

4B • Wednesday, April 23, 2003

Patricia Ann Erme Cooper

Valley Hills Funeral Home, Zillah



ZILLAH - On April 21, following a short illness, our mother, sister, daughter and friend, passed away peacefully at her home.

Patricia was born October 6, 1940 to Clyde and Eileen (Duling) Erme and was raised and educated in Zillah.

After graduating from Yakima Valley Junior College, she spent a brief and exciting time living and working in Seattle with her girlfriends and sisters as her roommates. Their experiences were the topic of many stories and lots of laughter. In 1965 she married and settled in Zillah to raise her family.

She started her newspaper career with the Toppenish Review and then moved on to the Yakima Herald-Republic and after 15 years retired from the newspaper and took part-time employment with the Yakima Valley Regional Library. It was a job she thoroughly enjoyed and one to which she always looked forward. All those books to read and never enough time!

Patty also loved to travel with her family and friends to Kansas and the Oregon and Washington Coasts. The beach with its beauty was a place that filled her with endless joy, she admired every season and change it offered. She was also a crossword puzzle aficionado, she had a vast knowledge of arcane words that helped her work through most puzzles, from the dailies to the New York Times. She relished starting the difficult ones with a new automatic pencil and a pink bubblegum eraser.

Patty is survived by two daughters, Elisabeth Allen (Jeff) of Zillah, and Catharine Cooper of Yakima; two granddaughters, Sabrina and Sophie Allen; her father E. Clyde Erme of Yakima; her sisters Margaret Davison (Jim) of Toppenish, Kathleen Nevill (David) of Zillah, Donna Stephenson (Vern) of White Swan, Roberta Copenhoe (Mike) of Bickleton and her brother, Fred Erme of Zillah, along

with numerous nieces and nephews. She will also be remembered by her dear classmates Jane, Naomi, Sharon and Marie, her co-workers and neighbors. A special friend, Denis, will be in her heart forever.

Patty was preceded in death by her mother, Eileen Catharine (Duling) Erme, and sister-in-law, Margaret (Simmons) Erme.

Valley Hills Funeral, Zillah will be entrusted with final arrangements. There will be a Rosary at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 23 at the Zillah Chapel of Valley Hills Funeral Home. Graveside Memorial Services will be held Thursday, April 24 at 11:00 a.m. Memorials may be given in Patty's name to the Resurrection Catholic Church of Zillah.

Patricia and her daughters would like to thank Yakima Providence Hospice, Dr. Julie Ricking of the Toppenish Farm Worker's Clinic, and the staff of UWMC 6-NE for the wonderful care Mom received throughout her illness. We would also like to specially thank our



aunts and cousin for the home health care they gave in Mom's final weeks.

At Mom's request, we include this poem by Philip Larkin:

Love, We Must Part Now

Love, we must part now:

do not let it be

Calamitous and bitter.

In the past

There has been too much moonlight and self-pity;

Let us have done with it,

for now at last

Never has sun more boldly

paced the sky,

Never were hearts more

eager to be free,

To kick down worlds, lash

forests; you and I

No longer hold them;

we are husks, that see

The grain going forward

to a different use.

There is regret.

Always, there is regret

But it is better that our

lives unloose

As two tall ships, wind-

mastered, wet with light

Break from an estuary

with their courses set

And waving part, and

waving drop from sight.

(1943-44)

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