

## OBITUARIES

## FLOYD WILLIAM KESTER

Ordained minister and missionary

"For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain!" So said Paul and so say I! "Absent from the body is to be present with the Lord!" ... Paul's sure hope and mine as well! The death of this body is inevitable ... unless the Lord returns and the rapture occurs first! ... which could very well happen ... at any moment! are some of the thoughts taken from Rev. Floyd W. Kester's most recent diaries.

Floyd William Kester, age 77, ordained minister and missionary of 54 years, died at home, 422 Bethel Hill Road, Fairmount Township, Sweet Valley, Pa., on September 13, 2004, following a five-year courageous battle with cancer.

He was born on June 18, 1927, at 66 Furnace Street, Shickshinny, Luzerne County, Pa., to the late Floyd and Bertha (Sarley) Kester. He attended Garrison Memorial High School and graduated in 1945. When yet a young man, he was born-again as a believer in Jesus Christ, was baptized by immersion in the lake at Forest Hills Baptist Youth Camp in Sweet Valley and joined the Independent Protestant Church (now Bible Baptist Church) of Shickshinny.

Floyd served in the U.S. Army. His Military Occupational Speciality was Bandsman and he attained the rank of Sergeant. He was honorably discharged November 11, 1946.

On August 29, 1950, he was united in marriage to Evelyn J. Beaujon in Johnson City, N.Y.

After five years of Bible and ministry training, Floyd graduated from Baptist Bible Seminary, Johnson City, N.Y. with a T.B. in Biblical Theology and then ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the Independent Protestant Church of Shickshinny in 1952. Floyd and his wife, Evelyn, were then commissioned as missionaries under Baptist Mid-Missions.

In 1953, Floyd and Evelyn traveled to Brussels, Belgium, for French-language training and then to missionary church planting in the Belgian Congo. They were evacuated out of Congo in 1960 to Ghana, West Africa, where they served as a church planter, field administrator, and co-founder of the Wa Baptist Bible Institute until 1967.

After returning to the States, Floyd and his family lived near Shickshinny on Cherry Hill while waiting God's next min-

istry assignment. In 1969, the Kesters moved to Takoma Park, Md., where Floyd planted the Good Samaritan Baptist Church. They moved to Sweet Valley in December of 1986 where they had faithfully served in evangelism and discipleship in area nursing homes, Hampton House of Hanover Township, Birchwood Nursing Home of Nanticoke and Leader East in Kingston. He directed the chorus at the Senior Citizens Center of Nanticoke and volunteered as an EMT for the Fairmount Township Fire Company.

Floyd was an active member of the Bible Baptist Church of Benton, where he served faithfully on the Missions Committee and ministered as song-leader and musician.

Of note, Floyd was an accomplished saxophonist. "He could make that horn sing as he 'submissively' played for the glory of God." Of lesser distinction was Floyd's gift in the languages. He learned Latin in high school and was trained in the biblical languages of Hebrew and Greek in seminary. Then to minister in the Belgian Congo, he learned French and the local dialect of Kituba; in Ghana, Ga; in Takoma Park, Md., Spanish; and in Kingston, Pa., Polish.

Floyd is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and children, David, Adamston, Md.; James, Oxford, Mich.; Paul, Kingsley, Pa.; Debbie (O'Keefe) Moscow, Pa.; Peter, Springfield, Va.; Samuel, Peyton, Colo.; Ruth (Campbell), Silver Spring, Md.; grandchildren, Shalom, Immanuel, Hannah, Joshua, Bethany, Benjamin, Brianna, Bradley, Brooke, Angelica, Deino, Dustin, Danielle, Devon, Dylan, Jeremy, Jordan, Annalise, Andrew, Jacob, Heidi, Zachary, Chelsea, Alexander, Mahlon and Paige; sister Mary Lee (Smart), Silver Spring, Md.; brother, Eugene, Crestview, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Floyd and Bertha, and his daughter, Judith.

Interment, Pine Hill Cemetery, Shickshinny. Memorial donations may be sent to Bible Baptist Church, 250 Shickshinny Road, Benton, PA 17814, designated for Kester Memorial Fund to be disbursed to Bibles International and the Ghana Theological Institute of Ghana, West Africa.

## ELINOR CRAGLE

Sweet Valley native

Elinor "El" J. Cragle, age 76, of Sweet Valley, died Sept. 11, 2004, at home.

She was born in Kingston, April 8, 1928, and was the daughter of the late Hulme and Mildred Edwards Daron. She has resided in Sweet Valley for the last 50 years. She graduated from Kingston High School, class of 1946 and from Wyoming Seminary Business School in 1950. She was employed as a secretary for H.S. Daron Concrete Block Inc., Luzerne; the former Charles H. Long Co., Sweet Valley; and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, Sweet Valley, retiring 14 years ago.

She was a member of the Living Word Baptist Church, Fairmount Township; the Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire Co. Auxiliary; and was Past Worthy Matron of the Shickshinny Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter 190. She was also the first woman dispatcher for the Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire Co.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Durland "Duke" Daron.

Surviving are her husband of 50 years, Loren D. Cragle; son and daughter-in-law, David P. and Joy Cragle, Sweet Valley; grandsons, Josh, Chad and Zack, all of Sweet Valley; sisters, Elizabeth Laughhead, Gladwyne; and Roxie Sanders, Dixon, Calif.

Interment, Maple Grove Cemetery, Pikes Creek.

Memorial contributions be sent to Hospice Care of the VNA, 468 Northampton St., Edwardsville, PA 18704; or the Sweet Valley Fire or Ambulance Assoc., P.O. Box 207, Sweet Valley, PA 18656.

## MABLE CLARK

Born in Tunkhannock

Mable Clark, 78, of West Main Street, Laceyville, died Sept. 9, 2004, at the Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre.

Born in Tunkhannock, she was the daughter of the late Clayton and Mary Lane Felker. She was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church, Laceyville.

She was preceded in death by husband, Richard W.; and two sisters.

Surviving are son, Robert, Jenningsville; sister, Ida Crawford, Tunkhannock; four grandsons; eight great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Interment, Sunnyside Cemetery, Tunkhannock.

## LEAH RANSOM

Service September 26

Leah Jean Ransom, 88, of Hunlock Creek, died Sept. 8, 2004, at Birchwood Nursing and Rehab Center, Nanticoke.

Born Aug. 29, 1916, in Hunlock Creek, she was the daughter of the late Jonah and Ida Hutchins Whitesell. She was a member of the Roaring Brook Baptist Church, Hunlock Creek. She was a LPN for many years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur; sister, Molly Whitesell; and brothers, Homer, Edgar and Ralph.

Surviving are nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2004, at the Roaring Brook Baptist Church, Hunlock Creek, with Rev. Dan Brubaker, officiating.

Interment, Oakdale Cemetery, Hunlock Creek.

Memorial donations may be made to the Roaring Brook Baptist Church Building Fund, 332 Pritchard Road, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621.

## JOHN FEHER

Owned auto body shop

John Ronald Feher, 66, of Lake Catalpa Road, Dallas, died Sept. 11, 2004, at the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born in Dunmore on Nov. 7, 1937, he was a son of the late John Feher and the late Mary (Malos) Juba Feher. He attended Dallas High School. Mr. Feher had served for three years in the U.S. Army before being honorably discharged in 1959. Prior to his retirement, he was the owner and operator of Feher's Auto Body, Hunlock Creek. Mr. Feher was a man who loved his children and grandchildren.

Surviving are his wife of 42 years, the former Eileen Blecher; sons, John and his wife Patti, of Lake Silkworth; Robert and his wife Tammy, of Kunkle; William and his wife Heather, of Sweet Valley; daughter, Mary Kaplowitz and her husband Stephen, of Kingston; grandchildren, Mollie, Aaron, Jennifer, Ashley, Robert, Nicholas, Alexandra, Joshua, Zachary and Amanda; brother, Edward Juba, Weeki Wache, Fla.; sisters, Margaret Hammond, Weeki Wache, Fla.; Dorothy Oliver, Weeki Wache, Fla.

Interment, Mount Olivet Cemetery, Carverton.

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## JENNIE PATTON

Member of Daughters of the American Revolution

Jennie Patton, 90, of Noxen, died Sept. 12, 2004, at Carpenter Care, Tunkhannock.

Born Dec. 8, 1913, in Plains Township, she was a daughter of the late John and Jennie (Howell) McMillan. She attended Plains schools. Mrs. Patton was employed by Natona Mills as a textile worker. She was a member of the Bowman's Creek Free Methodist Church, a lifetime member of the Bowman's Creek Women's Missionary Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Derwin H. Patton; brothers, Jeddie, William, David McMillan; sister, Margaret Rudolph; one great-grandchild; and three great-grandchildren.

Surviving are her sons, Derwin Patton Jr., Beaumont; Jack Patton, Beaumont; daughters, Alice Jane (A.J.) Condon, Beaumont; Peggy Weiss, Noxen; grandchildren, Jackie Patton, Karen Patton, Beverly Patton, Robert Patton, Alice Whitney, Mary Ann Wilson, David Patton, John Patton, Roberta Daniels, Bobby Condon, Joel Weiss, Renee Weiss; 18 great-grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Interment, Beaumont Cemetery, Beaumont.

## ELSIE KULMAN

80-year member of Order of the Eastern Star

Elsie S. Kulman, 88, of Dallas, died Sept. 7, 2004, at the Mercy Center, Dallas.

Born in Metuchen, N.J., Nov. 16, 1915, she was a daughter of the late Joseph and Magdalena (Google) Stahl. She was a graduate of Metuchen High School. She had been employed by the Board of Education, Metuchen, N.J. She was a member of the Community Reform Church, Whiting, N.J., and had attended First Presbyterian Church, Wilkes-Barre. She was a 60-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Mt. Zion Lodge. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles, in 1993; and by a daughter, Marcia.

Surviving are daughter, Nancy Grabenstetter, Dallas; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister, Frances Lipp, Greenwood, Ind.

Interment, Hillside Cemetery, Metuchen, N.J. Memorial donations may be made to the Mercy Center, P.O. Box 370, Dallas, PA 18612.

## WILLIAM BRACKETT

Skilled woodworker

William W. Brackett, 90, of Dallas, died Sept. 3, 2004, at the Hospice Community Care in Wilkes-Barre.

Born Nov. 21, 1913, in Greenwich, Conn., he was a son of the late artist Francis W. and Florence Emily Taylor Brackett. He was a graduate of W. Pittston High School and the National Farm School. Bill worked for 43 years at the Hazard-Okonite Wire & Cable Co., serving as director of process engineering when he retired in 1978.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Jean Daily Brackett; also by a son, Richard; and a brother, Harry.

An accomplished woodworker, he fashioned many beautiful pieces for family and friends and the base for the altar cross at his church, First Presbyterian Church of Wilkes-Barre, where he served on the Session.

He was also a member of Kingston Lodge 395, F&AM; Caldwell Consistory; Irem Temple, AAONMS; and a former member of the Irem Golf Association.

Surviving are daughter, Diana Ramsdale, Sparta, N.J.; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to the Back Mountain Memorial Library in Dallas; or the First Presbyterian Church in Wilkes-Barre.

## PEGGY SORBER

Dallas woman

Peggy J. Sorber, 81, of Troxell Switch Rd., Dallas, died September 13, 2004, at the Birchwood Nursing And Rehabilitation Center, Nanticoke.

She was born in Forty Fort, September 14, 1922, and was a daughter of the late Joseph and Anna Sutton LaFrance.

Her husband, James A. Sorber, died in 1993. She was also preceded in death by 10 brothers and sisters.

She is survived by a son, Douglas J. Sorber, Exeter; a daughter, Grace McMurtrie, Hunlock Creek; a granddaughter, Leann McMurtrie; step-grandchildren, Wendy Stang and Tammy Mooney; and three step-great-grandchildren.

Interment, Idetown Cemetery, Lehman Township.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Roaring Brook Baptist Church, 328 Pritchards Road, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621.

## PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers were recorded recently at the Luzerne County Courthouse:

Daniel Gause and spouse to James Crabbe and spouse, 6 Brittany Lane, Dallas, \$296,800.

Robert H. Schalm to Lynn Harris, Fern Ridge, Dallas Township, \$179,900.

Joseph J. Dollard to Jeffrey Tinner and others, Bluff Pointe, Dallas Township, \$92,500.

Donald Ide and others to Eugene E. Stec and spouse, Dallas Township, \$500,000.

George Patterson and spouse to Paul Bunson and spouse, Highland Drive, Dallas Township, \$139,900.

Carl M. Gross trustee to Alfred and Jean Camp, 42nd St., Dallas Township, \$125,770.

Carl M. Gross trustee to John Halbing and spouse, 42nd St., Dallas Township, \$32,000.

Carl M. Gross trustee to John Halbing and spouse, Dallas Township, \$28,000.

Carl Lavery tax claim to Walter Pinkevich, Franklin Township, \$687.

Ray W. Turner Jr. and spouse to Theodore J. Anderer and spouse, Franklin Township, \$225,000.

Lisa S. Spock per marshal to William Watkins, Harveys Lake, \$45,500.

Nancy L. Henry to Felicia Ran, Harveys Lake, \$70,000.

Marie C. Borton to Willard Velch and spouse, Lakeview Terrace, Harveys Lake, \$36,000.

Gene Ann Stochla to Paul B. Mallory, Harveys Lake, \$110,000.

Laura M. Lewis to Richard Fischbein and spouse, Harveys Lake, \$285,000.

Annette D., Sincavage to Carl Jones and spouse, Harveys Lake, \$195,000.

Marina Commons at Harveys Lake to Mary Peperno, Marina Pointe, Harveys Lake, \$229,870.

Marina Commons at Harveys Lake to Gerald Kovaleski and spouse, Marina Pointe, Harveys Lake, \$179,900.

William Lennon and spouse tax claim to Pen-Pol Corporation, Rhodes Terrace, Harveys Lake, \$908.

Joseph Striano and spouse to William R. Davis, Harveys Lake, \$8,000.

Leonard Isaacs and others to Barbara Gianuzzi, Harveys Lake, \$46,500.

Gerard Gurnari to Eugene G. Pappas, Harveys Lake, \$13,500.

Ruckno Associates Inc. to Nicole M. Cooper, Indian Rock II, Jackson Township, \$51,500.

David Kaufman and spouse to Randy Soifer and spouse, Sutton Hills, Jackson Township, \$188,500.

Eric McCabe and spouse to Martin Moore, Kingston Township, \$120,500.

Charles Gelso co-partner to Joseph Newhart and spouse, Windsor Farms, Kingston Township, \$72,900.

Estate of Dorothy MacDonagh to Marcus Sowcik and spouse, 7 Carverton Road, Kingston Township, \$83,500.

John Woychick and spouse to Louis Woychick and others, Trucksville Gardens, Kingston Township, \$80,000.

Gelso-Smith partner to Carl Gross Jr. and spouse, Windsor Farms, Kingston Township, \$47,500.

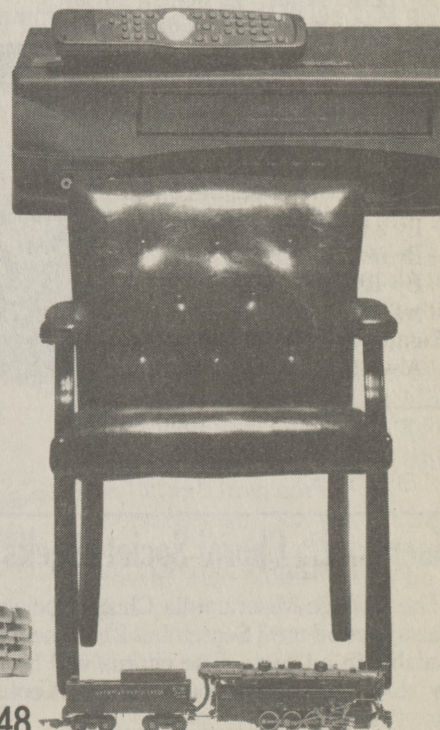
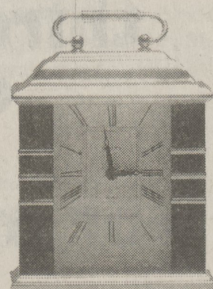
W.H. Conyngham & Co. Inc. to Patricia Nardone, Hayfield Farms, Lehman Township, \$84,500.

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