

Vermilya/e/ea/er's...Historically Speaking

Volume X, No. 1

January, February, March 2005

Witnesses to destruction share their tale

Saturday, January 08, 2005

By Karina Ioffe Staff Writer

San Juan Bautista - Dan Vermilyer doesn't know whether or not to consider himself lucky. But the life-long San Juan Bautista resident is counting his blessings, two days after returning from Thailand where his vacation led him into the wake of the deadly tsunami that has claimed close to 150,000 lives.

Dan, 39, and his son James, 15, were supposed to be in the coastal town of Krabi on Dec. 26, the day of one of the greatest catastrophes in modern history.

But they got behind schedule while in Bangkok, Thailand's capital, seeing the sites and arrived a day after the destructive waters had receded.



"We had heard there was an earthquake and storm, but since we didn't feel it, we didn't think it was a big deal," said Dan.

But as soon as they got off the bus, they realized that something much more serious had occurred. Groups of tourists with packs strapped to their backs were anxiously searching for any mode of transportation leaving the resort area that had been directly in the path of the towering waves. And as Vermilyers approached the town with their group of eight other people, the fleeing foreigners told them to forget about visiting the demolished village.

"People we encountered basically described it as a war zone," said Dan, who owns The Lost Forge, a blacksmithing business in San Juan. "They said many things had been destroyed and there really wasn't anything there."

But instead of turning around, the father and son asked the local authorities what they could do to help. They were directed to an immigration office where Dan was put in charge of reading names off foreigners' passports found washed up on the beaches, in hopes of reconnecting them with their identification and hopefully a quick passage home. Dan felt strongly about helping the local community because throughout the trip, which started Dec. 16, he had experienced the generosity of the Thai people and wanted to help them during their time of need, he said.

"I had gotten a lot from the country and didn't want to leave without being able to give back," he said.

The father and son hitched a ride into town in the back of a pick-up truck and were shocked by the brutal destruction caused by tidal waves - which scientists estimate traveled at speeds of up to 500 mph. But what struck them the most were the blank looks on the faces of people whose lives had been shattered by the rushing waters. Debris was piled everywhere and, at times, ambulance sirens rushing throughout the chaos punctured the air like a symphony to the destruction. They remember seeing truckloads of dead bodies driven through the streets on their way to the morgue, hidden from sight with only a simple tarp. A deadly quiet hung in the air like a lingering reminder of the apocalyptic day before.

"There was no hysteria, no screaming and yelling, but more of a solemn feeling in the air," said Dan.

James, a freshman at Anzar High School, said he will always wonder if he or his father could have been one of the somber faces stumbling through the wreckage in search of signs their loved ones hadn't died.

"All this time, we were just thinking 'Oh my God, this could have been us'," said James.

After arriving in town, Dan left James and the two other teens in the group at a hotel, and began working at the makeshift immigration office that had sprung up after the catastrophe. Using a megaphone, he

In this issue:

Dan & James

Vermilyer witness

tsunami effects

Elizabeth B. Vermilye

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FROM THE STAFF: by Carl Vermilyea

With this issue, two changes to announce:

First, this is our initial attempt to distribute the newsletter by email to the 50 subscribing members who have the capability. Although we have successfully tested this new system, we know that even the best testing sometimes doesn't catch all the possible nuances of a new procedure. If you have problems receiving this edition, please don't hesitate to let us know. Please send your comments to our editor, Joanne MacArthur (her address is on the last page of this issue).

And second, there has been a change in the VFA Treasurers. Due to health problems, Dayl Stout found it necessary to step down from the position. Our new Treasurer is John R. Todd, our historian's husband. Please see the article herein which gives more details about the changeover.

Of course, there is a lot of administrative work that must be done whenever any change occurs. During the past month or so, the staff has been busy making procedural adjustments and updating documents for both of the above mentioned changes. As I write this, not all the "T"s have been crossed or the "I"s dotted; but, progress is being made. By the time you get this, we hope to have our primary web site amended to reflect the new information.

On the research front, Sandra Todd has made significant progress in updating the master files. While in Utah in November she gathered a lot more information about our ancestors. Using it, she has updated the information at her web site covering the first six generations and, then, took the additional step of incorporating the 7th generation into the site. This took a lot of work on her part and should significantly help anyone researching their Vermilye— roots. In December, I traveled to Englewood, New Jersey, to visit the Vermilye Chapel in the First Presbyterian Church there and came away with information about it plus a great story about Elizabeth Breeze Vermilye, a very interesting, active, strong-willed lady who lived in the town from the 1860s through the 1920s. Elizabeth's story is in this issue.

On January 25th, just about the time we started finalizing articles for this edition, John Todd, our new Treasurer, received word that his mother had passed away in Florida. We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to John, Sandra and their family.

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NEW VFA TREASURER

John R. Todd, Sandra Todd's husband, is the new VFA Treasurer. He replaces Dayl Stout who, because of failing health, had to relinquish the position in mid-January.

Dayl has served us faithfully as Treasurer for the past several years and I and the other Board members extend our utmost appreciation to him for a job well done. Dayl will remain on our VFA Board and, as in the past, continue to provide his sage advice and the results of his research. We wish him the very best.

With this change, we have had to move our Treasury funds to a new banking institution; and that has resulted in a change in the instructions for submitting subscribing membership dues in the future. Rather than making checks or money orders out to the Vermilyea Family Association, all payments must be made out to: John R. Todd. On the memo line on the check, subscribing members should enter "VFA dues."

John's new VFA Treasurer email address is: vfa-treasurer@earthlink.net. His postal address is: Mr. John R. Todd,



San Juan residents experience tsunami's carnage
Tuesday, December 28, 2004

By Karina Ioffee Staff Writer

San Juan Bautista - Dan and James Vermilyer went to the South Pacific seeking fun and adventure for the holidays. Instead, the father and son from San Juan Bautista became involved in a massive recovery effort following the 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami that as of Monday have killed more than 22,000 people in 10 countries and left millions more homeless.

The Vermilyers were in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, when the tsunami struck Sunday morning, avoiding the heavy casualties suffered in the coastal regions. It wasn't until they arrived in Phuket, a popular resort town in the southern part of the country, where they planned to snorkel and cave dive, that they heard news of the hundreds of dead from the gigantic waves that crashed into Thailand's coast. The pair put their vacation plans on hold and started helping at a local hospital, setting up cots and directing patients based on the severity of their injuries, according to e-mails sent to friends and family in California. Soon the Vermilyers jumped into the action further by helping English-speaking tourists who had lost passports in the quake, which originated six miles below the Indian Ocean and caused waves at least 20 feet high.

Family members panicked upon hearing the news of the death and destruction, but were reassured when they realized they had spoken with the two after the catastrophe occurred.

"It took us some time to figure out what was going on because they had called on Saturday night ... but did not mention anything unusual," said Jim Vermilyer, Dan's father and James Jr.'s grandfather. The two had called home on Sunday morning, after the earthquake had struck, but because they do not read or understand Thai and did not feel the shaking, were unaware of what had happened. Thailand is 15 hours ahead and across the International Dateline from California.

Dan, who owns The Lost Forge, a blacksmith business in San Juan Bautista, wrote an e-mail to friend Jennifer Roybal-Marquez, describing the scene that was unfolding before him.



"The whole coastline and all the islands around have been hit...it's caotic (sic) around here; the military is here, ambulances and trucks with stretchers all threw (sic) the streets." The need for medical care was so severe that the hospital had to set up beds outside, wrote Dan Vermilyer.

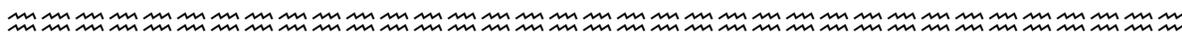
Jim Vermilyer first called the International Red Cross and then all the family friends to find out if his son and grandson had been hurt.

"I started going through Dan's Rolodex and looking for anybody who I could call," he said. Vermilyer was finally able to get in touch with the father of a fellow traveler, who had heard from the group and knew they were safe.

Dan Vermilyer, 39, was born and raised in San Juan Bautista. His son, James, is 15 and is a freshman at Anzar High School.

"They are real adventurer types and I can see why they would put themselves in this position," said Roybal-Marquez, who has known the family for many years.

The pair plans to head to north Thailand - away from the coastal area - heeding the U.S. Consulate's advice to leave the area before an epidemic breaks out, she said. Authorities fear waterborne diseases such as malaria and cholera could spread with the high number of injured and sick people, according to the Associated Press.



ELIZABETH BREEZE VERMILYE
THE “SAVIOR OF THE PALISADES”

by Carl P. Vermilyea

As many of you are aware, I have been gathering information about and visiting as many “places” I can which bear one of our family’s four surnames. The first weekend of December 2004 found my wife and me in Englewood, New Jersey, to visit the Vermilye Chapel located in the First Presbyterian Church there.

Englewood, informally referred to as “The Bedroom of Wall Street” at one time, was the residence of many wealthy families including a few Vermilye families who were leaders in the banking business in New York City and civic and religious leaders in the area. We found the Chapel (I’ll describe it in a future newsletter); but, that turned out to be only half our discovery.

Before church services on Sunday the 5th, we were taking pictures in the Vermilye Chapel when we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Soyster. Obviously strangers, they welcomed us to the church; and, I explained the purpose of our visit. What good fortune it was meeting them! Mrs. Soyster, a very charming, gracious and energetic lady, mentioned that she was the historian for the Englewood Woman’s Club and informed us that the second president of the Club, from 1897 to 1899, was a Miss Elizabeth B. Vermilye, a resident of Englewood and an environmental activist who was responsible for saving The Palisades in New Jersey. Mrs. Soyster promised to send me some documents covering Elizabeth’s activities. The following is from our VFA records covering Elizabeth and information distilled and paraphrased from the newspaper clippings and other papers provided by Mrs. Soyster, among which was an informative newspaper article titled *Saving the Palisades* by Neil S. Martin which appeared in the *Sunday Magazine*, January 7, 1979.

Elizabeth Breeze Vermilye (VFA #947; #676 in James Riker’s book) was the daughter of Ashbel Green Vermilye, a distinguished Presbyterian minister and author, and Helen Lansing Dewitt. Elizabeth was born on March 13, 1858 in Massachusetts, where her father was posted at the time but, spent most of her life in Englewood, a town north of the George Washington Bridge (which was built in 1831, after her death). She never married. She was active in church and community affairs and, as mentioned above, from 1897 to 1899 served as the second President of the Englewood Woman’s Club. From about 1894 through 1910, Elizabeth was the leader and driving force to end quarrying and mining along The Palisades and thereby save it in its nearly natural state. Late in life, with her health failing, she moved to Asbury Park, New Jersey, where she died on December 10th, 1930 at the age of 72. She is buried in the Brookside Cemetery on Engle Street in Englewood.

Elizabeth’s work to save The Palisades was monumental and, considering the fact that women in those days were not welcomed in politics let alone permitted to vote, the story of her work, efforts and achievement is not only interesting but inspirational.

The Palisades, the 500 foot sheer rock cliffs along the western shore of the Hudson River, once extended unmarred from Jersey City, New Jersey, northward to just south of the Tappan Zee Bridge. Since then, some of it has been scarred and destroyed by extensive mining and other engineering efforts; however, a 12-mile portion of it north of the George Washington Bridge remains nearly as it was formed in the ice age, reshaped only by the eroding waters of the Hudson. That area is now a protected public park. Elizabeth, an aggressive environmentalist (albeit well before that term was coined) can be thanked for that.

East of Englewood is the Hudson River, and thus The Palisades. As a child in the 1860s and 1870s, Elizabeth often walked to the edge of the cliffs where she thrilled at the beautiful vista, the ships and barges on the river and the trains traveling along the opposite shore in New York. She explored the trails through the lush forest atop the cliffs and hiked along the jagged slopes and shoreline. She came to love the majestic, raw beauty of the area and consid-



ered the Palisades as “her cliffs.”

In the 1880s, quarrying began along the base of The Palisades. When crushed, the diabase rock talus was ideal gravel for road and building construction in New York City and for ballast for the boats which plied the Hudson. At first, the taking of the talus did not bother Elizabeth. But, things changed in the Englewood area in 1894. A quarry company had purchased riverside land from owners in Englewood Cliffs, the town just north of the George Washington Bridge, and, that year, began mining - using dynamite to blast apart massive sections of the cliffs so that more rock could be harvested. The explosions completely defaced the beautiful cliffs and rattled homes and structures for miles around in both New Jersey and across the river in New York. Elizabeth and her friends in New Jersey and New York City residents who lived along the Hudson River were devastated and outraged. The latter were also upset because of the destruction of their scenic view across the river. Two “concerned citizens” groups formed, one in New Jersey led by Elizabeth and the other in New York. Using newspaper articles and letters and visits to influence their political leaders, they commenced a vigorous campaign to halt the mining and preserve the cliffs. Under seemingly unending constituent pressure, local political leaders at both the State and Federal levels in both states attempted to enact legislation to protect the cliffs by establishing an organization similar to New York’s Niagara Park Commission (established in 1883) which had purchased land to develop a park by the famous waterfalls. Unfortunately, the politicians were unsuccessful. In 1895, a persistent Elizabeth, frustrated by the political impasse yet undeterred, mobilized the ladies of the recently formed (November 1894) Englewood Woman’s Club to support the preservation effort. The Club, started by 17 local, well-educated, social-conscious ladies of privilege, grew to 125 members within a year. Under Elizabeth’s dynamic leadership, in 1896, the Club members expanded their efforts by marshalling the support of women throughout New Jersey. On 13 May 1897 with Elizabeth as President of the Club, they hosted a meeting of the New Jersey State Federation of Women’s Clubs (NJSFWC), which was active in many issues from suffrage to charity, and convinced the leadership of that organization to form its own committee to save the Palisades. By 1898, the “sublime audacity” and vigorous lobbying intimidation of all the women halted expansion of mining operations in the area and Elizabeth and her group prepared a legislative bill to create a Palisades Study Commission. In 1899 the New Jersey legislature passed the bill and Governor Voorhees appointed Elizabeth as one of five members of the Commission. Under similar pressure from influential New York City residents, Governor Theodore Roosevelt of New York, an environmentalist himself, soon thereafter appointed a similar commission in New York to work with Elizabeth’s new group.

Meeting weekly, Elizabeth’s now joint-state Commission issued their report to their respective governors by the end of 1899. Their recommendation was to establish a Palisades Interstate Park Commission which would purchase only the land that lay between the edge of the cliffs and the low-tide mark along the shoreline of the Hudson stretching from Fort Lee to Piermont, New York (near the Tappan Zee Bridge); an estimated 737 acres which would cost about \$260,000.00. They also recommended that park facilities be created and that a drive be built along the shore. Under pressure from both the citizenry and local politicians, on January 1st, 1900, the mining company working in the Englewood Cliffs area ceased its operations. In March 1900, the Commission’s recommendations were converted into legislative bills and quickly passed in both States. The Commission was formally established and a League to Preserve the Palisades was formed with Elizabeth as its leader. By this time, she also had been appointed Forestry Chairman of the NJSFWC. In June, the company mining at Englewood Cliffs signed over their property to the Commission. Large, private donations from well known men like J. P. Morgan (\$122,500.00) and George W. Perkins helped with the purchase of land. Later, on April 30, 1908, the Women’s Memorial Park was dedicated at the top of the cliffs in the town of Alpine (a memorial watchtower was built there in 1929). By 1909 the entire cliff face and shoreline from Fort Lee to Piermont were in the hands of the Commission and that year the park was formally dedicated. Since then, many private donations, both money and property, have been made enabling the Commission to expand the park along the top of the Palisades to what is known today as the Palisades Interstate Park. And fortunately, trees and shrubs have grown back in the old quarried area in Englewood Cliffs so that it is difficult to find traces of the huge slash created by the mining there.

Having fulfilled her goal, Elizabeth continued on as the Forestry Chairperson of the NJSFWC for many years. She also returned to her work with the Englewood Woman’s Club and with a nursing home in nearby

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Tenafy, New Jersey.

In 1992, documentary film maker Frances Treanor and PQ Production commenced filming a documentary covering The Palisades for the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). Entitled *Saving The Palisades*, the date(s) for airing has not been announced. Narrated in part by Mrs. Soyster, it is a program which should interest us all. When I find out when the program will be aired, we will pass the word to as many VFA members as possible.



NEW MEMBERS

Since the last edition of this newsletter, we have added 7 subscribing members. We welcome them all.

Sue Kautz
Mavis Kyle
Kelly McCabe
Joyce Stewart

Brian Vermilya
Lucinda Vermilya
Peter and Jill Vermilyea

DEATHS

Douglas K. Vermilya #1257-1

Douglas K. Vermilya, 73, a former Guttenberg resident, died Sunday, Nov. 28, 2004 at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, where he had resided since Feb. 10, 2000.

A memorial service at Dack Hall 3 will be held at a later date, followed by graveside military rites and interment of his ashes at Guttenberg City Cemetery.

Douglas was born the son of Harold and Una (Eckart) Vermilya on April 5, 1931. He graduated from Guttenberg High School in 1949. He served in the Army and later lived with the Salvation Army in Chicago. Survivors include cousins, Rod (Mary Jo), Renee, Robyn (Dorothy) Tangeman, Daniel (Juanita) Schweikert and Nancy (Robert) Hubacher.

Memorials may be given to the Iowa Veterans Home, 1301 Summit St., Marshalltown, IA 50158 or to the Salvation Army.

Providing services were Estel-Perrin-Avey Mortuary, Marshalltown, and Tuecke-Allyn Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Guttenberg.

Published in the On Line edition of the Guttenberg Press, Guttenberg Iowa December 14, 2004



Glenys Olive Vermilya. #1673

Glenys Olive Vermilya, Ph.D., South Scranton, died Monday at the VNA Hospice Unit at Community Medical Center.

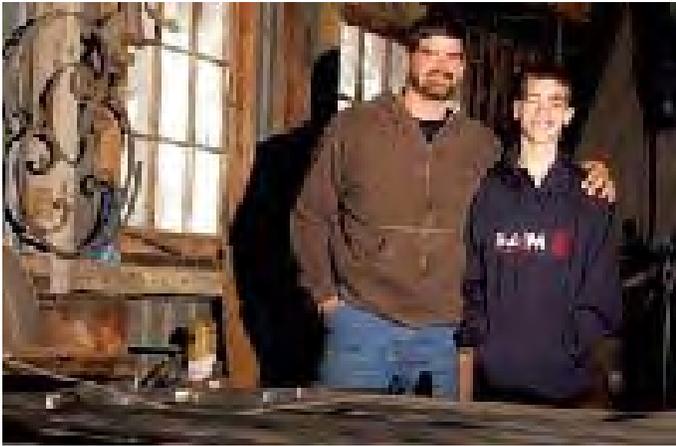
Born Dec. 14, 1924, in Wellington, Kan., she was the only child of the late Guy and Mabel Hilton Vermilya. Her early education was in Pierre, S.D., where she was graduated from Pierre High School. She was also a graduate of Sterling College, Sterling, Kan., and earned a master of arts degree from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., and a doctor of philosophy degree from New York University.

Her teaching career included five years as a secondary school teacher in Udall, Kan., and 21 years as a college professor at Baptist Bible College, Clarks Summit. Glenys was also a distributor of Shaklee Health Care products for several years.

Dr. Vermilya served faithfully for 35 years as Christian education director, Sunday School teacher, organist and pianist at Bethel Baptist Church, Scranton.

She enjoyed taking groups to the Holy Land and other countries.

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spent several hours reading names off passports with hopes their owners were alive to claim them. Sometimes they were, he said, but for others only an eerie silence followed his cries.

“You could see passports belonging to entire families, yet no one was there to pick them up,” he said.

In the days following the tsunami, communication was spotty and survivors found floating in the deep ocean waters were taken to different hospitals. Children were separated from their parents and husbands from wives - each fearing the worst had happened, said Dan.

On Monday night, Dan moved to a hospital, where his English was needed to relay information from patients to the mostly Thai-speaking staff. Although Dan does not speak the language, he still went around and talked to survivors, asking what they needed. Many wanted him to simply phone relatives at home and tell them they had survived. Later, James joined his dad at the hospital and compiled lists of people who were ready to leave on flights to Bangkok or nearby Phuket where the foreign embassies were located. Meanwhile, more survivors quickly filled the vacated hospital beds that soon spilled into the hallways, offices and even outside the hospital walls.

The pair spent two days working at the hospital and were amazed at how much people cared for their loved ones, Dan said.

“They weren’t worried about themselves as much as they wanted to know what was going on with their family members or friends,” he said.

And although they would have liked to have helped more, the Vermilyers left after two days, heeding the U.S. embassy’s warning that an epidemic would soon spread disease throughout the area.

They spent the remainder of their time relaxing in Kohtao, an island paradise on the country’s eastern side untouched by tsunami’s hand, but were still haunted by the horrible images they had witnessed just days before.

New Year’s Eve came while they were on the island, but it was strange to see people celebrating less than a week after the catastrophe, Dan said.

“It was a weird feeling for me, seeing people partying and dancing,” he said.

The experiences the two shared - from the jungles of Northern Thailand to the ravaged resort town and the island where they spent the last part of their trip - are only now starting to sink in and it will take much more time to process all that they saw, Dan said.

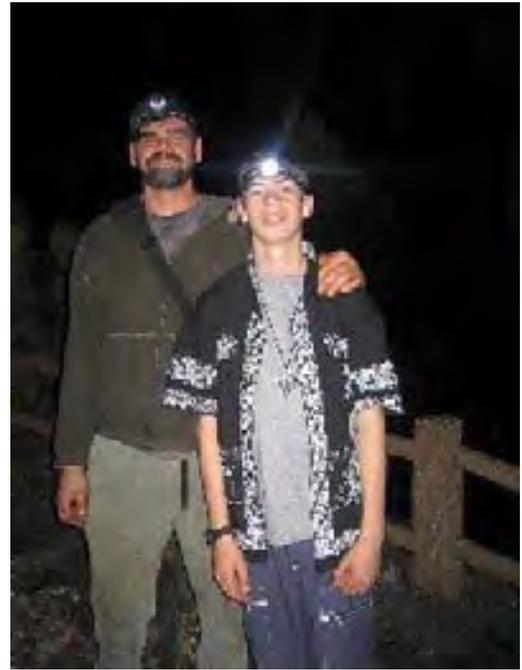
“I don’t know if there are even words to describe what we felt and saw,” he said. Watching footage of the tsunami’s destruction on the news, he still doesn’t know how to react and has a hard time comprehending the immensity of the event, he said. However, he was forever transformed during his time with the Thai people and plans on returning to the country soon, he said.

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“When you think of all those little experiences and multiply them by thousands, it just become hard to process,” he said. “How do you even begin talking about something like this?”

Karina Ioffe covers education for the Free Lance. Reach her at (831)637-5566 ext. 335 or kioffee@freelancenews.com



THE VERMILYEA FAMILY GENEALOGY

On January 15, 2005 the VERMILYEA FAMILY BOOK file was updated at the Vermilyea Family Reunion Web Site. The Seventh Generation has now been added and the complete file has been renumbered and is up to date as of January 10, 2005.

- (1) All the same things apply to the Seventh Generation as in the previous file, all living persons and been XXXXXXXX out. Please review you family entry and let me know if there are any errors or additions.
- (2) I have updated my software, which means you may have to go to adobe.com to get the latest version of Adobe Reader (version 7.0) in order to open and read the file. I used version 6.0 which will open with 7.0 or 6.0, but not with earlier versions. The new reader is reported to be much quicker, so hopefully the larger file will open and read well for you.
- (3) I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped me so much this past year. Sharing your expertise, files, family information, resources or just your kind words goes a long way to keep our Family History alive!!!

As many of you know, during the last year I have tried to concentrate on the many unidentified V's that have been found in census and other records. We did very well identifying many of these, however there are still 20 persons that I have much information available on that cannot be connected. Last fall I uploaded these names and a minimum of information about each to the Reunion Web Site. The hope is that someone will find the link and have the key to make the family connection. Please check out the link "WHO IS THIS.." and see if you recognize names or locations that could provide a clue to help. This year the focus will be back to general information gathering; we must remember to add all the new "twigs".

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Dr. Vermilya's Christian faith was an inspiration to all who knew her as she served the Lord. Surviving are a cousin, the Rev. Edwin Harvey, Georgia; as well as many Christian friends and her church family.

A memorial service will be conducted Saturday at 10 a.m. in Bethel Baptist Church, 1132 S. Main Ave., by Pastor Joseph Santos.

There will be no viewing or calling hours. Memorial contributions may be made to Bethel Baptist Church, c/o Pastor Joseph Santos, 1506 Price St., 18504.

Arrangements by the Davies and Jones Funeral Chapel Inc., 135 S. Main Ave.

Published in the Scranton Times Tribune, Scranton, Pennsylvania, September 15, 2004. (date of death September 13, 2004).

Margaret S. Vermilya #940-2

November 3, 2004 Margaret S. Vermilya, 90, of Manlius, passed away Wednesday at Crouse Hospital with her children by her side. Born in San Diego, California, she was a cook at the Pleasant St. School for many years, retiring in 1974. She was a member of the Manlius First Baptist Church, the Women's Fellowship and the American Baptist Women. She was a former secretary, Deaconess, Trustee and Superintendent with the church. She was also a choir member and headed the Youth Fellowship Group at the church. Margaret was a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels and F.I.S.H. in Manlius. Survivors: A daughter, Lois Vermilya-Weslowski of NM; a son, David Vermilya of Baldwinsville; two grandchildren, Owen and Alana Weslowski; several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert R. Vermilya. Memorial Services: 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the Manlius First Baptist Church. There will be no visitation. Contributions: The Manlius First Baptist Church, 408 Pleasant St., Manlius, NY 13104. NEWELL-FAY Manlius 682-5300

Published in the Syracuse Post Standard, Syracuse, New York, November 5, 2004.

Oliver G. Tague #1015-IV

Oliver G. Tague, 78, of Sioux City died Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2004, at a Sioux City hospital following an extended illness.

Services will be 11:30 a.m. Monday at Riverside Lutheran Church, with the Rev. Chuck Wolff officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Visitation will be 2 to 8 p.m. today, with the family present 6 to 8 p.m. and a prayer service at 7:30 p.m., at Meyer Brothers Colonial Chapel.

Oliver was born Aug. 25, 1926, in Bronson, Iowa, the son of Clyde E. and Mable G. (Vermilyea) Tague. He married Darlene L. Thompson on Dec. 8, 1951, in Sioux City. He had been a resident of Sioux City since 1953. He was a fireman with the Sioux City Fire Department for 25 years, retiring in August 1981. He had also worked part time with Burke Lumber Co. for many years.

He was a longtime member of Riverside Lutheran Church and a member of the Retired Firemen's Association. Oliver was an avid Hawks, Cyclones, Cubs and Cardinals fan. He enjoyed bowling, fishing and especially watching his grandchildren compete in sporting events.

Survivors include his wife, Darlene; five children, Barbara Phillips and her husband, Randall, Marlene Colt and her husband Terry, Lin Tague and his wife, Karen, Rita Allard and Jean Thompson and her husband, Dave; two brothers, Glen Tague and Alfred Tague, 11 grandchildren, Christopher Phillips,

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Kevin Phillips, Scotty Colt, Marshall Tague, Colin Tague and his wife, Kara, Myles Tague, Andrea Geary and her husband, Shawn, Cassandra Monroe, Kelsey Thompson and Allison Thompson; a great-grandchild; and a great-step grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son in infancy, Leonard; a daughter, Donna; a brother Carrol Tague; and a sister, Louise Dyer.

Pallbearers will be Christopher Phillips, Kevin Phillips, Scotty Colt, Colin Teague, Shawn Geary and Tim Schwartz. Honorary pallbearers will be Marshall Tague, Myles Tague and Chad Thompson.

Published in the Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, Iowa, January 2, 2005.

Elaine B. Sumrill #1545

Elaine B. Sumrill passed away January 8, 2005. She was born Sept. 19, 1922 in Nashwauk, Minnesota to Dale and Adeline Vermilyea. In 1928 the family moved to Vader, Washington. Her parents owned a grocery store where she loved to work. She played the drums in the Toledo High School band and was the salutatorian of the class of 1940. During World War II she held various jobs; bucking rivets, candling eggs, driving a school bus and cooking in a restaurant. After the war she moved to Portland, Oregon where she became a grocery checker and joined the Retail Clerks Union. While working full time and raising a family, she was a Cub Scout den mother, a Bluebird leader and PTA president. In her spare time, she grew beautiful gardens. In 1960, the family moved to Vancouver and built a home on an acre near Brush Prairie. She loved being outside in her garden, and the family has fond memories of her chickens following her around the yard. A life-long Democrat, she became active in the Democratic party in the late 1970's and became known as the Rabid Democrat. She was an active member of the Democratic Women, Clark County Democrats, the Executive Board, NOW and Hands Off Washington. She was honored with lifetime service awards from both NOW and the Clark County Democratic Women. Elaine loved playing cards and belonged to a wonderful group of Pinochle ladies until her death. Despite all of her achievements, Elaine was most happy when sharing special times with her family. She was a true matriarch of the kindest sort.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Charlotte, her son, Ron Hoffman, and her husband, Wesley M. Sumrill Sr. She is survived by her sister Mavis Kyle; her brothers, Orville Vermilyea and Charles Vermilyea; her daughter, Sue Kautz; her sons, Bob Hoffman and Wes Sumrill; her son-in-law, Fred Kautz; her daughters-in-law, Cyndi Hoffman and Cheryl Hollingsworth; grandchildren Robin, Lisa, Lori, Heather, Ronnie, Carson, Jared, Nicholas, Lisa Freddie and Patti; and 11 great-grandchildren. At her request there will be no service. If you wish, you may make a donation to the Clark County Democrats in her name.

Published in The Columbian, Vancouver, Washington, January 13, 2005.



This was received by E-mail over the Holidays, and I thought it interesting enough to share..... No information was included to indicate who the author was.

Dear Friends,

I wanted to send out some sort of holiday greeting, but it is so difficult in today's world to know exactly what to say without offending someone. So I met with my attorney today and on her advice I want to say to all of you:

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral celebration of the winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all.

I also wish you a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2005, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make America great (not to imply that America is necessarily greater than any other country nor the only "America" in the western hemisphere), and without regard to the race, color, creed, age, sex, physical ability, veterans status, religious faith, or sexual preference of the wished.

By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms:

This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/himself or others, and is void where taxed or prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher.

This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first, and such warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.

Happy Holidays!



THE VFA

The Vermilyea Family Association (Vermilya, Vermilye, Vermilyea, Vermilyer), or VFA for short, a not-for-profit, social club staffed by volunteers, was established on November 27, 1995. We have shared information about the descendants of Johannes Vermelje (the Vermilya, Vermilye, Vermilyea and Vermilyer lines) and, thus, together, learned a great deal about our small, unique, extended family. With the goals of increasing family unity, bonding and fellowship, we encourage you to submit to our Historian your genealogy research plus stories, histories and information about your family, ancestors and descendants. By doing so, we'll all benefit by leaning even more; and, from our consolidated records, you might just find that long-lost relative you've been wondering about for years.

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

President: Carl P. Vermilyea,
Historian: Sandra Vermilyea Todd,
Newsletter Publisher: Joanne Vermilya MacArthur,

Treasurer: John R. Todd,

Other Board Members:

Dayl Stout,
Tom Vermilye, 13
Wilma Vermilyer,

DUES FOR 2005

Anyone who has been a VFA subscribing member and paid dues for any year from 1995 through 2004 will not be charged dues in 2005. Of those, anyone who was not a Subscribing Member in 2004 is required to submit a new membership application.

Anyone who has never been a subscribing member (will become a first-time member in 2005) must submit a membership application and pay annual dues of \$6.00 (US) or \$7.50 (Canadian).

Membership applications and dues must be sent to the Treasurer. Please make your check or money order payable to: **John R. Todd**; enter "VFA dues" on the memo line on your check and, mail it to: **Mr. John R. Todd**,

If a subscribing membership application is received by the Treasurer after February 15, 2005, the applicant will be sent all issues of the newsletter which were published in 2005 prior to their application being received.

All subscribing memberships will expire on December 31, 2005.

THIS NEWSLETTER

"Vermilya/e/ea/er's ...Historically Speaking," published on or about February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15, is the primary periodical of the Association.

The cost of a subscription is included in the membership dues.

Comments concerning distribution may be sent to the Publisher, Joanne V. MacArthur. Comments concerning the content should be sent to the Historian, Sandra V. Todd.

Articles which appear in the newsletter may be reproduced if credit is given.

For those who want to submit articles for publication: You may send manuscripts, pictures and documents to Sandra Todd by regular or e-mail. As material cannot be returned, please do not send originals. The VFA reserves the right to publish information received in a media of its choosing.

To order prior issues of this Newsletter: Back-issues of this newsletter may be purchased by sending a check or money order, made payable to "John R. Todd" in the amount of \$3.00 (US) or \$4.30 (Canadian) for each copy and/or issue. Send your request and the check to Carl Vermilyea (see address above) who will send you a copy(ies) from the VFA's files.

DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET?

Check our VFA **Web Page** (maintained by Joanne V. MacArthur) at: <http://members.aol.com/vfa95/vfa.htm>
The VFA's **E-mail address** (staffed by Sandra V. Todd) is: VERMREUN@earthlink.net

OTHER WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Sandra V. Todd maintains a private, non-VFA affiliated/sponsored web site at: <http://freepages.family.rootsweb.com/~vermilyeareunion/index.html>. At this site, Sandra reports on family reunions and lists members of the early generations of the Vermilya-Vermilye-Vermilyea-Vermilyer family.