

Patricia McMahon Cade

Written by Karen Ventrone

Tuesday, 19 November 2013 18:44

Patricia McMahon Cade was born May 23, 1920 in Wallasy, England to Katie Jeanette and Gerald Richardson McMahon. She had two brothers, Derek and Neville, both of whom predeceased her, as did her husband, Michael J. Cade. Pat died on Sunday, November 17th after a short illness.

Pat was a “war bride” meeting Major Michael Cade as he served in the United States Army during World War II, and they were married in 1942. Due to military regulations Pat was not allowed to join Mike in New Orleans until two years later, but they ended up settling in Louisiana for almost 40 years before purchasing their property in Blowing Rock. Michael who was a vice president of New Orleans Power and Light Company made himself available to the Town in the early 1980s to help the Town plot the location of all the street lights in the village, a large job for a volunteer. When you see the brightly glowing street lights on a foggy night, do think of Pat and Michael.

Pat became a volunteer of merit in Blowing Rock. Her biggest contributions were to the Humane Society where both she and Mike were extremely active. There was much to be done to protect the animals and Pat took on the task making sure that the “neuter/spay” program was carried out, by calling every person who adopted a pet to be sure that the adopted pet had been altered to lessen the overpopulation of dogs and cats. She was tireless in the pursuit of treating animals well and served as the Newsletter Editor for the Humane Society for over sixteen years, with vigilance and humor. The huge rummage sale that benefits the Humane Society was conceived by Pat 32 years ago and she was a devoted advocate of this fund raiser that was originally held in Blowing Rock until it outgrew the space and moved to the National Guard Armory in Boone.

The Community Club was another of Pat’s favorite venues as she worked there in the library every Wednesday and helped in book sales, events and activities there. She was also involved with the Historical Society where she was a guide in the 1888 Museum for many years. Pat loaned her talents in gardening to planting all over town every year, and was Woman of the Year in the early 1990s recognizing her valuable volunteer service.

As an active equestrian most of her life, she showed horses, ran a stable in New Orleans and supported Blowing Rock’s annual horseshow. Many residents noticed her license plate on the Jaguar, which was “Sunday A.M.” (Sunday Morning) for the name of her favorite horse. Pat was a complex and generous person and truly a regal lady until she drew her last breath. She was strongly motivated to help others and did so much for so many.

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Tremendous thanks go to her caregivers, Ellen Johnston, Barbara Elyea and Elvie Coffey who made the last year of her life interesting, entertaining and full of life. They truly added zest to her last year for which we are all grateful.

If you would like to remember Pat, please consider a donation to the Watauga Humane Society, Box 1835, Boone, NC 28607; or the Blowing Rock Community Library, Box 166, Blowing Rock, NC 28605; or The Blowing Rock Historical Society, Box 804, Blowing Rock, NC 28605.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.hamptonfuneralinc.com.

Hampton Funeral and Cremation Service is in charge of the arrangements.