

Notes & Comments

In Memoriam - William Town Andrews, May 8, 1926 - January 8, 2010

Born May 8, 1926, William Town Andrews was Eleanor Town Andrews' and Thomas Wood Andrews' youngest child. His older brother and sister were Tom (d.1998) and Eleanor Jane - "Teedie" - (d.2009). He was named after William Henry Harrison Andrews, a grandfather born in Maine in 1839, who was named after the ninth U.S. president. Bill grew up in the Philadelphia suburb of Merion, and spent summers sailing and tinkering with outboard motors and bicycles in Old Lyme, Connecticut, at the summer home of an aunt & uncle from Short Hills, NJ. Bill graduated from Lower Merion High School, where he played flute and piccolo in the band, and from Penn's Wharton School, majoring in business. He was an ensign in the Naval Reserve, serving on ships running maneuvers in the Caribbean toward the close of World War II, seeing no combat.

He worked in a variety of sales jobs after Wharton: as a beverage salesman for Coca-Cola, then as a candy salesman for Minter's Candy, and then selling real estate in Chuck Pusey's Paoli office for a few years.

He married Suzanne Wetherill Evans in 1953. That same year they bought their Tredyffrin Township circa-1740 stone farmhouse, where he lived the rest of his life and where Sue still resides. In 1957, he opened his own real estate office at 101 East Lancaster Avenue in Paoli: William T. Andrews Real Estate.

Their children, Elizabeth, William Jr., Mary, and Becky were born between 1954 and 1961.

As a young family the Andrews sailed the Chesapeake in their 32-foot sloop, Physalia (Latin for "Portuguese Man o' War"), in the '60s and '70s. They also traveled the world together, including trips to the U.S. Navy Island of Culebra, off of Puerto Rico, and to the Galapagos Islands.

At its height, the real estate business grew into the Andrews, Dickinson, and Pinkstone partnership, with a dozen offices from Exton to Ardmore.

Bill retired in the mid-1980s, and began investing more and more of his time and effort and contributions to conservation and environmental causes. He was a member of the Green Valleys Association, the American Littoral Society, Trout Unlimited, and the Great Valley Nature Center, where he chaired the Board for several years. He went to elaborate lengths to feed the wild birds--and outwit the gray squirrels.

The autoimmune illness scleroderma affected his health from the time of its diagnosis in 1998, and although intensive treatment eventually resulted in some recovery, lingering affects continued to undermine his strength and energy and resulted in numerous hospitalizations. He didn't let it dampen his positive attitude; Bill remained the helpful, spirited optimist he'd always been.

In retirement, Bill and Sue continued to travel, making several Elderhostel excursions, including Kenya in 2006. Bill was an active member of the Tredyffrin Easttown History Club, and hosted the summer picnic for a number of years. His contributions to the community will not be forgotten.

William Town Andrews Jr. (Andy)

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In Memoriam - R. Leighton Haney, Jr.

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Ralph Leighton Haney, Jr., of Park Lane (West Chester), formerly of Berwyn, passed away on February 1, 2010. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Betty Jane Wieder Haney. They were long-time active members of the Tredyffrin Easttown History Club.

Leighton was born in Newark, Delaware, in 1920, and grew up in Norristown. He graduated from the Peddie Preparatory School, a private boarding and day school for boys, located in Hightstown, NJ (near Princeton). He earned a degree in Electrical Engineering from Lehigh University and spent his career in the field of electrical service transmission. During World War II, he worked for the Navy as a civilian under the well-known Admiral Hyman Rickover in the nuclear submarine program. After the war, he was drafted into the Army and served at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. He and Betty had three sons, five grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren.

Leighton was a giving person, offering his time and talent to many local organizations, including the History Club. He served on the Editorial Board of the *Quarterly* from 1983 to 2003. He was a Vice President in 1982-1983, then served as President from 1984 to 1987. He wrote two excellent, informative articles about Conestoga wagons (Vol.22, No.2) and the early years of radio (Vol. 24, No.2). He was an avid collector of radios and had pursued the hobby since he was a boy. In addition, he and/or Betty participated in ten different "Club Members Remember" articles. His likable style comes across in his writing.

He was also active in Boy Scouting, Trinity Presbyterian Church, the Easttown Library, the Chester County Historical Society, and Surrey Services. He enjoyed traveling and gardening, and was known around town for his blueberries. His family has said that he and Betty made good friends wherever they went, and that the kindness he showed to friends and strangers alike has been repaid to him tenfold. He will surely be missed by all who knew him.

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