

OBITUARIES

RUTH P. CROWLEY

JONESPORT - Ruth P. Crowley, 86, passed away on July 25, 2016, at Sunrise Nursing Home in Jonesport, ME. She was born February 25, 1930, daughter of the late Robert Church and the Geraldine M. Church.

Ruth graduated from Jonesport High School. She was formerly a secretary for the Jonesport School Department, Superintendent of Schools. She enjoyed the Patriot football games, reading, swimming at Gardner's Lake, bingo, any type of seafood and loved her chocolate candy.

Ruth was married to her husband of 69 years, the late Millard P. "Sammy" Crowley Jr.; 2 sons, Steven Crowley and wife, Cathy Crowley, and the late Bruce M. Crowley and his wife, Janet K. Crowley; 1 daughter, the late Terry L. Alley and husband, Darrell Alley, all of Jonesport; 6 grandchildren, Scott Alley of Livermore, Taryn Finlay of East Machias, Derek Alley of Jonesport, Maegan Crowley of South Portland, Toby Crowley of Honolulu, Hawaii, and Ryan Crowley of Austin, Texas; 6 great-grandchildren, Adrienne and Lucas Alley of Livermore, Alexander Finlay, Jordan Finlay, and Derek Polk, all of East Machias, and Tyler Crowley of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Ruth's graveside service is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2016, at Greenwood Cemetery in Jonesport, ME. Arrangements entrusted to Bragdon-Kelley Funeral in Machias, ME. Online condolences may be shared at www.bragdonkelley.com.

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Forrest Mars Jr., Mars Inc.'s co-owner, dies at 84

BY DAVID HENRY BLOOMBERG

Forrest Mars Jr., the billionaire co-owner of Mars Inc. who helped oversee the U.S. candy maker's global drive into new markets for M&M's, Milky Way bars and Uncle Ben's rice, has died. He was 84.

He died July 26, according to a statement from the company. No other details were given. He had a home in Big Horn, Wyoming.

The grandson of Forrest E. Mars, who made the first Mars products in 1911, helped his younger brother and sister run the closely held company for about 30 years. With siblings Jacqueline and John, he took the McLean, Virginia-based food maker's products

into Russia, Poland and the Czech Republic in 1991 and opened its first manufacturing plant in China two years later, according to the company's website.

"Mars believed that the first company in after the fall of the Soviet Union would win the hearts, minds and taste buds of those former Soviet bloc consumers," Lawrence L. Allen wrote in "Chocolate Fortunes" published in 2010. "Its penchant for aggressive international expansion would play an important role in the company's success in China."

Amassing a net worth of \$31.5 billion, Forrest Mars Jr. was the world's 21st-wealthiest person, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Co-owners Jacqueline

Badger Mars and John Franklin Mars each have equivalent fortunes.

Under its founder, Frank Mars, and his successor, Forrest Mars Sr., Mars became a household name with its Milky Way, Snickers and M&M's chocolates as well as pet-food brands such as Pedigree and Whiskas. Ownership of the company passed to the three Mars children in 1973.

They then took Uncle Ben's to Brazil in 1977, introduced the Flavia coffee brand for office workers in 1981 and acquired chocolate maker Dove International in 1986. The company began producing 3 Musketeers ice-cream bars, and added similar frozen versions of Snickers and Milky Way.

Forrest Edward Mars Jr.

was born Aug. 16, 1931, in Oak Park, Illinois, to parents Forrest E. Mars Sr. and Audrey Ruth Meyer.

"Forrest Jr., John and Jacqueline had an ordinary childhood," Joanne Mattern wrote in "The Mars Family" published in 2011. "If the children wanted something, they had to work to earn the money. Their parents did not buy them fancy clothes or expensive cars. They did not receive allowances. They didn't even get free candy!"

In 1953, Forrest Mars Jr. graduated from Yale University, in New Haven, Connecticut, according to Marquis Who's Who.

He was a finance officer in the U.S. Army and worked for Price Waterhouse accounting firm in New York before join-

ing the family business, according to a 1992 article in the Independent (U.K.) newspaper. In 1961, he was posted to Veghel, the Netherlands, to start a candy factory, which was destroyed by fire only days before opening and had to be rebuilt.

During the 1980s, Mars dominance was eclipsed by arch rival Hershey Co., which four decades earlier had been partners in the initial production of M&M's. The candy's initials stand for (Forrest) Mars and (William) Murrie, Hershey's former president, according to a 1999 New York Times obituary for Forrest Mars. The company regained U.S. market share in the early 1990s, and Forrest Mars Jr. stepped down as co-president in April 1999, the Times reported.

Music maverick who produced 'Monster Mash' dies at 77

BY HARRISON SMITH THE WASHINGTON POST

Gary S. Paxton, a musical maverick who wrote more than 2,000 songs and produced the pop hits "Alley-Oop" and "Monster Mash" and who later overcame addiction and transitioned to a career as a gospel musician, died July 17 at an assisted-living center in Branson, Missouri. He was 77.

Paxton had his first taste of success as one-half of Skip & Flip, a late 1950s pop duo that broke into the Top 20 with "It Was I," a bittersweet song about a jilted lover, and "Cherry Pie," a cover of Marvin & Johnny's doo-wop hit. Less a performer than a songwriter, Paxton quickly tired of touring and quit the road in favor of the Hollywood recording life.

He and fellow producer Kim Fowley churned out "Alley-Oop" (1960) with a group of studio musicians and friends he called the Hollywood Argyles. The record, which became a No. 1 hit, was written by country songwrit-

er Dallas Frazier and was based on a comic-strip character of the same name who rode a pet dinosaur and traveled through time.

Two years later, Paxton had his second No. 1 with "Monster Mash," released on his Garpax label. The devilishly addictive pop song about a mad scientist whose lab work incites a dance craze was written by singer Bobby "Boris" Pickett, who had wowed audiences with an on-stage impersonation of horror-film actor Boris Karloff and now sang about "a graveyard smash" that "caught on in a flash."

Paxton worked with dozens of artists in Los Angeles — including the rock-and-roll group Paul Revere & the Raiders, the pop band the Association, and jazz vocalists the Four Freshmen — before moving to Bakersfield, California, in 1967 and turning his attention to country music.

The change of scenery was short-lived. Paxton said he used his newfound wealth to acquire mountain cabins and

a marina, hotel and music store, as well as a series of recording studios, but "lost it all" because of drugs and alcohol and moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1970.

One year after he arrived, his business partner Thomas Wayne was killed in a car wreck that Paxton believed was a suicide. "It stopped me in my tracks," Paxton wrote in an online biography. "I walked into a church — stoned on drugs — and got saved!"

He stopped abusing drugs and drinking alcohol and began working with gospel artists, including the Blackwood Brothers quartet and singer-songwriter Don Francisco, and in 1976 released his first solo album, "The Astonishing, Outrageous, Amazing, Incredible, Unbelievable, Different World of Gary S. Paxton."

The gospel record railed against nuclear proliferation and drug abuse in playful tracks such as "You Ain't Smokin' Them Cigarettes (Baby, They're Smokin' You)"

and earned Paxton a Grammy award for best inspirational performance.

Its cover featured a heavily bearded Paxton emerging from a Nashville sewer with a black cowboy hat and sunglasses in hand. At the bottom of the image, a parenthetical line offered encouragement to skeptical listeners: "You'd be surprised. ... It makes a lot of sense!"

Gary Sanford Paxton was born Larry Wayne Stevens on May 18, 1939, to an unmarried teenage couple in Coffeyville, Kansas. Raised by foster parents, he learned the story of his birth only at 17, when his mother introduced herself while he was dining at a restaurant.

In his biography, Paxton said he was molested by a neighbor at 7, started writing songs at 10 and one year later contracted spinal meningitis, which left him crippled for three years and caused him to turn even more toward music.

Paxton was inducted into the Country Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1998 and in

later years performed under the moniker Grandpa Rock, wearing a mask, gold boots and a red leather coat.

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