

BITUARIES

THOMAS ROERIG

Merchant Marine veteran

Thomas D. Roerig, 63, of Dallas, died June 16, 2004, at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born in Sewaren, N.J., March 9, 1941, he was a son of the late Andrew Adam and Mary E. (Aitkens) Roerig. He had attended New Jersey schools. Mr. Roerig had served with the Merchant Marines in Vietnam. He was a gunsmith and sheet-metal worker. He was a member of the National Rifle Association and the Antique Car Club.

He was preceded in death by his son, David; and by a brother, Hank.

Surviving are wife, the former Arlene Costagliola; sons, Thomas, Colorado; Adam, Tunkhannock; daughter, Carolyn, Laceyville; three grandchildren; sisters, Adel Torok, Ohio; Frances Zserdin, Texas; brother, Andrew, New Jersey.

A memorial service will be at noon today at the Harold C. Snowdon Funeral Home, 140 N. Main St., Shavertown, with Rev. Henry Peace officiating.

Friends may call today from 10:30 a.m. until the time of service.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 71 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

ROBERT PLUSHANSKI

Employed by Procter & Gamble and Sire Power

Robert H. Plushanski of Fieldcrest Drive, Tunkhannock, died June 18, 2004, at Tyler Memorial Hospital in Tunkhannock.

He was born in Somerville, N.J., on Sept. 9, 1950, son of Henry and Lois (Roller) Plushanski of Tunkhannock. A 1969 graduate of Tunkhannock High School. He had been employed at Procter & Gamble in Mehoopany, Sire Power in Tunkhannock, and on the maintenance staff at the Viewmont Mall in Dickson City. He also worked on the family farm in Tunkhannock and was a former member of the Future Farmers of America in Tunkhannock and the 4-H Club of Clinton, N.J. He was a member of the Tunkhannock Presbyterian Church.

In addition to his parents he is survived by a brother, Gary Plushanski of Chicago; sisters, Carol Garnecki and Dawn Riskey, both of Tunkhannock; niece, Victoria Forba; nephews, Nicholas Riskey and Stephen Garnecki, all of Tunkhannock.

Interment, Sunnyside Cemetery, Tunkhannock.

WILLIAM THOMAS LEE

U.S. Marine Corps veteran

William Thomas Lee, 57, of Bellaire, died Sunday, June 13, 2004, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

He was born July 25, 1946, in Dallas, and was the son of William and Janet (Thomas) Lee.

He worked for Sylvester's Restaurant for many years as a cook, and had previously served in the U.S. Marines. His greatest enjoyment was his grandchildren. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting and gardening.

He resided in Antrim County since 1982 and was a member of the Alba Pentecostal Church where he became involved in missionary work and ministry study.

He was preceded in death by his father.

On Sept. 20, 1997, in Bellaire, he married Judy (Fillmore) who survives. Also surviving are his mother, Janet Fielding of Noxen; six children, Christy (Paul) Helwig of Ellsworth; Katherine Boury of Metamora; Darren Watrous of Bellaire; Jeri (Stephen) Byard of Bellaire; Jessica Augenstein of Bellaire; and Jody Augenstein of Bellaire; two brothers, Jack (Sue) Lee of Noxen; and Ron (Sarah) Fielding of New Jersey; three sisters, Sandy Lee of D-etroit; Bobbi Collins of Baltimore; and Judy (Greg) Eoff of Germany; five grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Interment, St. John's Cemetery, Dallas.

Memorial donations can be made to Blessed Sacrament Church, or a charity of the donor's choice.

CECELIA PONGANIS

Lived in Center Moreland

Cecelia "Sally" T. Ponganis of Center Moreland died June 21, 2004, in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

She was born in Kingston, daughter of the late Stanley and Stella (Janczewski) Nowakowski. She was formerly employed by General Cigar, and was associated with the former Wyoming Valley Bakery, Edwardsville. Mrs. Ponganis was a member of Blessed Sacrament Church, Center Moreland.

Her husband, Emil; infant daughter, Emily; brothers, Theodore Novak and Alphonse Novackowski; and sister, Frances Chukinas; preceded her in death.

Surviving are sisters, Mary Nowakowski, Tunkhannock; Sister M. Jacqueline, Reading; Irene Scholl, Edwardsville; brother, Joseph Nowakowski, Tunkhannock; numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment, St. John's Cemetery, Dallas.

Memorial donations can be made to Blessed Sacrament Church, or a charity of the donor's choice.

CHARLES HUGGLER

Army Air Corps veteran

Mr. Charles D. Huggler, 83, of Brooks Estates, Pittston, died June 20, 2004, at the Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

Born in Ransom, he was a son of the late Walter and Sophie (Richter) Huggler. He was a graduate of West Pittston High School. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Prior to his retirement, he was employed by Allied Signal Aerospace, South Montrose, formerly known as Bendix. He was a member of St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, Pittston. He was a past member of the Knights of Columbus, Tunkhannock. He and his wife, the former Elizabeth Kurtenich, celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary this past Aug. 5.

Surviving in addition to his wife are one son, Mr. David Huggler, of Laffin; two daughters, Mrs. Christopher (Jan) Vachon, of Bear Creek Township; Mrs. Greg (Jacquelyn) Kirschman, of Reading; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one brother, Mr. Robert Huggler, of Ransom; four sisters, Mrs. Ruth Pasternak, of Falls; Mrs. Lorraine Fycavage, of Clarks Summit; Mrs. Joan Degilio, of Ransom; Mrs. Carol Bartholome, of Clarks Summit; nieces and nephews.

Interment, parish cemetery.

NATALIE BIERMAN

Hunlock Creek resident

Natalie E. Bierman, 76, of Range Road, Hunlock Creek, died June 17, 2004, at Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

She was born Sept. 2, 1927, in Ross Township, a daughter of the late Martin V. and Emily Brown Kytte.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John A. Bierman; brothers, Clifford, Ira, Abner, Russell and Steven.

Surviving are daughters, Ruth Ann Stepe, Jersey Shore; Rosette Evans, Chase; Roseann Bencotter, Sweet Valley; son, John Jr., Lehman; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sisters, Mildred Kytte, Wilkes-Barre; Vida Smith, Benton; Myrtle Gensel, Shickshinny; Gallup Coretta, Arkansas; and Minnie Moss, Philadelphia; brother, William Kytte, Alaska.

Interment, Oakdale Cemetery, Hunlock Creek.

MICHAEL JURISTA

U.S. Army veteran

Michael D. "Mike" Jurista of Bowmans Creek, Pa., died June 9, 2004, at his home. He was born in Eatonville on Aug. 16, 1927, son of the late Edward and Mary (Gajdica) Jurista.

He was an Army veteran. Prior to his retirement, he was employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Highways in Wyoming County for 25 years.

He was preceded in death by brothers, Edward and Joseph; and sister, Antoinette Kristunas.

Surviving is his wife of 51 years, Jessie (Everetts) Jurista; sons and daughters-in-law, Jim and Isabel Jurista of Tunkhannock; Scott and Roberta Jurista, U.S. Army Ft. Knox, Ky., serving in Iraq; son, Brent Jurista, Tunkhannock; daughter, Debbie DeBarry and fiancée, Doug Brody, of Noxen; brothers, George, John, and Andrew all of Tunkhannock; Thomas, of Silver Lake; sisters, Mary Kuffa of Tunkhannock; Helen Sharpe of Jenningsville; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Interment, Orcutt Cemetery, Noxen.

Those wishing may make memorial contributions to the Kunkle Fire and Ambulance Dept., RR1 Box 301A, Dallas, PA 18612, or Bowman's Creek Free Methodist Church, 10 SR 309 South, Tunkhannock, PA.

ELEANOR CRINNION

Welcome Wagon hostess

Eleanor B. Crinnion, 78, of Dallas, died June 17, 2004, at the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas, where she had been a guest for the past three years.

Born March 10, 1926, in New York City, she was a daughter of the late Gustav and Gertrude (Steinbeck) Beiswenger. She graduated from Cornell University in 1947 and was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. While living in Mountain Lakes New Jersey, Eleanor was an active member of the Garden Club and the Mineralogy Club. Moving to Dallas in 1967, she was a member of the Wilkes-Barre Dog Training Club, worked as a hostess for the Welcome Wagon for more than 20 years, and along with her daughter showed Basset Hounds during the 1980's.

Surviving are former husband, Edward V. Crinnion; sons, Edward V. Jr., Pittsburgh; James S., Hollis, N.H.; daughter, Eleanor (Norie) Crinnion, Dallas; granddaughters, Charity Jenkins, Clinton; Michelle Crinnion, Pittsburgh; sister, Gertrude Tourtellot, Greenville, S.C.

DONNA ASHWORTH

Graduate of Notre Dame Academy

Donna Jean Ashworth, 65, of Shavertown, died June 20, 2004, at Hospice Care of the VNA Inpatient Unit at Heritage House, Wilkes-Barre.

Born in St. Louis, Ill., Jan. 14, 1939, she was a daughter of the late Willard and Laura (King) Wheeler. She was a graduate of the Notre Dame Academy, Illinois. Mrs. Ashworth had been employed as a secretary in the office of the Shrine Circus. She was a member of St. Therese's Church, Shavertown. She enjoyed motorcycle riding.

Surviving are husband, Lynn Ashworth; sons, Steven, Tampa, Fla.; Robert, Lansdale; daughter, Linda Smith, Center Moreland; two grandchildren, Robert and Dylan; brother, Robert, California.

Interment, Chapel Lawn Memorial Park, Dallas.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice Care of the VNA, 80 E. Northampton St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701, or to the American Cancer Society, 71 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

ROBERT PILGER

Employed by Stull Bros. and Offset Paperback

Robert James Pilger, 77, of Beaumont, died June 17, 2004, at home.

He was the son of the late Walter and Mary (Coulter) Pilger of Beaumont. Mr. Pilger was a graduate of Beaumont High School, class of 1944. He was employed by Stull Brothers for many years, then Offset Paperback for 26 years, retiring as maintenance supervisor in 1995. He spent his retirement at home with his family. He worked with the Monroe Township Community Association on the restoration and preservation of the Beaumont School. He also enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by brother, Walter Pilger Jr., and sons, John Pilger and Eric Phillips.

Surviving are his wife of 32 years, Linda Hackling; children, Carol Dulaney, Kingston; Robert Pilger, Kunkle; Ernest Phillips, Dallas; Mark Pilger, Harvey's Lake; James Pilger, Harvey's Lake; Elaine Brennan, Tunkhannock; Eden Alden, Allentown; Walter Pilger, Beaumont; Sara Pilger, Beaumont; brothers, Charlie Pilger, Harold Pilger and Donald Pilger; sister, Mary VanCampen, all of Rochester, N.Y.; 11 grandchildren.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. today from St. Luke's Reformation Church, Noxen, with minister Martin Luther Everhart. Arrangements by Sheldon-Kukuchka Funeral Home Inc., 73 W. Tioga St., Tunkhannock.

Memorial contributions may be made to Monroe Township Community Association, RR2 Box 440A, Harvey's Lake, PA 18618, or the Kunkle Volunteer Fire & Ambulance, RR1 Box 301A, Dallas, PA 18612.

The Post publishes obituaries of Back Mountain residents, natives or those who have a long connection to the area.

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