

NEWS/OBITUARIES

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'Christmas Story' actor dies at 83

By GREG RISLING
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Darren McGavin was painting a movie set for "A Song to Remember" in 1945 when he learned of an opening for a small role in that show, climbed off his ladder, and returned through Columbia's front gates to land the part.



McGAVIN

The husky, tough-talking performer went on to become one of the busiest actors in television and film, starting in five TV series, including "Mike Hammer," and endearing holiday audiences with his role as the grouchy dad in the 1983 comedy classic "A Christmas Story."

McGavin, 83, died Saturday of natural causes at a Los Angeles-area hospital with his family at his side, said his son Bogart McGavin.

McGavin also had leading roles in TV's "Riverboat" and cult favorite "Kolchak: The Night Stalker." Among his memorable portrayals was Gen. George Patton in the 1979 TV biography "Ike."

Despite his busy career in television, McGavin was awarded only one Emmy: in 1990 for an appearance as Candice Bergen's opinionated father in an episode of "Murphy Brown."

He lacked the prominence in films he enjoyed in television, but he registered strongly in featured roles such as the young artist in Venice in "Summertime," David Lean's 1955 film with Katharine Hepburn and Rosanno Brazzi; Frank Sinatra's crafty drug supplier in "The Man with the Gol-

den Arm" (1955); Jerry Lewis' parole officer in "The Delicate Delinquent" (1957); and the gambler in 1984's "The Natural."

He also starred alongside Don Knotts, who died Friday night, in the 1976 family comedy "No Deposit, No Return."

Throughout his television career, McGavin gained a reputation as a curmudgeon willing to bad-mouth his series and combat studio bosses.

McGavin starred in the private-eye series "Mike Hammer" in the 1950s. In 1968, he told a reporter: "Hammer was a dummy. I made 72 of those shows, and I thought it was a comedy. In fact, I played it campy."

"He was the kind of guy who would've waved the flag for George Wallace."

Born in Spokane, Wash., McGavin was sketchy in interviews about his childhood. He told TV Guide in 1973 that he was a constant runaway at 10 and 11, and as a teen lived in warehouses in Tacoma, Wash., and dodged the police and welfare workers.

His parents disappeared, he said. He spent a year at College of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., taking part in dramatics, then landed in Los Angeles.

He washed dishes and was hired to paint sets at Columbia studio. He was working on "A Song to Remember" when an agent told him of an opening for a small role.

"I climbed off a painter's ladder and washed up at a nearby gas station," McGavin said. "I returned through Columbia's front gate with the agent."

The director, Charles Vidor, hired him. No one recognized him but the paint foreman, who said, "You're fired."

COLUMBUS

Arthur G. Cox

Arthur G. Cox, 65, died Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2006, at St. Francis Hospital Beech Grove. He was a resident of Columbus.

Survivors include his wife, Marcia S. (Ogden) Cox; daughters, Cindy (Duane) Lewis of Franklin, and Sherry (Randall) Miller, Lisa (David) Overstreet and Kathy (Phil) Ison, all of Shelby County; stepdaughters, Lisa (Mark) Christopher and Sherry (John) Webster, both of Columbus; and 12 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur Cox and Mabel Knotts Lacy.

The Rev. Marvin Arnett conducted a funeral service Saturday. Burial was at East Hill Cemetery in Rushville.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Francis Indiana Bone Marrow Transplant Annual Golf Fund-raiser for Survivors, c/o Jewell-Rittman Family Funeral Home, 3855 25th St., Columbus, IN 47203.

FRANKLIN

Carroll Groves

Carroll Groves, 93, passed away on Friday, Feb. 24, 2006, at the Franklin United Methodist Community.



GROVES

He was born on Nov. 8, 1912, in Taylorsville. His parents were Firman and Rose (Steenbarger) Groves. He married Mary Elizabeth Royle on Sept. 12, 1935. She preceded him in passing on Sept. 1, 1997. Survivors include one son, Tom R. (Susie) Groves of Martinsville; a granddaughter, Shannon (Gary) Sneed of Evergreen, Colo.; and great-granddaughters, Madysen and Gracie. He was preceded in death by four brothers, Naurice, Aylette, Merrill and Thaddeus Groves.

He attended Columbus High School.

He was a farmer in both Bartholomew and Johnson counties.

He was a member of Franklin Community Congregational Church, Franklin Masonic Lodge No. 107 F&AM, and the Ceretians Farmers Club.

Franklin

Carroll Groves, 93
J. Edward Roycraft, 92

Greenwood
Margaret M. "Peggy"
Zeilinga, 67

Indianapolis

Lillian O. Pittman, 74

Elsewhere

Arthur G. Cox, 65
James C. "Giz" Whitaker, 82

The Rev. Art Stratton will conduct a service at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home, 2898 N. Morton St. in Franklin. Friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburg.

Memorial contributions may be made to Community Congregational Church, 4592 Hurricane Road, Franklin, IN 46131.

INDIANAPOLIS

Lillian O. Pittman

Lillian O. Pittman, 74, died Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006, at her residence in Indianapolis.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Pittman; four sons, Richard R. Pittman of Martinsville and Stephen E., Jeffery R. and James D. Pittman, all of Indianapolis; two daughters, Deborah L. Wagner of Greenwood and Peggy L. Vaughn of Indianapolis; a sister, Nancy Staggs of Longview, Texas; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Eunice (Wilder) Camic.

A funeral service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 1977 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 6069 Dept. 95, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6069.

Information: 535-9003

FRANKLIN

J. Edward Roycraft

J. Edward Roycraft, 92, died Friday, Feb. 24, 2006, in Franklin. He was a resident of Franklin and a former resident of Lyndhurst, N.J., and Rogers, Ark.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Brelle; two sons, Ralph E. and John C. Roycraft; two daughters, Ruth Morningstar and Barbara Creviere; a brother, Ted Roycraft; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Theresa (Doupe) Roycraft.

A memorial service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Franklin United Methodist Community, 1070 W. Jefferson St. in Franklin. Friends may call from 9 a.m. until service time Tuesday at the Methodist community.

G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home, 1605 S. State Road 135, is handling arrangements.

MORGANTOWN

James C. 'Giz' Whitaker

James C. "Giz" Whitaker, 82, died Friday, Feb. 24, 2006, at his residence in Morgantown.

Survivors include his wife, Waunita (Bowman) Whitaker of Morgantown; three sons, James Curt (Ella) Whitaker of Middleburg, Fla., Harvey Dale (Audrey) Whitaker of Franklin and David Mark (Terease) Whitaker of Brown County; four daughters, Patrisha G. Murray of Indianapolis, Sharon Kay (Dan) Ray of Reelsville, Vicky Lynn (Terry) Payne of Morgantown and Debra Jean (Randall) Street of Morgantown; two sisters, Doreen Ellis of Morgantown and Regina Cooper of Mooresville; a brother, Everett J. Whitaker of Palm Beach, Fla.; 12 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles P. and Garnet J. (Knight) Whitaker.

The Nashville Masonic Lodge will conduct a memorial service at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Meredith-Clark Funeral Home, Cremation and Personalization Center, 179 E. Mulberry St. in Morgantown. Friends may call from 4 p.m. until service time Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Nashville Masonic Lodge, F&AM No. 135, 5660 State Road 46, Nashville, IN 47448.

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

Information: (812) 597-4670

GREENWOOD

Margaret M. 'Peggy' Zeilinga

Margaret M. "Peggy" (Oyler) Zeilinga, 67, died Friday, Feb. 24, 2006, at her residence in Greenwood.

Survivors include four sons, Michael Ray Kafoure of Greenwood, Donald L. (Lana) Kafoure of Indianapolis, Keith A. (Diana) Kafoure of New Palestine and Russell Lee Richardson of Franklin; a daughter, Kristi M. (Robert) Slone of Indianapolis; 13 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and her companion, Ed Barnes. She was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond H. and Frances M. (Harrington) Oyler.

A Mass of Christian burial will be conducted at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic Church, 335 S. Meridian St. in Greenwood. Friends may call from 4 to 9 p.m. today at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel, 481 W. Main St. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 6030 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46268.

Online condolences may be made to Peggy's family at www.wilsonstpierre.com.

Obituary policy

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

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

The custom obituaries on this page have been paid for.

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.

Country dwellers get faster access to 'Net

The Associated Press

NEW YORK

The use of high-speed Internet services is growing fast in rural America, partly closing the gap between country and city, a survey shows.

Last fall, 24 percent of rural Americans had broadband Internet access at home, more than double the 9 percent rate reported in 2003, according to a survey released Sunday by the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

By comparison, 39 percent of urban and suburban dwellers had broadband in the fall, up from 22 percent in 2003.

The main reason for lower rural broadband adoption appears to be availability, the study said.

But Pew also noted that country dwellers are on average older, less educated and poorer than

urbanites and suburbanites, factors that are associated with lower levels of Internet use.

However, rural Americans who have broadband Internet are almost as likely as others to use it on a given day.

Adding to people who use dial-up or access the Internet only at work, 62 percent of country dwellers use the Internet, compared with 70 percent elsewhere.

Rural Internet users are slightly more likely than others to participate in online education and to download games, and less likely to bank online or buy travel tickets.

The project surveyed 5,262 U.S. adults in September and December last year. The margin of sampling error was 3 percentage points in either direction.

The Pew Internet and American Life Project is funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts. The project studies the social and civic effects of the Internet.



In Loving Memory of our Son

Born 8-19-1971 • Died 2-27-2005

Torrey Wade Purdy

You left too soon.
We miss you every day.
But the legacy you left,
Your children,
help keep the tears at bay.

Jack & Iris Purdy

In Loving Memory of Our Husband and Father, Clayton E. Hobbs who passed away 4 years ago February 27, 2002



In Our Hearts

We thought of you with love today
But that was nothing new,
We thought about you yesterday
And days before that too.

We think of you in silence
We often speak your name,
Now all we have is memories,
And your picture in a frame.

Your memory is our keepsake
With which we'll never part
God has you in his keeping
We have you in our hearts.

Yesterday, Today and Forever

Love, your Wife Peggy, Son Gene, Daughter Linda

Special Pre-Grand Opening
Pricing Available Now for
Spring 2006 Occupancy!

Embark on a new path.



Embark to a place where time becomes your ally.

Where you'll find new friends and a genuine sense of belonging. And where years of quality and innovation will make you proud to call this your new home.

EPCON
Communities

Where Life Comes Together™

Two- and three-bedroom single story living homes, with exterior maintenance provided. Thoughtfully planned. Carefully executed.



Stone Bridge open Daily 10-5:30
Closed Sunday
Heather Glen available by appt. only

Heather Glen
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City of Franklin
Beautiful, prestigious
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(317) 736-0595

Stone Bridge
Stop 11 and Arlington
in Franklin Township
Our community clubhouse
is nearing completion!
(317) 883-1820

Coming Soon to SR 135
South of Stones Crossing
in White River Township
Contact our Stone Bridge
Community for Information
(317) 883-1820