

Obituaries

Therese Ellen Spencer Mersereau
Oct. 28, 1927 — Feb. 1, 2015

Therese “Terri” Mersereau died peacefully in her sleep at Maryville Nursing Home on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015. She was 87 years of age, and had been struggling with her health for several years.

Born Oct. 28, 1927, in Vancouver, B.C. to Annabelle McDonald Spencer and Christopher Lloyd Spencer, Terri attended Convent of the Sacred Heart School.

Blessed with a natural interest in music, Terri played both violin and piano, and in 1939 at the age of 11, won first place at the British Columbia Music Festival for pianists 12 and under. That year at the same festival, she won first place for violinists under 12. Several years later, while in her teens, she competed and won a trophy at the annual CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Company) Talent Festival.

Terri received a three-year scholarship to the Toronto Royal Conservatory of Music, with an emphasis on composition. She won a competition that led to an introduction and performance with Canadian composer and pianist Oscar Peterson, who had himself won the CBC Talent Festival. Terri’s solid classical training was becoming profoundly influenced by Bill Evans and other jazz musician greats. She was accepted at Mills College and studied under Darius Milhaud. It was at Mills that she became acquainted with one of Milhaud’s most famous students, Dave Brubeck.

Terri also met her first husband while at Mills. Robert Francis Arenz, who was a gifted class-



TERESE MERSEREAU

cal pianist and linguist, fluent in English, French, German and Italian, who had attended Catlin Gable School, Yale and had studied at the Sorbonne. Together they had five children: Eric, Elaine, Tre, Annabelle and Heidi.

While the children were still young, Terri continued to perform on stage in Seattle and Portland as a vocalist and pianist. She appeared at the 1962 World’s Fair in Seattle. On Nov. 23, 1964, she recorded some of her most noteworthy compositions at a studio in Los Angeles with Bill Hood (sax, clarinet, flute), Ernie Hood (composer), Jack Shelton (trumpet), Bud Shank (flute), Gene Cipriano (flute, oboe, English horn), Vince De Rosa (French horn), Emil Richards (vibes, percussion), Al Hendrickson (guitar), Chuck Berghofer (bass), Shelly Manne (drums) and Bones Howe (engineer).

By the mid-1960s, Terri was married to second husband, Roland Mersereau, the father of Susan, Peter and John Mersereau. Together with her five children, Terri and Rol lived in Lake Oswego, where her love of horses and dogs, snow skiing and waterskiing,

and her skills as a gardener, were nurtured. She composed and arranged at home, and performed as her family schedule allowed. Terri invited Jamie Faunt (bass) and Ron Steen (drums) to perform at a party at her home, and soon after, they joined her as part of the Terri Spencer Trio, delighting audiences at Lea’s and the Benson Hotel.

Then in their teens, Ron and Jamie went on to become leaders in the Pacific Northwest jazz scene. Ron Steen recently said, “She was a remarkable jazz vocalist, the best singer I’ve ever heard. She was also an incredibly gifted composer and a great piano player. And she was as beautiful as a movie star ... I was a teenager when she gave me the opportunity to perform in some of the best venues in town. Meeting her changed my life.”

Doug Baker, formerly of the Oregon Journal, named a March 1967 Baker’s Dozen column, “World Grows Older, But Terri Just Grows Better.” He wrote, “... I first heard Terri’s piano and the next day I was rhapsodic ... Clean, sharp, inventive and at times, highly original ... I drove to Seattle one late summer evening to hear her unforgettable performance with Dave Brubeck at the Green Lake Jazz Festival. I caught her one night in the old Multnomah Hotel’s Stirrup Room and again at the Canyon Club in West Slope. Another evening I found her at a jazz joint in downtown Seattle called The Door ...”

Terri’s music was deeply nurtured by her

Catholic faith. She composed a Mass that was written and performed with Dean Applegate at Holy Rosary Church in the 1980s, and composed many hymns over the years. Moving to the Oregon Coast with Rol in the early 1980s brought fresh inspiration and opportunities to express God’s glory and grandeur at the keyboard in their beautiful home, built with Rol’s son, John Mersereau.

She recently remarked, “I remember pondering on the significance of Our Lady, Mary, and her ‘Yes.’ I have been blessed by the gift of music, and recognizing the gift from God, have tried to develop the talent to the best of my ability in all of the directions I was led. Life has been good. I am enormously proud of my children from both marriages and the generations that have followed. All is well.”

Terri is predeceased by her husband Rol (January 1999) and by her beloved daughter Tre, a renowned ceramic artist (May 2003). In addition to her four children and three stepchildren, she is survived by 19 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Visitation is planned at Hughes-Ransom Mortuary, 220 North Holladay Drive, Seaside, from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27, to be followed by a Vigil Service at 7 p.m.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Victory Church, 120 Oceanway Street, Seaside, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015.

Visit www.hughes-ransom.com to leave memories and sign the guest book.

Eunice Rautio
Tremayne Scheurich

Nov. 17, 1944 — Feb. 4, 2015

Eunice Jeanne Scheurich was born Nov. 17, 1944, in Astoria, to Uno and Jeanne Rautio, and passed away Feb. 4, 2015, at the Hospice Care Center.

She spent her early years in Seaside, Ore., and attended Seaside Union High School. She married Ray Tremayne in 1964. They had two sons, Raymond and Christopher.

Eunice spent several years working in the Warrenton canneries and excelled in her positions there. The family moved to Kelso, Wash., in 1980, and Eunice worked for Tollycraft and North Star Yachts, working with, and running, the fiberglass crew. She expected them to work as hard as she did, and Eunice was rewarded with a cruise to Mexico on a company yacht.

She enjoyed golfing, hunting and anything that put her in the sun. She also enjoyed many special trips with her friend, Chris Carter, including a cruise to Alaska. She took great pleasure in family camping trips and loved to run. She took part in numerous running events, the Hood-to-Coast being her favorite, and she earned many awards. Her passion for running became daily walks with friends around Lake Sacajawea. Eunice had a good sense of humor and loved to laugh. She had a love of animals, especially dogs. She was always willing to give, or find, a home for animals in need.

After the loss of her husband, Ray Tremayne, Eunice married Ray Scheurich in 1997, gaining two more sons, Steven and Ryan. Eunice and Ray spent many years enjoy-



EUNICE SCHEURICH

ing old and new friends, and combining two families into one. Her grandchildren were the joy of her life. She was always up for an adventure with them, making many wonderful memories.

In addition to her first husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Robert Rautio; and a grandson, Zachary Tremayne.

Eunice is survived by her loving husband, Ray Scheurich; two sons, Raymond and Christopher Tremayne; stepsons Steven and Ryan Scheurich; a sister, Sanna Lundquist (Paul); her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Gil and Donna Tremayne, Bill and Connie Stroud, Paul and Carol Scheurich and Sherri Rautio; eight grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and the “daughter of her heart,” Danika Velasco.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the Community Home Health & Hospice or the Humane Society of Cowlitz County, Wash.

A memorial service is planned for 11 a.m. Feb. 21 at Steele Chapel, 5050 Mount Solo Road, Longview, Wash.

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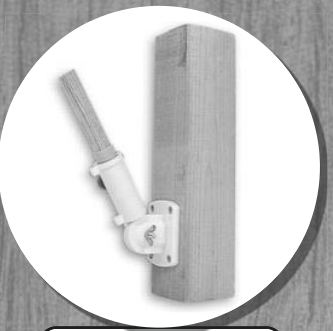
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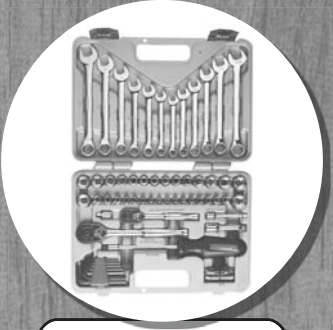
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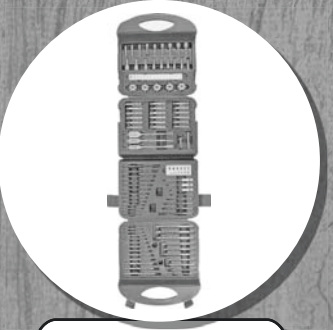
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