

Janet Wells - January 11, 2010



DUNKIRK -- Janet C. (nee McMinn) Wells, 77, died quietly on Monday, January 11, 2010, following a long illness. Born in suburban Pittsburgh, PA she graduated with the class of 1950 from Turtle Creek (PA) High School. Following her graduation she joined the Chorus of the Ice Capades, traveling with the entertainment skating troupe from coast to coast, before moving to Fredonia, when she met and later left the program to marry her husband of 46 years, Mr. William M. Wells of Dunkirk, NY in November 1953.

Mrs. Wells joined her husband in the family's local business, Dunkirk Ice Cream Company, Inc. and worked with them in departments from production to payroll, until the couple began their family. Within the realm of their leadership in the fast developing ice cream industry, the couple was able to travel again from coast to coast, as well as experience several opportunities to travel abroad to Europe and Asia.

Believing in giving back to one's community, as well as recognizing area philanthropic need, Mrs. Wells joined her husband in giving to their community. She served as a Scout leader, had been a long term member of Brooks Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, serving a term as its president, a member of the Adams Art Gallery, the Dunkirk Free Library, the 1891 Fredonia Opera House, and in creating with her spouse, the Wells Family Memorial Fund, managed through the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, and designated to the best interests as they'll serve the Dunkirk and Fredonia communities, and the North County. One of the many personal in-terests were those she held for the humanity served to her pets, horses, dogs, and cats.

In a lifetime spanning through the Great Depression and too many wars, military conflicts, as well as experiencing the excitement of her employment, travel, and with the creation of a family, Mrs. Wells, had few regrets, often to be heard to say if she could have, should have, she would have lived life with few substantial changes.

In death, Mrs. Wells is survived by her son, William C. Wells, and daughter, Susan L. Wells, both of Dunkirk, NY as well as by her brothers, Robert and Richard McMinn, both of Fredonia, NY. She is also survived by five grandsons, three granddaughters, a nephew, and two nieces. She was predeceased by her spouse, as well as a son, Robert M. Wells, and grand-daughter, Ryann M. Wells.

A private service will be held at the convenience of the family. Memorials may be made to the Wells Family Memorial Fund, the Wells Family Children's Fund at the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, or one's personal charity of choice.