

**OBITUARIES**

**Claire Lovell**

Sept. 9, 1920 — March 15, 2017

Evelyn Claire (Ruthrauff) Lovell passed away peacefully at her home in Seaside, Oregon, on March 15, 2017, in the company of family and friends. She was 96.

Known for her quick wit and vivacity, Claire's roots in the community ran deep. Except for brief stints in Grays Harbor and Portland, and five years in Astoria, Seaside was her only home. In her own words, "Some flowers just want to be left alone to bloom where they are planted — I'm one of those, myself."

Claire was born in Seaside on Sept. 9, 1920, to Charles and Myrtle (Sawrey) Ruthrauff. The youngest of nine children, she attended Central School and Seaside Union High School, graduating as salutatorian with the class of 1937, an honor she shared with close friend Evelyn (Stewart) Redkey.

After training at St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing, she became an RN in 1943, later returning to work in the hospital's maternity ward. Her nursing career spanned more than four decades, during which time she also married and raised a family. She worked for many years at the Seaside Clinic and at Ocean Air (later Ocean Park) Nursing Home, where she served as head nurse and administrator until her retirement in 1985.

Not content to be idle, Claire found a new pursuit as a columnist for the Seaside Signal. "Scene and Heard" appeared regularly from 1990 to 2017, with her final submission completed a week before her death. In her column, Claire mused about everything from local history and current goings on, to language and life lessons. It reflected her wry sense of humor, and most often closed with a favorite quip or laugh line.

In 2009, she published "Where the Heart Is," a memoir and celebration of the hometown she treasured.

Many of Claire's activities and friendships revolved around Seaside United Methodist Church, where she was active from a young age. She especially enjoyed singing with the choir. The church honored her 75 years of



Claire Lovell

membership in 2010. She was also a 70-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 99.

Throughout her life, Claire corresponded with countless friends and acquaintances, and wrote letters of admiration and admonition to public figures. Those who knew her will recall her remarkable memory for birthdays and special occasions, which she always acknowledged with a personal note.

Claire had a deep appreciation for both language and music; she composed poetry, lyrics, and loved to dance. As befits a life-long resident of the coast, she was for many years an accomplished clam digger. She delighted in watching birds and wildlife and taking walks about town, catching up with friends and neighbors along the way.

Claire is survived by her children, Robin (Hill) Derringer (Stan Delgado) of Bremerton, Washington, Gary Hill (Connie Okso) of Oakland, California, Jeffrey Hill (Nancy) and Lauren (Lovell) McMichaels (Rob), both of Eugene, Oregon; grandchildren, Aimee, Andra, Julia, David and Elena; and great-granddaughter, Emery. She was preceded in death by long-time friend and sweetheart, John Raniero.

A memorial celebration will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, at Seaside United Methodist Church, with a reception to follow. All are welcome.

Private burial will be at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements. To sign the guest book, please visit [www.hughes-ransom.com](http://www.hughes-ransom.com)

**Eugene C. 'Gene' Koch**

Oct. 23, 1938 — March 23, 2017

Eugene (Gene) C. Koch passed away peacefully at the Veteran's Home in The Dalles, Oregon, March 23, 2017.

Gene's parents were Eugene (Cookie) and Betty Koch of Seaside, Oregon.

He graduated from Seaside Union High School in the Class of 1957 and, after serving his time with the National Guard, he went on to a long career as an electrician, working mainly out of the IBEW Local 48.

He was a union man through and through. He was also a past exalted ruler with the Seaside Elks Lodge, a member of the American Legion and past member of the Moose Lodge.

He loved the game of bowling, and finally accomplished a bowler's dream of rolling the first recognized perfect "300" game by the Seaside Bowling Association at Evergreen Lanes in Gearhart on Dec. 28, 1990.

Gene is survived by his wife of 42 years, Ruth (Woodworth) Koch; three stepchildren, Charlotte (Dave) Link of The Dalles, Mark (Liz) Woodworth of Golden, Colorado, and Connie Clementz of Seaside; three grandchildren, Nikole Davis of Bea-



Eugene Koch



verton, Elizabeth "Libby" (Nathan) La Marr Jones of Littleton, Colorado, and Sean Woodworth of Golden, Colorado; and three great-grandchildren, Harrison, Silas and Oaks Jones of Littleton, Colorado. They called him GGPA.

Private burial will be at Ocean View Cemetery, alongside his parents.

Memorial services will be at a later date.

Memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, may be made to the Seaside Elks Lodge or Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Seaside.

**Dorothy Mae 'Dolly' Hutchinson**

Sept. 26, 1926 — March 7, 2017

Dolly Hutchinson was born in Akron, Ohio, to R. Earl Hutchinson and C. Evangeline Dye Hutchinson, who were originally from Oregon City. She was the last surviving grandchild of Charles Henry and Eva Emery Dye, early Oregon historians and activists.

Soon after Dolly's birth, the family moved to South Gate, California, where her father worked at the new Firestone Tire plant. Dolly graduated from South Gate High School, worked in industry during World War II, then attended USC. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in education in 1949, and later earned her master's degree there.

She remained in Southern California, and retired after 36 years as a school-teacher in Montebello. She loved the outdoors and spent several summers running Girl Scout camps at Big Bear and Catalina Island. She loved cooking, modern design, art pottery, debating politics and public policy.

Her lifelong love of Oregon, where she spent many childhood summers with family, drew her back there, and she spent most summers since 1973 in Cannon Beach, where she purchased a cottage with her friend Mary Westmorland. She became a devoted member of the History Center there, spending many hours volunteering and contributing some of her family's archives and memories of old Oregon. Her last three years were spent living on the Oregon Coast, then Beaverton,



Dorothy Mae "Dolly" Hutchinson

where she passed away following a stroke.

She is survived by her loving family: sister-in-law Lynne Hutchinson of Downey, California; nephews Charles "Rick" Hutchinson of Clovis, California, Kenneth Hutchinson and Thomas Hutchinson, both of Downey, and Charles Hosterman of Ramsey, Minnesota; nieces Nancy Brubaker of Los Altos, California, and Gretchen Cleveland of Rogers, Minnesota; and many great-nieces and nephews.

The family thanks Dolly's great friends, Amy and Sharon, who helped her tremendously in the past year.

Services have been held at Rose Hills Memorial Park, in Whittier, California.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Cannon Beach History Center, P.O. Box 1005, Cannon Beach, OR 97110 (<http://cbhistory.org>); or the McLoughlin Memorial Association, 713 Center St., Oregon City, OR 97045 ([www.mcloughlinhouse.org](http://www.mcloughlinhouse.org)).

**Eric Wayne Lappi**

Nov. 4, 1958 — Jan. 22, 2017

Eric was born to Wayne and Bernadette Lappi in Rio Del Mar, California, and left us in Portland, Oregon.

He was raised in Santa Cruz County, California, with a love for surfing, skiing, fishing and hunting.

He had a few job experiences before going to, and finishing school at Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo in 1983 with a degree in engineering, which he used to work in refrigeration and air conditioning for most of his life. His passion for saving energy always impressed me.

He married Katie Quinn and moved to Bainbridge Island, Washington, where he had two sons. Sean was born in 1989, and Spencer in 1991. He later married Karen Cornell in 2001 and moved to Portland, Oregon where he spent the remainder of his life. They both enjoyed similar activities and traveled often. There were many visits to Seaside, Oregon, to visit both his and Karen's families.

Eric continued to enjoy snow skiing, fishing, cooking



Eric Lappi

and some hunting. He passed his love for surfing onto his two sons, who continue to enjoy their time in the ocean. He had a kind heart and was always willing to share his many stories. There will always be Eric Lappi stories.

Eric is survived by his wife, Karen; his mother, Bernadette; his brother, Brian; his two sons; and a good number of close friends and relatives.

As we share our stories and memories of Eric, what counts is that they are remembered, and when we think about Eric, we feel fortunate to have time with him.

**More obituaries on page 6A**

**Obituary Policy**

The Seaside Signal publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at [www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits](http://www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits), by email at [evilson@dailyastorian.com](mailto:evilson@dailyastorian.com), placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria, 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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**AAUW announces 'equal pay day' April 4**

The Seaside American Association of University Women shows support for Equal Pay Day Tuesday, April 4, by offering women discounts at local coffeehouses in Seaside, participating business include Seaside Coffee House, Caffe Latte and Divine Grounds. In Cannon Beach, Sleepy Monk Coffee Roasters, Sea Level Bakery and Coffee offer discounts. Java Reef and By The Way in Gearhart, along with Mé Latte in Warrenton, are

also participants. AAUW supports equal pay for women and has promoted the annual observance of Equal Pay Day since its inception in 1995.

In 2016, on average women in full-time jobs were paid 21 percent less than their male counterparts in the United States. It takes 3.5 extra months for a female to catch up to a male's annual pay. In Oregon, the gender pay gap is 16 to 20 percent.

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