

## OBITUARIES

Evelyn Walker Dies at 75;  
Was NIH Clinic Social Worker

Evelyn Walker, 75, a social worker for the Red Cross who joined the U.S. Public Health Service and was assigned to the National Institutes of Health, died of cancer April 12 at her home in Washington.

Miss Walker, a lifelong resident of Washington, graduated from George Washington University. In 1944, she received a master's degree in social work from Catholic University.

From 1942 to 1944, she worked in the social service department at Children's Hospital. From 1944 to 1954, she was a Red Cross social worker at the Bethesda Naval Hospital and then at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where she was the Red Cross field director.

In 1956, she joined the Public Health Service, and her subsequent career was at NIH. She was chief of the neurology and eye social work section at the NIH Clinical Center from 1962 until she retired in 1976.

Miss Walker was a member of the National Association of Social Workers, the Retired Officers Association and the Retirees Association of the American Red Cross. She was a former member of the boards of the Christ Child Society and the Homemakers Society of the Metropolitan Area of Washington, D.C., and of the women's board of the Columbia Hospital for Women.

She was a member of the Chevy Chase Club, the Sulgrave Club, the National Society of Colonial Dames of America, the Cleveland Park Civic Association and St. Thomas Apostle Catholic Church.

Survivors include one sister, Helen Walker Snodgrass of Baltimore.

ELSIE FRANKEL ALSBERG  
Landscape Designer

Elsie Frankel Alsberg, 98, a former Washington area resident and a retired landscape designer who was active in community organizations, died of cardiac arrest April 12 at a nursing home in Beverly, Mass.

Mrs. Alsberg, who moved from Washington to Marblehead, Mass., in 1977, was born in New York City. She moved to the Washington area in 1940. She became a landscape designer about 1945 and retired in 1977.

She helped organize the Mintwood Place Improvement League, the Mintwood Place Property Owners Association and the Kalorama Triangle Restoration Society.

Mrs. Alsberg was a founding member of the Crestwood Garden Club and had served as its representative to the National Capital Garden Club Federation.

She also was a member of the American Horticultural Society and the Potomac Rose Society and had been a member of the Gray Lady's Corps at the Washington Home.

Her husband, Julius Alsberg, died in 1972. Survivors include two children, George Alsberg of Marblehead and Cora Wright Kennedy of New York City.

LEROY FRED MEYER SR.  
Marine Mechanic

LeRoy Fred Meyer Sr., 76, the founder and retired owner of Meyer Marine Service, a marine engine repair shop, died of congestive heart failure April 11 at the Southern Maryland Hospital Center. He lived in Oxon Hill.

Mr. Meyer was born in Charleston, Ill. He moved to the Washington area in 1941 and went to work at the Washington Navy Yard. He founded Meyer Marine Service in 1954 and operated the firm until he retired in 1980. He remained on the firm's board until his death.

He had a special interest in environmental issues and was active with the "Save the Bay" Campaign.

His wife, Lillian Marie Waters Meyer, died in 1978. Survivors include two daughters, Myrna Meyer Wade and Barbara M. Conley, both of Fort Washington; one son, LeRoy Fred (Roy) Meyer Jr. of Oxon Hill; six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

FRANCES HARRISON  
PRICE MILLER  
Navy Wife and Volunteer

Frances Harrison Price Miller, 94, the widow of a Navy captain who had been a Red Cross Gray Lady at Bethesda Naval Hospital, died of cardiopulmonary arrest April 11 at Carl Vincent Hall in McLean.

Mrs. Miller was born near Lynchburg, Va., and she graduated from Longwood College in Farmville, Va.

During the Navy career of her husband, retired Capt. George Carter Miller, she accompanied him to various naval posts and was a Red Cross volunteer at several hospitals during that period. She had been a permanent resident of the Washington area since the 1950s.

Mrs. Miller was a member of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in McLean and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Capt. Miller died in 1969, and one son, George Carter Miller, died in 1943 when his ship, the Wade Hampton, was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine in the North Atlantic while he was serving in the Merchant Marine.

Survivors include one daughter, Carter Miller Crawford of Weston, Mass.; one son, F. Harrison Miller of Potomac; two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

MARY CALLIE WICKLINE  
Nurse at Federal Reserve

Mary Callie Wickline, 76, a retired chief nurse at the Federal Reserve Board, died of cancer April 13 at Arlington Hospital.

Miss Wickline, who lived in Falls Church, was born in Lynchburg, Va. She came to Washington in the 1930s and received her nurse's training at Providence Hospital.

She went to work as a nurse at the Federal Reserve Board in 1941, then served as an Army nurse in Europe during World War II. She returned to the Federal Reserve Board in 1946 and retired as chief nurse in 1976.

Miss Wickline was a former president of the Washington Pilots Club, which is a charitable organization, and a former vice president of the Hospitality Club of Northern Virginia. She had been a volunteer with the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and the Meals on Wheels program. She was a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Cathedral in Arlington.

Survivors include one brother, Dan Wickline of Richmond.

FRANCES SKINNER KIMBALL  
Secretary at Bank

Frances Skinner Kimball, 74, a native of the Washington area and a former secretary at the National Bank of Washington, died of cancer April 6 at her home in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Mrs. Kimball was born in Lorton in Fairfax County and went to school in Washington. She was a secretary at the Home Owners Loan Corp., the Washington Daily News, the Norfolk Washington Steamship Line and the National Bank of Washington. She had been at the bank about 10 years when she resigned in 1960 and moved to Florida.

Mrs. Kimball was a former resident of Landover.

Her husband, Philip Cyril Kimball, died in 1985.

She leaves no immediate survivors.

## LOST TO HEAVY SEAS



The highest tides in six years, six feet above normal, hit the Virginia coast yesterday. Here Janet Baker searches near Norfolk for crab pots swept out to sea.

## Unwelcome Guests Plague Columbia Home Buyers

By Veronica T. Jennings  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Dennis and Elizabeth Burke were excited about the purchase of their first house last year in Columbia. The 11-year-old ranch-style home was on a large lot with a big yard in the quiet Clemens Crossing community.

But it was only quiet by day. At night, the Burkes said their home became the haven of flapping foul-smelling bats.

"We kept hearing these loud noises in the attic," Burke said Tuesday. "At first we thought it was rats. Then we noticed lots of droppings and urine on the side of the house. We were totally freaked out."

"I stood outside one night and counted 70 bats coming out of the attic," said Burke, who works in the book division of a national microbi-

ology association. "I estimate there were 100 to 250 bats in the attic."

As a result the Burkes have filed a negligence lawsuit in Howard County Circuit Court against the sellers of the home alleging breach of contract and "reckless indifference" for allegedly failing to disclose that the house was infested by what they called a "massive colony of several hundred disease-carrying bats."

The Burkes are asking for \$15,000 in punitive damages and \$66,000 in compensatory damages after suffering "fright . . . anxiety, and personal and social embarrassment," the lawsuit says.

Carolyn Thompson, one of the sellers, said she was unaware of the Burkes' lawsuit, but that the matter was being handled by her attorney, whom she refused to name. "The house was inspected by their people,"

Thompson said. "If they have a problem, they can contact my attorney."

A law firm that has handled cases for Thompson in the past said it had not been served with papers regarding the suit and had no comment.

Had they known about the bats, the Burkes said in the lawsuit, they would not have bought the \$89,500 home at 6722 Pyramid Way, or at the very least, would have demanded bat removal before moving in.

Bill Fell, owner of Fell's Pest Control in Baltimore confirmed yesterday having removed the bats last August, but he said he didn't know how many had been there. Neither Burke nor Fell would disclose how much the bat removal cost, but another exterminator said such a job could be several thousand dollars.

Bats can enter an attic through a hole no bigger than a quarter, according to experts.

Burke said he and his wife hired a professional inspector to examine the property for structural defects and wood-destroying insects.

But Burke said the inspections took place during daylight hours and in the winter months when bats are in hibernation. When the weather turned warm, Burke said, swarms of bats thumped around nightly in their attic, leaving behind "foul and malevolent" odors.

Fell said bats, which are protected as endangered species, are not killed but must be removed from homes with special traps or sonar sound devices.

But Dennis Burke said the couple's bat adventure has left them cynical and heartbroken about their new home. "There is a little bit of a black cloud over the house," he said. "It's still pretty creepy."

## Dementia Patients, Families Find Help

## CARE, From D1

Reston), who from 1983 to 1985 chaired a legislative committee that studied Alzheimer's and related disorders, said that at least 50,000 people in the state, including 8,000 in Northern Virginia, have Alzheimer's disease, which has no known cause or cure.

Plum welcomed the idea of a regional center.

"What dementia patients leave behind is a family that is financially and morally wrecked, so anything we can do for the care giver, in order to keep them solvent and spiritually together . . . is what we need to work on," he said.

Equally enthusiastic was Martha Roberts, executive director of the Northern Virginia chapter of the nonprofit Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disabilities Association. Roberts called the CARE Center, located in a town house at 8326 Professional Hill Dr., near Fairfax Hospital, a "very good place to go if you have a relative that is suffering from possible dementia."

"They'll look at what your total needs are, do all the medical work-up that needs to be done and find the resources in the community to help you," she said.

If a family is able to find medical help on its own, the CARE Center can assist with such problems as day care referral, Roberts said.

Several public and private day care programs are available in the metropolitan area for people suffering from dementia. Fairfax County,

for example, has two day care centers for persons with early-stage Alzheimer's; Alexandria and Arlington sponsor one each. In addition, several nursing homes have attached day care centers that will accommodate Alzheimer's patients, Roberts said.

Since the CARE Center opened three months ago, it has helped more than 125 families, most of them from Northern Virginia and some from Maryland and the District, center administrator Louise Hitchcock said.

"Usually they call me and we set up a meeting," she said. "It could be a family who is dealing with a member that has symptoms of memory loss, and they don't know what to do, who to turn to."

First, Hitchcock suggests a medical assessment. If the family does not have a doctor, she refers it to several within the large Fairfax Hospital System.

The referral is free; check-up fees are payable to the individual doctors.

"The reason you go through an assessment is because 20 percent of people who are experiencing memory loss have conditions that are reversible, or treatable—it may be their medications, it could be nutritional, it could be a thyroid problem, a brain tumor."

Once the medical assessment has been completed, Hitchcock schedules a conference with the family, which costs \$100, although part or all of the fee can be waived.

Hitchcock, who said she has a master's degree in health education from the State University of New York and a master's in business administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, said she spends about two hours with the family, asking questions about the dementia patient and the family's needs.

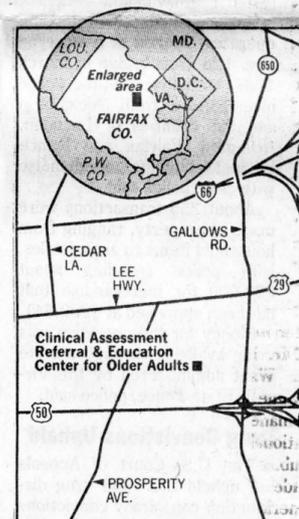
The conference gives the family a chance to ask such common questions as "Is a nursing home necessary?" or "What's the progression of the disease?"

Once all the information has been gathered, the center suggests a management plan and refers the family to appropriate services. These may include financial, legal and psychological counselors, as well as a day care center or nursing home.

"Many families need short-term counseling because they're dealing with significant stress," Hitchcock said. "Many families are also dealing with specific behavior problems, and they need help on that, too."

Assisting with patient management plans is the fledgling center's only other full-time staff member, Dr. Barbara Mella, a neurologist who is the center's medical director.

"The CARE Center focuses on the needs of individual patients and their families," said Knox Singleton, president of Inova Health Systems, the parent organization of the Fairfax Hospital System.



BY LARRY FOGEL—THE WASHINGTON POST

Families who want legal help are given a list of local lawyers familiar with dementia issues. Hitchcock also can recommend other types of help. For example, last month the center initiated a support group for families. The group's next session will be from 10 to 11 a.m. April 27 at the center. For more information, call Hitchcock at 876-0188.

The center also has a small library that specializes in books and brochures on dementia.

"People can help themselves on a loan basis to books, or they can buy them at cost here," Hitchcock said, "because a lot of the books that deal with dementia aren't available in libraries or bookstores."

## DEATHS ELSEWHERE

DAVE PRATER SR.  
"Soul Man" Singer

Dave Prater Sr., 50, a former short-order cook who became a Grammy Award-winning member of the Sam and Dave soul duo whose brassy sound was featured by Stax records on such hits as "Soul Man" and "Hold On I'm Comin," was killed April 9 when the car he was driving went off I-75 near Sycamore, Ga., and struck a tree.

He met partner Sam Moore in Miami in 1958. Their Memphis-style soul won them popularity through the 1960s and a Grammy for "Soul Man." But by the early 1970s, their popularity had waned, and in 1981, the duo broke up. Mr. Prater revived the Sam and Dave act in 1982 with a new partner, Sam Daniels.

Mr. Prater's work gained further popularity when the Blues Brothers of "Saturday Night Live" fame, Dan Aykroyd and the late John Belushi,

had a hit with "Soul Man." In March, Mr. Prater pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to three years' probation, for selling a vial of crack to an undercover police officer.

ROBERT MENDELSON  
Head Start Pediatrician

Dr. Robert Mendelson, 61, a writer, teacher and critic of the medical establishment who also was a former national director of Project Head Start's medical consultation service, died April 5 at his home in Evanston, Ill. The cause of death was not reported.

His books included "Confessions of a Medical Heretic," published in 1979, and "How to Raise a Healthy Child In Spite of Your Doctor," published in 1984. He also wrote the syndicated newspaper column, "The People's Doctor." He taught pediatrics at three Chicago area medical schools and was a past development director of Chicago's Michael Reese Hospital.

Coming Sunday, May 1

## The Romance of Restoration

It's the biggest issue in The Magazine's history.

Our 168-page Spring Home & Design issue features a beautifully photographed collection of restored and about-to-be-restored interiors.

A portfolio of restoration crafts looks at the arts of gilding, original paint, plasterwork, millwork and metalwork.

And, as a finishing touch, a merchandise sampler showcases fancy trims and wallpaper borders.