

Eleanor Newman – May 2, 2009



We were married for 55 years, have two fine sons, and four grandkids. Eleanor suffered a stroke in October '08. Despite her efforts at rehab, she succumbed on May 2, '09. Eleanor never lost her love of Figure Skating, and after we became "empty nesters", she took many trips in this country and abroad to attend events. I'm guessing you might know this from your reference to Don Gray, as they became friends during these events.

After I retired in Charleston, SC in '86, we opted to return to the New England of our youth. Eleanor became active in the local skating clubs in Brunswick, ME and Portland. She took lessons at Portland

and passed her Figure Skating test for some dance (I am sorry to say that I don't have the particulars). During one skating session in Maine, she was slammed into by a rather large lady and had to have her broken left knee pinned (much later here in Huntsville she had to have a knee-replacement operation). This accident put an end to her skating, but she then devoted her activities to learning judging.

If you will forgive my bragging, Eleanor, over the years of our marriage, became a first-class seamstress...A true artist. She made wedding dresses, and all the bridesmaid's frocks, that were works of art. Before we moved to Huntsville, she had many disappointed clients begging her not to leave!

We both shunned formal funerals, and in accordance with her wishes, my two sons and I held our own private memorial service. I plan someday to bring her ashes to our family burial plot in Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Mass.

When we moved to Huntsville in '97, Eleanor immediately became active with the local Figure Skating club, and became a member of their Board of Directors. Her main efforts were directed at encouraging young skaters. After her death, I established a memorial fund in her name. I had planned to send you a photo of this memorial, but the images are stored in my camera, which I cannot find (and I think stolen). I bought another camera today and will go to the rink tomorrow and take shots of her memorial plaque for you. I will also plan to send some pictures of her in later life.

I hope you can handle the attachments...clicking on each displays a huge, almost unmanageable image. But if I download as a zip file, they are reasonably sized...I guess it is a matter of what photo-processing software one has. But if necessary, I can print and "snail-mail" the prints. You have maybe seen these photos, as they are from her days in the Capades. She truly loved the Ice Capades.

Thanks for your patience.....Joel