

## Obituaries

### Shirley M. Harshbarger

Shirley M. Harshbarger passed away Thursday, November 29, 2018, in Urbana, at the home of her daughter, Judie Spencer.

Born Shirley Mae Aaron on January 7, 1926, she was nearing her 93rd birthday when she passed peacefully.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dale E. Harshbarger, and leaves behind three other children, Anne Muth, Jeffrey M. Harshbarger and Kathryn S. Harshbarger; as well as six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Shirley graduated from Urbana High School in 1944. She married Dale in 1946 and settled in the Urbana area where she served the community as a Girl Scout leader for more than 20 years. She was inspired by having met Eleanor Roosevelt in the mid-1930s when, as a Girl Scout greeter, she welcomed the first lady on her visit to the University of Illinois. Even after her own daughters were grown, she saw the need for a Girl Scout troop in a low-income area of Joliet and at the request of parents there, started a troop and trained the parents in leadership skills. This civic work was later recognized when she was awarded the Girl Scout "Women of Distinction Award: a Legacy of Leadership" in 1996 for her contributions to scouting.

While living in Urbana, Shirley provided foster and day care for many children in addition to caring for her own four children. When Dale took a position managing the U of I agronomy research farm near Joliet, Shirley served as executive director of Eastern Will County Senior Services Center. Her work entailed educating low-income seniors on nutrition, as well as assisting them with Medicare and Social Security problems. She also organized activities and meals at the senior high-rise where they lived.

Upon retiring, Shirley and Dale bought an ancestral farm in Atwood where they hosted bed and breakfast guests and had extensive gardens, which were featured in the Herb Quarterly, Winter, 1996 issue. Shirley was the visionary and inspiration for a project she and Dale spearheaded, which brought together extended Harshbarger family, as well as community members, to relocate and restore a log cabin that was built by Dale's ancestors in 1837. It is the oldest structure in Piatt County. On Sept. 29, 1990, the family was recognized by the Illinois state legislature for preserving its heritage when the project was completed on their Atwood property.

Shirley was loved by many people, and she is missed. A memorial celebration will be held in the spring, and her remains will be interred next to Dale's grave at Lake Fork United Church of Christ, Atwood.

The family asks that those who wish to make a memorial contribution in Shirley's memory do so to UNICEF for Yemeni children by calling 1(800) 367-5437 or send a check to UNICEF, 125 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038.

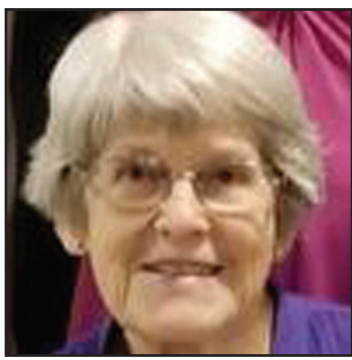
### Norma Jean Hudson

Norma Jean Hudson, 86 of Arcola, passed away at 8:50 A.M. on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at the Arthur Home.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, January 6, 2019 at the Edwards Funeral Home, 221 East Main St., Arcola. Pastor Steven Stern officiated. Burial was in the Arcola Cemetery. Visitation was held one hour prior to the funeral from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the funeral home.

Norma was born on April 12, 1932 in Arcola. She was a daughter of Earl and Icie (Anderson) Huckstep. She married Comer Ree Hudson on February 22, 1949. He passed away in 1990.

Survivors include three sons, Dillard Hudson and his wife Jan of Eldena, Jerry Hudson and his wife Julia of Arcola, and Paul Hudson and his wife Mary of Humboldt;



four daughters, Carol Smith of Arcola, Jeannine Hudson of Champaign, Jeanetta Harris and her husband Bud of Arcola, and Paula Barnard and husband Gary of Arcola; 15 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandson; three sisters, Edna Mae Daniels of Arcola, Sandra Closson of Arcola and Mary Jane Wyatt of Murphysboro; and one brother, Earl Huckstep Jr. of Arcola.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sons, Thomas Lee Hudson and Willard E. Hudson; three grandchildren, Alisha Hudson, Anthony Harris and Troy Henderson; one sister, Phylliss Stanton; and two brothers, Harold Huckstep and David Huckstep.

Norma was a member of the Walnut Grove Christian Church where she also was a member of the Eunice Club.

Many years ago, she worked at Doc. Fishel's nursing home. She also worked at the Embassy Lanes as a cook and cleaned homes in Arcola and Humboldt.

Norma enjoyed riding her bicycle, exercising, reading and drinking coffee, and spending time with her family.

### Trudy E. Moseley Koskinas

Trudy E. Moseley Koskinas, 46, of Sullivan, passed away at 4:23 a.m., Thursday, December 27, 2018 at Barnes Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO

Funeral Services were held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, December 31, 2018 at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 66 East US Highway 36, Atwood. Burial followed in the Mackville Cemetery, Atwood.

Visitation was held 1 hour prior to the services at the funeral home.

Trudy was born on June 24, 1972 in Champaign, the daughter of Norman Moseley and Marcia Humes. She married Theodoros Koskinas on June 20, 2007 in Bement. He survives.

Also surviving are her children: Stephanie Reynolds of Sullivan, John (Cassity) Reynolds of Mauston, WI, Elizabeth Reynolds of Villa Grove, Hillary Koskinas and Tevez Koskinas both of Sullivan; father, Norman Moseley of Atwood; mother, Marcia Goff of Barron, WI and sister, Tracy (David) Davis of Hammond.

She was preceded in death by her step-father, Rick Goff.

Trudy was a homemaker and worked as a CNA at several area nursing homes.

She enjoyed playing bingo, watching criminal and forensic file shows on TV and she loved having new socks. One of her most important things in life was spending time and having her family together.

Online condolence may be shared via [www.hilligossshraderfh.com](http://www.hilligossshraderfh.com)

### Donna R. Poundstone

Donna R. Poundstone, 87 of Monticello, formerly of Bement, passed away at 8:37 A.M., on Thursday, January 3, 2019, at the Kirby Medical Center, Monticello.

Cremation rites have been accorded, per Donna's wishes, private family services will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions can be made to the Faith In Action, Monticello.

Donna was born on December 2, 1931, in Fisher, a daughter of Willie Asa and Charlotte Frances Crowley Paul. She married Jerry Poundstone on November 19, 1955, and he passed away on December 2, 1994.

Surviving children include, Tim (Gayle) Poundstone of Assumption, Donald "Butch" (Sandy) Hanshaw of Murphysboro, Daniel (Deb) Poundstone of Lake Jackson, TX, and David (Stacy) Poundstone of Monticello. Also surviving are 8 grandchildren, and 2 sisters, Dorothy Logan of TN, and Wanda Mahin of Theodosia, MO.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, husband, 2 sons, Rick "Rocko" Poundstone, Larry Hanshaw, a grandson; Nicholas Poundstone, 3 brothers and 3 sisters.

Aaron and Susie Hinds of Hinds Funeral Home, Bement, have the honor to serve the Poundstone in their time of need. "Our Family Is Here To Serve Your Family".

### SueAnna Beth Schrock

SueAnna Beth Schrock, daughter of Melvin and Susan (Kauffman) Schrock was stillborn at 10:26 P.M. on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at Decatur Memorial Hospital

Funeral services were held at 9:00 A.M. on Friday, January 4, 2019 at the Willard Schlabach residence, 1306 CR 1850 N., Sullivan. Bishop William Otto officiated. Burial

was in the Gingerich Cemetery in rural Sullivan. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting the family.

SueAnna is survived by her parents, Melvin and Susan Schrock of Sullivan; eight siblings, Denise Lorene, Marcia Kay, Martha Elaine, Lavera Jean, Matthew Joe, Pauline RoseAnn, Aaron James and John Michael all at home; paternal grandparents, Ivan and Pauline Schrock; maternal grandfather, Joe Kauffman; and several aunts; uncles; and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandmother, Edna Kauffman.

### Norma Jean Shaffer

Norma Jean Shaffer, 92 of Humboldt, passed away at 8:55 P.M. on Sunday, December 30, 2018 at Mattoon Rehabilitation and Health Care Center.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at the Edwards Funeral Home, 221 East Main in Arcola. Rev. Brent Budd officiated. Burial was in the Embarrass Cemetery in Redmon. Visitation was one hour before the funeral at the funeral home.

Norma was born on December 10, 1926 in Isabel. She was a daughter of Albert and Nina Pearl Ritchy. She married James Edward Shaffer on September 25, 1946 in Paris. He passed away in 1981.

Norma is survived by one daughter, Joyce Mast of Humboldt; seven grandchildren, Travis Mast of Humboldt, Clarence Mast and his wife Jennifer of Neoga, Theresa Mast of Humboldt, Troy Mast and his wife Justine of Bourbon, Tina Trujillo, Pam Stone and her husband Ken all of Albuquerque, NM and Gary Mast of Sullivan; eleven great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Edward Shaffer, her son-in-law, Clarence V. Mast, her father, Albert Ritchy, her mother, Nina Pearl Eaton and her brother, Albert Ritchy Jr.

Norma was affectionately known as GG. She enjoyed sewing, knitting, crocheting, putting puzzles together and caring for her dog Patches. Her greatest joy was spending time with all her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her great-great-grandchildren.



### Eleanor R. Shannon

Eleanor R. Shannon, 96, of Whitehall, formerly of Johnstown, PA died on Sunday, December 30, 2018 at Fellowship Terrace in Whitehall. She was the wife of the late Rodman R. Shannon. Born in Cerro Gordo, she was the daughter of the late Almon and Florence (Mohler) Christner. Eleanor was a long time member of Westmont United Presbyterian Church in Johnstown, PA and was a loving wife and mother.

Survivors: children, Steven Shannon of Ventura, CA, Donna Shannon of Bethlehem, PA, Peggy Shannon of Walnutport, PA, and Twins, Mark Shannon of Boulder, CO and Martha Shannon of Anchorage, AK; 4 Grandchildren; and 2 Great-Grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a Grandson, Todd R. Shannon; and Siblings, William and Herbert Christner and Lois Brubaker.

Services: A visitation will be held on Friday, January 4th, 2019 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Bachman, Kulik & Reinsmith Funeral Home, 17th & Hamilton Streets, Allentown, PA.

Contributions: In lieu of flowers, Memorial Donations may be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, 850 S. 5th Street, Allentown, PA 18103.



## Ag Update: December 2018 has allowed little time for field activity

There has been very little field activity so far in December. Some fertilizer was applied, or stalks chiseled, when the ground was frozen enough to hold a tractor up but for the most part we have been at a standstill on fieldwork. We have changed oil in a couple tractors and done some other maintenance. A heated shop is nice on a raw Illinois day and we spend a lot of time in ours. We spent a couple days cutting back trees and sprouts along fencerows and house lots. Most Mondays we take a load of hay to the Arthur Sale Barn for the hay auction. Down there we get a glimpse of a little different kind of agriculture than the corn and beans we see every day.

I spent part of a day renewing my pesticide applicators license. To purchase and apply many of the weed and insect controls we use, farmers have to undergo training every three years. This year there were 4 hours of lectures about various aspects of pesticide labeling, use and safety by University of Illinois Extension and then a 50-question test administered by Illinois Department of Agriculture. There were

around 200 people taking the training. The education is fairly intense, and the test isn't all that easy. The consumer should be assured that we use pesticides intelligently and carefully.

Another farmer sent me an email he had received from a person concerned farmers would wear the soil out and be unable to produce food. I remember from history class that one reason given for the colonists in early America moving west was the soil was worn out and they needed new fields. We have been farming in Douglas County for around 150 years. Productivity continues to go up however; even after that period of time. When the US Department of Agriculture begins to estimate next year's crop size, they will use a trend line yield slightly higher than the preceding year and be close to correct barring a severe weather problem. Better farming techniques, hybrid seeds and the technology I have talked so much about all contribute to this productivity.

I have also talked a lot about soil testing to see what nutrients are in the soil and what need to be added. The

big crops we have been raising remove a lot of nutrients and farmers are careful to replenish those essential factors for plant growth. A bushel of corn removes about .4 pounds of phosphorus and .3 pounds of potassium, two of the most important plant nutrients, from the soil. If these are not replaced, soil productivity will soon drop off. One philosophy of fertilization is to replace the nutrients removed when the crop is harvested. If we can couple fertilizer application with a yield map and global positioning application, this may be the best way to apply fertilizer. Right now, most fertilizer is applied based on soil tests done in a grid pattern with GPS. A target is chosen for the level of a certain nutrient in the soil and fertilizer is applied to reach or maintain that level. A test every three or four years benchmarks those levels for us.

Some think that the use of fertilizer is masking the damage we are doing to the soil. I don't understand that point of view. We are maintaining the soil to be able to grow good crops next year and the years after. The swampy prairie that cov-

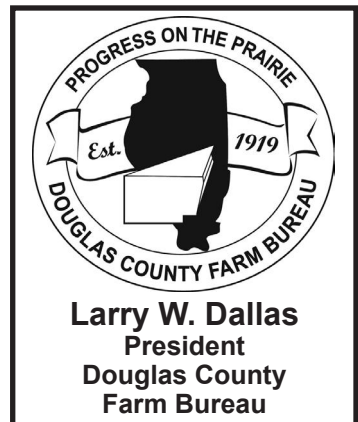
ered most of the county prior to modern times was good at holding the soil in place and gave us the deep black soil we farm now. It wasn't a big food producer, however. Modern agriculture is feeding the world and keeping the soil in shape to do that again next year as well. In reading farm publications, I find a great awareness of the need to farm responsibly and sustainably. I think the industry is making great strides to that end.

On the first weekend of December, Farm Bureau members from around the state gathered in Chicago to debate policy, reward activity excellence and reconnect with old friends from past meetings. We call ourselves a grassroots organization. The policy discussion comes from the bottom up as the counties surface proposed changes and additions to our policy book. A president from each of the 18 districts in the state serves on a resolutions committee to look at these proposals and forward them on to the Annual Meeting. In Chicago, representatives from every county debate the proposals that will make up the policy book. That book is 100 pag-

es long and deals with just about anything that affects farming and rural life. It gives us and our representatives a template to follow in our discussions and lobbying for the coming year. The process will start all over again in March when a new Resolutions Committee is appointed.

In Chicago we were lucky to hear from US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. He spoke to the delegates for half an hour and ate lunch with some of our people as well. The Secretary has been very visible in the Corn Belt at meetings and conventions. He was of course upbeat about resolving trade problems and passing a Farm Bill out of the US Congress. We have seen progress on both fronts. A Farm Bill did get passed in Congress and China is back in the market for our soybeans. The markets were not impressed with the trade news and actually went down a dime the day the first sale was announced. I have not seen a good summary of the Farm Bill and can't give an opinion on what the good and bad parts are.

An important winter chore



for farmers is checking the grain we have stored on farm. We try to look at our grain bins about every two weeks and make sure the contents are in good shape. The bins we can get into we walk around in feeling the grain for moisture and heat. Some are so full we just open the roof hatch and look in. Those need to be emptied first since they can't be reliably checked. On cold nights you can sometimes hear aeration fans running as farmers cool the stored grain closer to the outside temperature.

Thank you for reading about Douglas County Agriculture this month. Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!