



Joan Locklin Cowan

November 29, 1927 - September 23, 2019

CANAAN — Joan Locklin Cowan, 91, peacefully broke her bonds with earth early on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2019, her late husband's birthday, with family in attendance at the Coös County Nursing Hospital in West Stewartstown, NH.

Joan was born Nov. 29, 1927, to Harold Grant Locklin and Mildred Norway Locklin and raised in Canaan, Vt. during the Great Depression. She attended high school there through the WWII years. During this time, the school burned to the ground, and classes were held in several nearby buildings. Joan attended Middlebury College, following a family tradition, and studied English Literature, Spanish, and Russian, in hopes of a possible career as a translator at the UN. During her time there, she enjoyed overnight skiing trips with the outing club to the college's Starr Shelter at the Snow Bowl in Hancock, and bicycle rides to Vergennes.

Following graduation in 1949, her pathway led back to the North Country, where she taught at Stanstead College in Stanstead, PQ, while she was courted by the woods-loving Frederick Cowan, and with their shared love for skiing and travel, they married on April 1, 1950. After starting their family, they renovated the big house on Gale Street and later built a get-away at Little Averill Lake, a place cherished by all the family today.

Joan returned to the Canaan schools, teaching high school English. Extra

money earned by writing columns as a stringer for several newspapers funded her series of little VW bugs that afforded family excursions, with someone always crowding into the “boot.” She began earning her library science credentials at Boston University during summer studies and took other courses at St. Michael’s College, the University of Maine at Orono, and at the University of Vermont, to complete a Master of Education in Library Science. Joan was awarded a Ford Fellowship in 1969-70, working on best methods for implementing environmental education, and loved the chance it gave her to travel. Research trips took her to Scandinavia, several Provinces in Canada, and northern states in the U.S. When Fred’s presence was required by St. Regis Paper Company in Bucksport, Maine for several years, she continued to pursue scholarly activities and worked part time in schools in Hancock County, Maine. When Fred retired to establish a second career in his surveying business, she returned to serve as the Canaan school librarian for many years, forming close relationships with teachers and students alike.

Joan was active in social supportive organizations throughout her life. She was a Brownie Scout den mother, was active in the Home Dem organization, the Federation of Women’s Clubs, and the League of Women Voters. With a family of skiers, she was a fixture for years at the Wilderness Ski Area, not giving up her skis until she was 80. She was active for years in the Vermont Teacher’s Union. She enjoyed activities with the local Spinners Club and the Canaan Historical Society, spending happy hours archiving and displaying the collections there. She also was instrumental in organizing the rebirth of the Grace Community Church as an independent church.

As they approached and then reached retirement, Joan and Fred fulfilled their wanderlust with trips to the Maritimes, Alaska, the UK, several trips to Europe, the Middle-East, the Southwestern states, Venezuela, and Mexico. Happy memories were all organized into many photo albums the family still enjoys.

Joan was predeceased by her parents, her husband Fred, younger brother Grant Locklin, and daughter-in-law Lyn Kraus Cowan. Survivors are Dr. Frank L. Cowan of Canaan, Dr. Stephanie C. Bellomo (husband Anthony) of Jericho, Vt., Jonathan G. Cowan (wife Dr. Julia Schubert) of Bethel, Me., and Timothy R. Cowan (wife Sarah Pollard Cowan) of Vergennes, Vt. She also leaves 5 grandchildren: Brit Cowan (New York City), Seth Cowan (New York City), Hannah Cowan-Lenkowski (husband Adam) of Sandy, UT, Helen Cowan of Addison, Vt., and Peter Cowan of Salt Lake City, UT.

The family especially wishes to thank brother Frank and all the wonderful caregivers at the Coös County Nursing Hospital, who teamed up to keep her safe and secure as she became incapacitated by blindness and mobility issues.

A private family graveside service will be held in the Canaan Village Cemetery. The family plans a celebration of her life in the spring on a date to be announced.

Expressions of sympathy in Joan's honor may be made to the Canaan Historical Society, 27 Park Street, Canaan, VT 05903.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home, Colebrook, NH.

Cemetery Details

Canaan Village Cemetery

Christian Hill Road, VT Route 253
Canaan, VT

Tribute Wall

D(

“*Mrs. Cowan was a wonderful librarian for Canaan Memorial schools K-12 for many years. I still remember the way she read to us and turned the pages with grace. I interviewed her once for a class history project. She took my questions and typed up a lot of interesting Canaan history. I kept it all these years and will have to share it with the Canaan historical society.*

Danielle Welch (Hunter) - October 05, 2020 at 02:49 PM

ML

“*Mary Lou Locklin and Steven Locklin purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joan Locklin Cowan.*



Mary Lou Locklin and Steven Locklin - October 31, 2019 at 03:00 PM

MS

“*I lived in my infancy in the parsonage next door to Joan and Fred Cowan, and called Joan's parents Aunt Mildred and Uncle Harold. The whole family was important to my parents, Curtis and Rosemary Smith. As I grew, and we visited from farther away, Joan was my model of an elegant, educated, principled, and witty woman, and I loved seeing her whenever I could. I can hear her voice now. My condolences to all of her family!*
Margaret Smith

Margaret Smith - October 16, 2019 at 05:07 PM

 Susan Verchot

“ *I always thought Mrs. Cowan was the grand lady of Canaan. Elegant, articulate and down to earth. I had breakfast with her a couple times when my Mom was in Rehab in Burlington for hip surgery. She was the same and remembered me right away..by my voice. My deepest sympathy to all the Cowans. Rest In Peace Joan.*

Susan Verchot - October 14, 2019 at 05:52 PM

JM

“ *A great lady. Our family lived across the street from Joan and her family for a few years. Our condolences to the family. R.I.P. Joan John and Sue Morrissey*



John and Sue Morrissey - October 11, 2019 at 10:10 AM

KH

“ *Mrs Cowan was my 5/6 Grade teacher I believe then became the School Librarian. She, Fred and Mrs Locklin were also members of my Church Grace United. They always made a point to speak to me every Sunday, asked how I was and how school was going. Fondest memory: I don't remember how old I was but I do remember one snowy day Mrs Cowan invited me down for a cup of "tea." She read poetry to me (she had a great story telling voice) and we played games. Was a lovely afternoon, still enjoy poetry to this day. I will never forget her...*

*Our Deepest Sympathy,
Mickey and Karen Pond Henry*

Karen Pond Henry - October 04, 2019 at 08:36 AM

LD

“ *My sincere Condolences,*

When I attended CMHS from 85-89 she was our Librarian. Many wonderful memories of her pushing me to read books which i enjoyed the subject matter. The one memory which surpasses all was when many of us were in the library watching the Challenger shuttle flight with her. When the shuttle exploded she immediately began talking with us and comforting us to what we just had witnessed. She was able to ease the pain of the event. Lastly, we all knew not to mess with her because she was firm. No one dared to run across the library to get to the gym or home economics classroom.

May God ease the pain of your loves and open arms welcoming you to the Kingdom of Heaven.

God Bless,

Luc Doyon Jr.

Luc Doyon - October 03, 2019 at 05:05 PM



“ *Amazing how a person can stay with you your whole life, even if you never see them after age 17.*

In 1970, she walked my sister and me (brother was too little at the time) through the pouring rain down the long muddy driveway as the house my dad just finished building burned flat to the ground, struck by lightning the day we were to move into it. She and her mother took care of us kids as our parents handled the tragedy at the other end of the road. Fed us jarred applesauce, which I'd never had before.

Mrs. Cowan was my 6th grade teacher sometime around 1977; she may have also been my 5th grade teacher, I can't remember (grades 4/5 and 5/6 were lumped together). She challenged us - told us to write a plot for a play, called a "scenario". I spelled it "synario" in the assignment, and she gave me credit for a logical misspelling.

She's the one from whom I learned to store my ink pens point-down in the cup on my desk, to keep the ink from drying out. I've done that since 6th grade and it really makes a difference.

I liked how tall she was, and the smell of her hand cream. Still remember it.

I suppose I will continue to remember Joan Cowan until I leave this earth, too. RIP and thank you for being.

Laura Ludwig - September 28, 2019 at 02:35 PM



“ To you, and to your family ..Mrs. Cowan...Joan

What comes to my mind are the words like “Corner Stone” and “Pillar of my community.” Those are the words that come to my mind because that is how we all remember you and Fred.

I’m looking for words that mean so much more to me personally... and I think I just found them..

Lets go back to...Nineteen – seventy -seven (1977).

Joan, when you were the librarian at school sharing your library with the music department on the other side of the wall. Nothing more than a cardboard wall between the music room and the library. My guitar and my amp were on LEVEL 10. Playing, (making noise) on the other side of the wall

You came out and stood in the doorway... and SMILED at me.... Upon seeing you....I turned everything down to level three (3)

Sometimes beautiful eyes and a sincere smile is all that a 17 year old boy needs to hear in order to learn the right thing to do....Thank you so much... Small moments can move mountains, (and teach something important to a young man)

I have been so happy in recent months, some 40+ years later to play for you and other residents at COOS.

Never higher than on LEVEL Three (3)... of course

I never forgot.

*Love the entire family so much,
Mario and Hylie (Jackson) Marquis*

Hylie Marquis - September 26, 2019 at 06:29 PM

GB

“ Our deepest sympathies to all of the Cowan Family. Your mom \ Joan was such a wonderful lady. She will certainly be missed. God Bless you all.



glenn Blazys - September 26, 2019 at 02:49 PM

AD

“ To Mrs. Joan Cowan's family;
My sympathies to all of you.
Sincerely,
Alain Dupont

Alain Dupont - September 26, 2019 at 01:30 PM

MO

“ My deepest sympathies to all the family! She was by far the best teacher I ever had! Loved her dearly!
May she RIP,
LOVE,
MONIQUE OUIMETTE

monique ouimette - September 26, 2019 at 11:17 AM

LK

“ We were sorry to learn of Joan's passing. She had a positive impact on the town of Canaan and her contributions to the historical society are especially worthy of note.

Patty and Les Klinefelter

Les Klinefelter - September 26, 2019 at 09:15 AM

AM

“ *Annette Mailhot lit a candle in memory of Joan Locklin Cowan*



Annette Mailhot - September 26, 2019 at 07:50 AM

EM

“ *Such fond memories of your house in Canaan and visits to Lake Seymour. I always enjoyed talking to your parents when I saw them at the North Troy Port.*

Eric McCann

Eric McCann - September 26, 2019 at 06:01 AM



“ *Rita Donnell lit a candle in memory of Joan Locklin Cowan*



Rita Donnell - September 25, 2019 at 08:46 PM

CA

“ *Calvin lit a candle in memory of Joan Locklin Cowan*



Calvin - September 25, 2019 at 08:39 PM

VM

“ Valerie Mahnke lit a candle in memory of
Joan Locklin Cowan



Valerie Mahnke - September 25, 2019 at 02:30 PM

DT

“ I will cherish my memories of Mrs. Cowan during my 4 years at
CMHS. Her gentle guidance will always be remembered fondly.
Danielle Thibault

Danielle Thibault - September 25, 2019 at 01:05 PM