Mount Holyoke College Class of 1965 In Memoriam

Ann Hawthorne

Quarterly content: News has come of the unexpected death of Ann Hawthorne on Dec. 18, 2012. At MHC, she majored in classical languages and literature. Classmates will remember Ann's droll Jr. Show performance as the fuss-budgety proprietor of Ness Spa harassing the cooks (Keep it Up! Keep it Up! Perfect! Perfect!) and delighting all. She earned master's degrees from the U. of VT and the U. of MI in Greek and Latin. Initially a teacher, Ann became a nationally known editor and for nearly 20 years was a Harvard Univ. Press senior editor.

Ann's most loved activity was her team of Suffolk Punch draft horses, Dancer and Hosmer. Among the causes that she heartily espoused were maintaining small family farms, sustainable farming, and always eating local food. Her daughter, 2 sons, and 2 grandsons survive Ann. Condolences may be sent to husband Peter de Lissovoy, 5 Lost Nation Rd., Lancaster, NH 03584.

Expanded content: Excerpts from obituary sent to MHC by Bailey Funeral Home, January 8, 2013.

She loved the people of the North Country and the life lived here. She never missed a visit to the Farmer's Market in Lancaster on Saturday morning. She was a very fine cook and an expert pie maker and rightfully very proud of her piecrust. Her pancakes made from her Aunt "Nini" Maytag's recipe were beyond doubt far and away the lightest and best all her friends and family ever tasted or expect to.

She was an expert and nationally known editor, and always in demand by authors who trusted their books only to Ann. As a freelance editor for Harvard press, Ann worked on the Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups and was then hired full-time. She edited such notable titles as The Kennedy Tapes, The Black Book of Communism, Facing East from Indian Country, American Empire, Martin Luther: The Christian between God and Death, and many others. A colleague of Ann's said: "Ann approached life on her own terms. To many who got to know her, she was both an incisive critic and a loyal friend. Her authors, with a few thin-skinned exceptions, admired her take-no-prisoners style of editing." Ann retired in 2002 but continued free-lancing for the Harvard Press and other publishers.

Ann was an avid reader and her favorite place in town was understandably Weeks Memorial Library. Memorial donations in Ann Hawthorne's memory may be made to: Weeks Memorial Library, 128 Main Street, Lancaster, NH 03584.

(Posted Spring 2013)