

NEWS/OBITUARIES

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Businesswoman known for style, generous nature

Franklin resident, store owner dies

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Virginia L. Newkirk will be remembered for her generous spirit, immaculate dress and love of friends and family.

The Franklin woman, who ran a series of downtown businesses and was active in several community groups, died Saturday at the age of 90. Nicknamed "City" by her brothers and sisters who were trying to call her sister, Newkirk would be remembered most for her smile, family members said.

Newkirk's first business in downtown Franklin was Patty Jo Playschool, which she owned and operated in the late 1940s through the early 1950s.

About 20 children came to the preschool each morning from 8 to 11:30 a.m.

The center was named for her daughters, Patricia and Mary Jo, who were ages 3 and 12 at the time.

In a remembrance, Newkirk wrote of the school:

"One time, the first-grade teacher in Franklin called and asked (us) not to teach the children so much because it made it difficult for the children who did not have the opportunity."

The Nineveh resident took over management of Davis Shoe Store in Franklin, the family business of her first husband, Jinks D. Richardson, after his death in 1956.

Newkirk's family said she was most proud of growing the business into Newkirk Fashion Shoppe, Shoe Store and Children's Shoppe with no formal business training.

She ran the stores with her husband, Harold D. Newkirk, until she retired at age 76.

The shop carried fashionable clothes like the ones Newkirk was known for wearing, friends said.

She would call customers to let them know when she got a new shipment that might have a dress or suit she thought they would like, Franklin resident Elinor Norris said.

Norris, who shopped at the store, said Newkirk was always attentive with her customers, asking them what they liked and what she could add to her store.

Franklin resident Sandy Rogers got her first job at the store and said Newkirk made her feel more like family than an employee.

Newkirk noted that she could leave the store at any time be-



NEWKIRK

cause her employees were so dedicated.

The store would always be decorated for the holidays, and they often changed out window displays with different dresses, Rogers said.

She fondly remembered the one occasion she was sent to pick up the mail in the family Cadillac with the Newkirk license plate, which Newkirk was known for driving even after she retired.

Newkirk was always dressed so that everything matched, advertising her store in a way, said Reba Goley, who attended Tabernacle Christian Church in Franklin with her.

A few friends described Newkirk as someone who never had a hair out of place and looked much younger than her 90 years.

"She always looked like she just stepped out of a beauty parlor," bridge buddy Gerry Zehr said.

She carried her attention to detail and artistic nature over into entertaining for friends and family, a favorite pastime.

Fellow church member Emma Jean Scott said Newkirk made sure everything from the flowers to the napkins were coordinated, often in pink, one of her favorite colors.

Friends said Newkirk loved playing cards and belonged to several bridge and euchre groups.

Family members said she had few other hobbies, as she preferred being with people to doing crossword puzzles or reading.

She also traveled all over the world with her husband, Harold, and the couple counted Hawaii among their favorite places to visit.

Over a card game or while visiting with a friend, she often told stories about what was happening with her family.

Her interest in the city of Franklin kept her busy working with several community groups, including Johnson County 4-H, Franklin Girls Club and the Franklin Symphonic Council.

She was also active at her church and was a member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority.

Friends said Newkirk carried an upbeat and generous personality in everything she was a part of, doing whatever needed to be done for the group.

"She was just a person that had a zest for life," said Franklin resident Carolyn Prosser, who married Newkirk's nephew Gene.

Her funeral will be at 10 a.m. today at Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home, 2898 N. Morton St. in Franklin.

"She was just a person that had a zest for life."

Carolyn Prosser
relative of Franklin
resident Virginia L. Newkirk

INDIANAPOLIS Pearl Marie Ellis

Pearl Marie Ellis, 90, died Monday, Jan. 23, 2006. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include her children, Nora Brown and Walter Ellis; sister, Nellie Haus; and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Gladys Henzmann; her husband, Walter E. Ellis; and a daughter, Ava Earles.

A service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday at G.H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home, 5141 Madison Ave. in Indianapolis. Friends may call from noon until service time Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Greenwood Cemetery.

LAFAYETTE, Tenn. Harold Johnson

Harold Johnson, 76, of Lafayette, Tenn., a former Franklin resident, died Saturday, Jan. 21, 2006, in Panama City, Fla.

The son of Hobart L. and Della M. (Moon) Johnson, Harold was born Nov. 27, 1929, in Woodbury, Tenn.

Harold was a truck driver for American Can Co. in Indianapolis for 30 years, retiring in 1980.

The Rev. Jack Elliott will officiate services at 10 a.m. Friday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel, 481 W. Main St. Burial will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin. Friends may call 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Survivors include his wife, Cleo (Ray) Johnson of Lafayette, Tenn.; children, Robert Johnson of Greenwood, Glen Johnson of Martinsville, Ruth Nolting of Indianapolis; stepsons, Terry Swindle of Franklin and Dan Swindle of Spencer; siblings, Josie A. Smith of Antioch, Tenn., Mary E. Carroll of Las Cruces, N.M., Lonnie M. Johnson of Nashville, Tenn., Billie F. Johnson of Mooresville, Hobart D. "H.D." Johnson of Bradyville, Tenn., Marion H. Johnson of Wichita, Kan., and Van R. Johnson of Portland, Tenn.; nine grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter. Besides his parents, Harold was preceded in death by brothers, Olan M., Paul E., Dewell L., Robert D. and Leldon Johnson.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Diabetes Association, 7363 E. 21st St., Indianapolis, IN 46219.

Online condolences may be made to the Johnson family at www.wilsonst pierre.com

GREENWOOD
John W. 'Jack' Kreutzer

John W. "Jack" Kreutzer, 78, passed away Sunday, Jan. 22, 2006, at his Greenwood residence.

Jack was born March 21, 1927, in Liberty to Albert and Elizabeth (Rosefield) Kreutzer.

He is survived by a son, Darrell Kreutzer of Franklin; a daughter, Susan Capozzi of Whiteland; two sisters, Virginia Meyer of Cincinnati and Rita Scheigert of Beech Grove; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, and his wife, Charlotte (Clephane) Kreutzer.

Jack worked for Link Belt Corp. for 42 years, retiring in 1987.

He was a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic Church.

A Mass of Christian burial will be conducted at 10 a.m. Thursday at Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic Church. Friends may call from 2 to 8 p.m. today at



JOHNSON



KREUTZER

Edinburgh
Russell D. Sallee, 69
Franklin
Eileen C. Schuman, 97
Charles E. Skelton Sr., 62
Greenwood
John W. "Jack" Kreutzer, 78
Indianapolis
Pearl Marie Ellis, 90
Mildred Chambers Stich, 92
Elsewhere
Harold Johnson, 76
John N. McKee, 46
Robert Charles Smith, 86
Sharon Tinsley, 57

Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel.
Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.wilsonst pierre.com.

MARTINSVILLE John N. McKee

John N. McKee, 46, died Monday, Jan. 23, 2006, at Morgan Hospital and Medical Center in Martinsville. He was a resident of Martinsville and a former resident of Morgantown.

Survivors include his mother, Thelma L. McKee of Martinsville; sister, Diana C. Higginbotham of Indianapolis; and brothers, Craig L. (Sandra) McKee of Morgantown and David P. and Phillip D. McKee, both of Martinsville. He was preceded in death by his father, Alva Paul McKee.

A funeral service will be conducted at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Meredith-Clark Funeral Home, Cremation and Personalization Center, 179 E. Mulberry St. in Morgantown. Friends may call from 5 p.m. until service time Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at East Hill Cemetery in Morgantown.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family of John N. McKee, in care of the funeral home, P.O. Box 308, Morgantown, IN 46160.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.meredith-clark.com.

Information: (812) 597-5470

EDINBURGH Russell D. Sallee

Russell D. Sallee, 69, died Monday, Jan. 23, 2006, in Edinburg, Tex. He was a resident of Edinburg.

He was born Feb. 8, 1936, in Adair County, Ky., to the late Lige and Laura (Burton) Sallee. He married Helen (Cowan) Sallee on June 2, 1956. She survives. Other survivors include a son, Jeffrey (Kimberly) Sallee of Columbus; daughters, Joy Sallee of Columbus and Trina Helton of Franklin; grandsons, Dillon Sallee of Attica, Jimmy Robertson of Columbus and Grant Helton of Franklin; granddaugh-



SALLEE

ters, Kylei Kellams-Poff of Greenwood, Ashlei Kellams of Columbus and Casey Sallee of Orlando, Fla.; and a sister, Linnie Burton of Columbus. He was also preceded in death by his brothers, Hansel, Edgar, Paul and Bill Sallee; and a granddaughter, Kendra Kellams.

He served in the U.S. Army. He was a member of Edinburg American Legion Post No. 233 and was a past commander.

He retired from Amos Hill Associates Inc. in Edinburg. After retirement he worked for the transportation department at Camp Atterbury.

He enjoyed fishing, NASCAR, college basketball and spending time with his family.

The Rev. Lewis Burton will conduct a funeral service at 2 p.m. Thursday at Who So Ever Will Community Church, 623 S. Eisenhower Drive in Edinburg. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today and from noon until service time Thursday at the church. Burial will be at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburg. Military graveside rites will be conducted by Edinburg American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Arrangements are being handled by Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home in Edinburg.

FRANKLIN Eileen C. (Lowary) Schuman

Eileen C. (Lowary) Schuman, 97, died Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2006, at Franklin United Methodist Community. She was a resident of Franklin.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Grant and Margaret (Duffy) Lowary; and her husband, Carl G. Schuman.

A funeral service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Sunday at Eberle-Fisher Funeral Home, 103 N. Main St. in London, Ohio. Friends may call from noon until service time Sunday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Summerford Cemetery in Summerford, Ohio.

Memorial contributions may be made to Franklin United Methodist Community, 1070 W. Jefferson St., Franklin, IN 46131.

FRANKLIN Charles E. Skelton Sr.

Charles E. Skelton Sr., 62, died Sunday, Jan. 22, 2006, at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin. He was a resident of Franklin.

Survivors include three children, Charles E. Skelton Jr., Virginia Lee Davilla and Shawn R. Brosset; two brothers, George E. Skelton and Joseph W. Skelton; three sisters, Jacquelyn Barnard, and Marilyn and Margaret Withrow; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Preston and Martha Virginia (Rutland) Skelton.

A graveside service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin. Friends may call from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service and Crematory, Vandivier-Tudor Chapel, 951 N. Main St. in Franklin.

NAVARRE, Ohio Robert Charles Smith

Robert Charles Smith, 86, died Sunday, Jan. 22, 2006, at Altermare of Navarre, Ohio. He was a life-long resident of Bargersville.

Survivors include a daughter, Cyndi Eberhart of Bolivar, Ohio; a brother, Dale Smith of Gulfport, Miss.; two sisters, Dottie Brandlin and Dorothy Graham, both of Cloverdale; and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert C. and Louise (Moore) Smith; and his wife, Ella (Wheatcraft) Smith.

A funeral service will be conducted at 10 a.m. today at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 1977 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood. Friends may call from 9 a.m. until service time today at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mount Auburn United Methodist Church, 3100 W. Stones Crossing Road, Greenwood, IN 46143.

Information: 535-9003

INDIANAPOLIS Mildred C. Chambers Stich

Mildred C. Chambers Stich, 92, died Monday, Jan. 23, 2006. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include daughters Betty (Jerry) McKeand of Indianapolis; Sandra (Jack) Parr of Fort Wayne; sons Robert (Marilyn) Stich of Plainfield and Dennis (Sammy) Chambers of Longmont, Colo.; 16 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leo Stich; and parents, George and Frances Miles Bender.

A Mass of Christian burial will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Jude Catholic Church, 5353 McFarland Road in Indianapolis. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at Singleton Community Mortuary and Memorial Center, 7602 Madison Ave. in Indianapolis. Prayers will be said at 9:45 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Catholic Church, 5353 McFarland Road, Indianapolis, IN 46227-7003; or The Altenheim Community, 3525 E. Hanna Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46237-1230.

BROWNSBURG Sharon Tinsley

Sharon Tinsley, 57, died Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2006, in Hendricks County. She was a resident of Brownsburg and a former resident of Indianapolis.

Arrangements are pending at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home.

Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

The deadline for submitting obituaries to the Daily Journal is 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Sundays, the deadline is 1 p.m.

Columbus school board rejects publication reviews

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS

The Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. Board of Trustees rejected a proposal to tighten the review of student publications that was suggested after a high school newspaper printed a four-page report on the medical and psychological risks of oral sex.

The board voted 5-2 on Monday against the plan that would have required all student publications be reviewed by the district superintendent before being printed.

Recent public meetings on the proposal by board member Russell Barnard had drawn large crowds, with many speaking against the move.

Kim Green, the faculty adviser for the Triangle newspaper at Columbus North High School, said she was relieved by the vote. She had said she might resign her job if the new policy were approved.

"The kids have already moved on," she said. "Their next issue has already come out, and they're planning the following issue."

Board member Jay Howard said he thought the students handled the oral sex report responsibly.

"The kids have already moved on."

Kim Green
faculty adviser for the Triangle
newspaper at Columbus North High
School, on a controversial issue of
the school publication

"I think student journalists were attempting to do something to help their classmates and their friends to recognize that this is a real issue of importance and they can be doing harm to themselves without really being aware of the consequences of their behavior."



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