before moving to Wyoming in 1985. He played semi-professional baseball in the Wyoming Valley and Scranton areas during the 1930s. He was instrumental in the forming of the Exeter Little League, where he served on the Board of Directors and was an umpire for several years. He was also one of the original founders of the Emanon Country Club. He was employed by Suburban Propane, Pittston, and was a member of St. Joseph's Church, Wyoming. He was preceded in death by his sisters, Agnes Simko, Anna Novack and Emily Benish. Surviving are his wife of 65 years, the former Anna Ondek; sister, Theresa Durkin, Emmaus; and several nieces and nephews.

Laraine Yarnell

Member of Shavertown United Methodist Church

Laraine (Taylor) Yarnell, 71, of the Trucksville section of Kingston Township, formerly of Swoyersville, died Thursday, June 21, 2001 at the Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township. Born Dec. 7, 1929, in Forty Fort, she was a daughter of the late William and Agnes (Lyons) Walton. She worked for Valley Plastics, Forty Fort, before retiring. She was a member of Shavertown United Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Everett Taylor; second husband, Ralph Yarnell; son, Barry; brother, William Walton; and sisters, Murscelcq Masterpool and Lillian May.

Surviving are her sons, Everett Taylor, Luzerne; and Ernest Taylor, Shavertown, Kingston Township; daughter, Patricia Taylor Toloczko, Edwardsville; stepdaughters, Gail Zocolla and Linda Burdett, both of Wilkes-Barre; 14 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; brother, Theodore Walton, Harding, Exeter Township; sisters, Thelma Devens, Pringle; Agnes Kocher, Beaumont; and Clara Kittle, Red Rock; nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Shavertown United Methodist Church, 163 N. Pioneer Ave., Shavertown, 18708.

Edward Thorpe

U.S. Army veteran of World War II

Edward C. Thorpe, 78, of Dallas, died Monday, June 18 at the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Born May 3, 1923, in Wilkes-Barre, he was a son of the late Edward and Esther (Bidwell) Thorpe. He attended GAR Memorial High School. He was formerly a truck driver for the Greater Buffalo Press and later for Acme Markets, before retiring. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He was a member of Teamsters Local 401, Wilkes-Barre. He was preceded in death by his sister, Ruth Jones. Surviving are his wife of 55 years, the former June A. Stivers; son, Edward C., Jr., Schenectady, N.Y.; daughter, June Carsman, Dallas; three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; sisters, Dorothy Donaldson, New Britain, Conn.; and Patricia Walch, Wilkes-Barre; nieces and nephews.

Martha Illingworth Parker

Member of Back Mountain Memorial Library Auxiliary

Martha (Illingworth) Parker, formerly of Dallas, Pa., passed away on Tuesday, June 12, at Valley View Nursing Center, Montoursville. She celebrated her 96th birthday in February. Born in North Adams, Mass., in 1905, she was the daughter of Robert Walter and Franc (Hammond) Illingworth. She graduated from North Adams Normal School and taught for several years in a one-room schoolhouse in Jacksonville, Vt., where she met her husband, Horace Shepard Parker, a principal at a nearby high school in Whitingham, Vt. Mrs. Parker and her husband moved to Kingston, Pa., in the late 1920's when he assumed the position of professor of English and tennis coach at Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School in Kingston, Pa., where he taught for 43 years. She served as both a Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader for many years, was active in the League of Women Voters, and was a long time member of the Church of Christ Uniting in Kingston. She was also a member of the auxiliaries of both the Meadows Nursing Center and the Back Mountain Memorial Library, both in Dallas. She was preceded in death by her husband in 1982; by her brother, Stanley Booth Illingworth, of Niantic, Conn.; and by her sister, Helen Illingworth Timson, of Scituatecq, Mass. She is succeeded by her daughter, Cynthia Parker DePuy, a retired school teacher who lives in Johnstown, N.Y.; and her son, Robert, who is retired from a career in marketing, fundraising and organizational management. She has two grandsons, Guy and Craig DePuy, both of Virginia; and two great-grandsons. Memorial contributions, if desired, may be sent to Church of Christ Uniting, Kingston, 18704; or to Wyoming Seminary, Kingston, Pa., 18704.

Michael Matthews

Member of St. Therese's Church

Michael D. Matthews, 41, of the Shavertown section of Kingston Township, died Monday, June 18, 2001 at the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Born Oct. 23, 1959, in Kingston, he was a son of Petroney (Cvilik) Matthews, Dallas, and the late Frank Matthews. He was a 1977 graduate of Bishop O'Reilly High School, Kingston, and attended Luzerne County Community College. He worked for Techneglas Inc., Pittston, and formerly for Leslie Fay. He was a member of St. Therese's Church, Shavertown. Surviving, in addition to his mother, are his wife, the former Diane Anderson; daughter, Krystle, at home; brothers, Mark Matthews, Maryland; and David Matthews, Villanova; nieces and nephews. Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association, 71 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, 18701.

Walter Crispell

Retired U.S. Air Force

Walter E. Crispell, 70, of Phoenix, died Thursday, June 21, 2001 in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Phoenix. Born in Mooretown, Ross Township, he was the son of the late Harry M. and Bertha Kraft Crispell. He graduated from the former Laketon High School, class of 1949. He retired from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years of service and was employed by Frost Temp of Arizona for 19 years. He was preceded in death by his brother, Clyde Crispell; and a granddaughter. Surviving are his wife, Connie Crispell; daughters, Mary, Cathy and Connie, all of Phoenix; brothers, Vernon, Lehman; Donald, Noxen; sisters, Frances Weaver and Catherine Rhone, both of Lehman; Nancy McKennas, Tunkhannock; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Bessie Thorne

Born in Lake Township

Bessie M. Thorne, 97, a resident of the Mountain View Care Center, Stafford Avenue, South Scranton, for the past four years, formerly of Minooka Avenue, Moosic, died Friday, June 22, 2001 at the center. Born April 17, 1904, in Lake Township, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Jessie (Kimble) Smith. She was a graduate or Wyoming Seminary Teachers College and Bloomsburg University. She was a practical nurse, before retiring. She was a member of the Moosic United Methodist Church, Moosic, and Moosic Arts and Crafts Club. She was preceded in death by her husband, E. Trevor; and son, Harry Paul Braithwaite. Surviving are her daughter-in-law, Helen Braithwaite, Dyersburg, Tenn; granddaughter, Susan Nelson, Knoxville, Tenn.; grandson, Paul Braithwaite, Dyersburg; and great grandson, Zack Dycus, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Ronald Perks

U.S. Army veteran

Ronald J. Perks, 66, of Plains Township, formerly of Wilkes-Barre, died Thursday, June 21, 2001 at his home. Born June 15, 1935, in West Pittston, he was a son of the late Charles and Marjorie (Moore) Perks. He was a graduate of West Pittston High School. He worked for United Rehabilitation Services, Wilkes-Barre, before retiring 10 years ago. He was a U.S. Army veteran. He was preceded in death by his sister, Edna Jones; and brothers, Stanley, Howard, Charles and Earl. Surviving are his sister, Carol Jones, Trucksville, Kingston Township; nieces and nephews.

Evan Challis

Merchant Marine veteran of World War II

Evan D. Challis, 84, of Harveys Lake, died Tuesday, June 19, 2001 at Heritage House, Wilkes-Barre. Born in Wilkes-Barre, he was a son of the late Evan and Mary (Morgan) Challis. He was a graduate of Coughlin High School and Wyoming Seminary, received an appointment to and attended the U.S. Naval Academy and received a bachelor of arts degree and honors from Wesleyan University, Connecticut, where he was selected as a member of the all-state football team. He was the regional sales manager for 25 years for Seth Thomas Clock Co., Connecticut, and eastern regional sales manager for Gorham Silver Co., New York City, for 18 years. He was Merchant Marine veteran of World War II. He produced and directed the Jean Goldkette Project. He was a former 50-year member of the First Welsh Presbyterian Church, Wilkes-Barre, member of First Presbyterian Church, Lodge 61 F & AM and Irem Temple, all of Wilkes-Barre, Keystone Consistory, Scranton, and the New Jersey Jazz Society. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Linda; sister, Marian; and brothers, William and Robert. Surviving are his wife of 60 years, the former Elizabeth Newman; son, Donald, Wilton, Conn.; daughters, Judith Parsons, Williamsport; and Suzanne Joseph, Wilkes-Barre; seven grandchildren, one great-grandson, and several nieces and one nephew. Memorial donations may be made to the First Presbyterian Church Restoration Fund, 97 S. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, 18702; or to the Austin Research Institute, 4182 Adams Ave., San Diego, Calif., 92116.

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