

OBITUARIES

ELDEN 'BUDDY' V. CLARK JR.

NEWMARKET, N.H. - Elden Buddy V. Clark Jr. passed away with family by his side on August 25, 2016, from a brief illness. He was born August 19, 1949, the son of Elden and Shirley Clark of Corinth.

He grew up in Corinth, Maine, and was a graduate of East Corinth Academy, he served in the Air Force after graduation. He lived most of his life in Augusta and New Hampshire, he worked as a well known and respected auto body technician, he enjoyed auto racing, golfing with friends, cribbage and ice hockey. He was a proud member of the Robert G. Durgin American Legion and Eagles Club #67 of Newmarket, New Hampshire.

He is survived by three sons, Michael and his wife, Heather, Denny and his wife, Nikki, and Kevin; four grandchildren; his mother, Shirley Clark; sister, Elaine Merrill; brother, Kenny Clark and wife, Gail, several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son, Eric; father, Elden Clark; and brother-in-law, Neil Merrill.

Special thanks to Mark and Candice Egan, Jay and Barb Moriarty and family, and Patty Putman for their kindness and love, and all his many friends that were there for him at this difficult time. He will be missed by many friends and family.

Committal services will be for family and close friends. Those wishing to donate to his memory may donate to the Children and Youth Fund/American Legion #67, 151 Main St., Newmarket, NH 03857.



Laurie Ann (Coombs) Shields

KENDUSKEAG - Laurie Ann (Coombs) Shields lost her long courageous battle with diabetes September 3, 2016, at EMMC. She was born October 28, 1956, in Bangor, to G. Raymond Coombs and Mary Ellen (Lal-ley) Coombs.

Laurie survived by her husband, Charles Shields, of 37 years; and their two children, Chad and Briana Shields. She had one grandchild, Spencer Shields, who she loved and adored very much. Laurie is also survived by her mother, Mary Ellen; her two sisters, Mary Ray Hartmann and her husband, Tom, and Anna Leek and her husband, Brian; mother-in-law, Arlene Shields; sister-in-law, Diana Barrows; and aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

Laurie attended Brewer schools and was employed at Customer Service in the Bangor Mall, which she enjoyed for many years. Laurie also loved her cat, Lady Jane, who kept her company throughout hard times.

Laurie will be buried alongside her father at Mat-tawmkeag Cemetery at 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 10, 2016.

Fred Hellerman, guitarist with folk quartet the Weavers, dies at 89

BY HARRISON SMITH
THE WASHINGTON POST

Fred Hellerman, a self-taught guitarist who sang about social harmony, in harmony, with Pete Seeger as a founding member of the pivotal 1950s folk quartet the Weavers, died Sept. 1 at his home in Weston, Connecticut. He was 89.

He had heart, lung and other ailments, said his son Caleb Hellerman.

Formed in 1948, the Weavers sold millions of records and influenced acts that included the Kingston Trio; Peter, Paul and Mary; Joan Baez; and Bob Dylan. (Hellerman, who in the late '50s and '60s began working largely as a songwriter and producer, played guitar on Baez's self-titled 1960 debut album. Of Dylan, he once said, "He can't sing, and he can barely play, and he doesn't know much about music at all.")

The Weavers' blend of politically minded lyrics and sunny harmonies reached mass audiences in songs such as "Goodnight, Irene," "On Top of Old Smoky," "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine" and "The Hammer Song," which became a top-10 hit when Peter, Paul and Mary recorded it under the name "If I Had a Hammer" in 1962.

In addition to Seeger and Hellerman, the Weavers featured Lee Hays, who sang bass, and contralto Ronnie Gilbert. Hays died in 1981, Seeger in 2014, and Gilbert in 2015, leaving Hellerman the last surviving member of the group's original lineup.

The Weavers, whose name — suggested by Hellerman — was taken from a Gerhart Hauptmann play about a 19th-century work-

ers uprising, suffered in the 1950s, when Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wisconsin, and the House Un-American Activities Committee investigated purported communist activity in government and the arts.

In 1950, Seeger was labeled a communist by the publication Red Channels. Two years later, a paid FBI informant testified before HUAC that Hellerman and Gilbert also were communists. The informant, Harvey Matusow, was later discredited and served 44 months in prison for perjury.

Television appearances were canceled, the American Legion picketed a performance at the Strand Theatre in New York, and on at least one occasion, the Knights of Columbus threatened to shut down a club that booked the folk outfit.

Blacklisted, the group stopped performing, but in 1955, it reunited for a packed concert at Carnegie Hall in New York. The Weavers had originally planned to hold their reunion show in the smaller, less prestigious Town Hall, Hellerman later told the New York Times, but that venue refused to let them play. At Carnegie, he added, "we found to our surprise that the act of coming to a Weavers concert was taken as 'making a statement.' It carried a sense of defiance."

The Weavers continued performing together — although without Seeger, who left in the late '50s to pursue a solo career and was replaced by Erik Darling — until calling it quits after a 1963 concert. They reunited once more at Carnegie Hall in 1980, in a pair of shows captured in the documentary "The Weavers: Wasn't

That a Time!" (1982).

Fred Hellerman — who joked that his family was "too poor to afford a middle name" — was born in Brooklyn on May 13, 1927. His father, a Latvian immigrant, ran a grocery store before selling used fabric.

Hellerman taught himself guitar while serving on a Coast Guard weather ship during World War II. A fan of jazz and vaudeville music at a young age, he had played bit parts in New York's Yiddish theater scene before turning to folk music in college, according to his son.

The Weavers emerged from an ensemble called the Almanac Singers, which at various times included Seeger and Hays along with folk musician Woody Guthrie and singers Millard Lampell and Burl Ives.

The group dissolved during World War II, and Seeger and Hays subsequently tried to organize a folk chorus that could spotlight the music of artists such as Huddie Ledbetter, a New York blues guitarist and singer who went by the name Lead Belly.

Hellerman and Gilbert — who met while working as counselors at a leftist New Jersey summer camp called Wo-Chi-Ca (Workers Children's Camp) — soon joined the fledgling chorus, which was whittled down to a quartet when, as Gilbert later told the Times, "it became clear that we had an extraordinary blend of voices."

But the group struggled to gain renown. Hellerman — who graduated from Brooklyn College in 1949 — was planning to leave New York to pursue a graduate degree in English when the Weavers finally broke through at the Village Vanguard, a New

York club that had previously hosted Lead Belly and other folk singers. They were soon signed to Decca Records.

Their first record, a single featuring the Hebrew song "Tzena, Tzena, Tzena" and a version of Lead Belly's "Goodnight, Irene," sold 2 million copies.

In addition to his work with the Weavers, Hellerman was a frequent collaborator with Harry Belafonte, for whom he co-wrote the 1963 hit "Come Away Melinda" with Fran Minkoff. He also produced Arlo Guthrie's hit debut, "Alice's Restaurant" (1967), and follow-up live album "Arlo" (1968).

His marriage in 1970 to Susan Lardner, a writer for the New Yorker magazine, ended in divorce, but they later reconciled and lived in Weston at the time of Hellerman's death. Besides Lardner, survivors include two sons, Simeon Hellerman of Tokyo and Caleb Hellerman of Framingham, Massachusetts; and three grandchildren.

In recent years, Hellerman pushed himself to try new genres as an arranger and composer. Self-conscious about being a self-taught musician, "he wanted to be seen as a serious musician and composer," his son said.

For his first and only solo record, "Caught in the Act," Hellerman arranged, orchestrated, conducted and sang vaudeville standards, including "When Ragtime Rosie Ragged the Rosary" and "O'Brien Is Tryin' to Learn to Talk Hawaiian."

His final composition, his son said, was "Fourth of July," a patriotic orchestral piece that the New York Jazzharmonic premiered in June.

Pearl Harbor veteran will finally go home

BY ISAAC STEIN
THE KEENE SENTINEL

A World War II veteran from Swanzy, New Hampshire, who died in the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor is finally going home.

His remains will be flown in from Hawaii next month after having spent more than 70 years in a mass grave with other victims, and he'll be laid to rest beside his family.

Edwin C. Hopkins will be reburied next to his parents, his maternal grandparents and his paternal grandmother.

Hopkins, a U.S. Navy 3rd Class fireman, was one of 429 sailors, soldiers and Marines killed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which capsized after the Japanese bombed and torpedoed it during the Pearl Harbor attack in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941. He was 19 at the time.

Faye Hopkins-Boore, Hopkins' niece, said his casket will arrive on Oct. 14 at Dillant-Hopkins Airport in North Swanzy, which is partially named in his honor. Following a funeral service at the airport Hopkins will be buried in the Woodland Cemetery in Keene.

Military honors will accompany the services, according to Hopkins-Boore, who lives in Lewes, Del. Exact times for the services have not yet been set.

For Hopkins-Boore, the effort to bring Hopkins home was an extended process that involved commingled remains and military secrets.

Edwin Hopkins was initially buried at the National Memorial Cemetery in Hawaii, also known as the "Punchbowl." He and others were exhumed and positively identified in 1949 — Hopkins through his dental charts — but their remains were later reburied in a mass grave because a project anthropologist recommended they stay there. Authorities did not release this information to the families.

That changed in 2008, when information about the remains resurfaced, prompting a complicated conflict between authorities and families of the deceased.

Hopkins-Boore thought Hopkins' burial in the Punchbowl was inappropriate, given his service.

"I'm thinking he made such a sacrifice at such a young age, it's so unfair for him to be in an unmarked

grave, 8,000 miles from home, sharing a casket with five, six, seven other people. ... I felt the sacrifice he made deserved a resting place just for him, and a marker that says, 'I'm here,'" Hopkins-Boore said.

She also said the family was given the option to have Hopkins formally buried at the Punchbowl, or at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. But she said she thought his choice would have been to "take me home," which is what they're doing.

Hopkins-Boore added that from what she heard from her grandparents, Hopkins had a gregarious "daredevil" personality, which contrasted with her father's more reserved nature. She specifically mentioned an instance in which Hopkins reportedly climbed Mount Monadnock twice in the same day, back-to-back, simply because he was dared to.

She also said she was motivated to get Hopkins home, in part because her father and grandparents never got to know where he was prior to their own deaths.

"I got so involved in this (effort) to bring him home for my grandparents and my dad. My dad died on January 1, 2008 ... and I found out in March 2008, that yes, they knew where he was. My dad never got to know that, nor did my grandparents," Hopkins-Boore said.

But after 75 years interred in the Punchbowl, Hopkins will soon lay next to his kin.

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