

# OBITUARIES

## Ethel Ryba

Ethel M. Ryba, a Mackinac Island resident since 1960, passed away at the age of 99 Thursday, January 5, 2006 at her residence in Warren.

She was born in Detroit November 17, 1906, to Susan and Charles Du Russel and, following graduation from high school there, worked in an office.

She met her future husband, Harry Ryba, at a dance, and they waited four years before they could afford to get married.

The ceremony was April 25, 1930, and they were together nearly 66 years until Mr. Ryba died at the age of 88 on March 4, 1996.

Ethel and Harry Ryba operated a network of fudge shops, hotels, and bicycle rentals on Mackinac Island and she continued to spend summers on the Island until last year.

Mrs. Ryba kept the books for the growing businesses until she turned 65, at which point she told her husband that she would retire, said her



Ethel M. Ryba

daughter, Rena Callewaert. "She was an incredible listener, it was one of her great gifts," Mrs. Callewaert said, and so attentive was she to her children when they spoke, she added, "you just thought you were the Queen."

Mrs. Ryba was also shy and private, "but very fashion conscious," Mrs. Callewaert said, and she loved going for walks on the Island every

night. Trillium Trail was her favorite. She enjoyed her own garden full of flowers and appreciated the wildflowers along the trails.

"She was happy," her daughter said, "that she made it to her 100th year in life."

Surviving are four daughters and their families, Patricia and Richard Grodecki of Chesterfield Township and Mackinac, Janis and Jules Deckert of Clinton Township, Rena and Victor Callewaert of Grosse Pointe and Mackinac, and Gail and the late Clarence Weaver of Warren; a son, Kevin of Ohio; 18 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

Another son, James, preceded her in death.

Services were held Monday, January 9, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Antyhanasius Catholic Church in Roseville.

Memorials may be made to the Mackinac Island Medical Center.

Burial was beside her husband at Resurrection Cemetery in Utica.

## Faye Cheeseman

Faye Marie Cheeseman of Seattle, Washington, was a former St. Ignace resident who worked as a computer technician on the information technology team at Seattle Vocational Institute. She was a member of the Little Traverse Band of Odawa Indians, and her American Indian heritage with all its traditions, played an important role in her life, family members said.

Ms. Cheeseman died at the age of 52 Thursday, February 2, 2006, at her home, surrounded by friends and family members who were her caregivers during her year-long illness.

She was born November 21, 1953, in Sault Ste. Marie to Adrian and Susan Cheeseman. She was graduated from LaSalle High School in St. Ignace in 1972.

After moving to Washington, she became an employee of the Seattle Vocational Institute, and was also graduated from the institute's computer information processing specialist and network technician program. She was then hired by the institute as a computer technician.

Family members recall she had a tremendous love of animals and nature.

She is survived by two broth-



Faye Marie Cheeseman

ers and their families, Bob and Linda Cheeseman and LeRoy and Prudy Mills, all of St. Ignace; two nephews, Dan and David Mills; two nieces and their families, Jeanne (nee Mills) Flynn and Cindy Mills, and her Seattle family, Rose, Melissa, Tracey, Ellen, Pat, Judy, and Michelle.

Her brother, Bob, maintains the cemeteries for the City of Mackinac Island.

Cremation has taken place, and a traditional American Indian memorial service honoring Ms. Cheeseman will be held in Seattle this week.

A memorial service will be held in the spring in St. Ignace.

Ms. Cheeseman will be buried beside her mother and father in Gros Cap Cemetery.

## Eulogy – Ethel Ryba

By Jeannette Doud

Mackinac mourns the loss of another lovely lady, Mrs. Ethel Ryba, who passed away Thursday, January 5, at her home in Warren. She had just celebrated her 99th birthday November 17.

I always admired Mrs. Ryba for her gracious person-

ality and warm smile. She was very attractive and beautifully dressed as she and her late sister, Lilian, could be seen attending Sunday mass at Ste. Anne's.

Both loved to hear Mary Kate McGreevy sing the hymns with her beautiful voice.

Following the death of her late husband, Harry, Mrs. Ryba enjoyed a spacious apartment in the Orphan Corner Mall, above the Star Line Dock, which had a magnificent view of the harbor and Straits of Mackinac.

She never lost her love for Mackinac since her husband, Harry, first opened Ryba's Fudge Shops. The family brought her back to the Island each summer, the last being in 2005.

Mrs. Ryba will be long remembered by all of her many friends on Mackinac.

She now rests in peace next to her beloved husband, Harry. Deepest sympathy to the family from Island friends.

## Mary McWilliams

Mary Eileen McWilliams, 50, died Friday, December 23, 2005 in Norman, Oklahoma.

She was born September 15, 1955, to James P. and Jane (nee McKay) Dunnigan in Escanaba.

She grew up in both Michigan and Florida.

She married her husband, Jim McWilliams, in 1985 in Norman, Oklahoma.

Mrs. McWilliams enjoyed bowling and was an active chairperson in Moose Lodge 1799.

Mrs. McWilliams is survived by her husband; her son, Ryan Thomas; daughters, Amber McWilliams, Mandi McWil-

liams, Christie McWilliams, and Katie Gallagan; eight grandchildren; her brothers, Daniel and Brian Dunnigan; her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Louise and Alvin Russell; and many relatives and friends.

Mrs. McWilliams was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Arthur Zink.

A funeral officiated by the Reverend Canon John Masaires was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 28, in the chapel at Guardian Norman Funeral Home.

Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery in Norman.

## City Explores Ferry Subsidizing

During a brief meeting of the city's Transportation Committee Wednesday, February 1, Mayor Margaret Doud was directed to contact the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority to explore the availability of funding to subsidize ferry service in the winter.

With mild temperatures stalling the formation of an ice bridge between the Island and St. Ignace, committee members said transportation to the mainland is limited to air service, which can be unpredictable during stormy weather.

Arnold Transit Company

ceased passenger boat service Monday, January 2, citing a lack of winter construction on the Island, coupled with high fuel costs. Historically, the company has operated through December, but has extended service during mild winters, if business warrants it.

Great Lakes Air of St. Ignace picks up the mail and passenger service in the winter, and since winter boat service would hurt the airline's revenues, Mayor Doud said she will invite owner Paul Fullerton to attend the next meeting of the committee, which has yet to be scheduled.

Serving on the Transportation Committee are Aldermen Frank Bloswick, Dan Wightman, and Armin Porter.

### Great Lakes Air, Inc.

Winter Flight Schedule (Tentative)



LEAVE St. Ignace	LEAVE Mackinac Island
8 a.m.	8:10 a.m.
10 a.m.	10:10 a.m.
12:30 p.m.	12:40 p.m.
3 p.m.	3:10 p.m.
4:45 p.m.	5 p.m.

There will be no 8 a.m. plane on Sundays.

Paul Fullerton, Manager (906) 643-7327

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