

CROSSED THE BAR

Ann Hite Bisbee

To our Belvedere Family,

We've received word that Mrs. Bisbee passed away.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

Ann Hite Bisbee, 88, died at Charlevoix Area Hospital on Feb. 3, 2013, following a sudden, massive brain hemorrhage.

Born (Gloria) Ann Dawson on July 2, 1924, in Hancock, Mich., Ann and her parents, Theodore and Hazel Dawson, moved to Lansing in 1926. Ann graduated from Lansing Central High School, enrolled in Michigan State College and studied there until her marriage to high school classmate Duane L. Miller, who was serving the U.S. Navy. The couple moved several times, had a son, Michael Dawson Miller, and settled in Saginaw.

When the war ended, Ann and her husband divorced and she and son, Michael, moved to Birmingham. While at that residence, Ann began her many years of involvement in community service. She was a volunteer at Community House and soon was hired as a full-time employee. Ann described "The House with a Heart" as a wonderful place to work and meet people.

Eventually Ann and son, Michael, returned to Lansing, where she worked several jobs and finally landed a position as a reporter for The Lansing State Journal -- a most happy career move as Ann had majored in journalism at Michigan State.

Beginning in early childhood, Ann summered in rental cottages on the south arm of Lake Charlevoix with her parents and brother, Robert. Within a few years, the family found a "dream cottage" with a wood stove and no running water on the same South Arm. The Dawson's renovated and modernized. That cottage, with a second major overhaul, became Ann's permanent home where she lived for almost two decades before her death.

Well known, with a wide circle of friends, Ann, in 1957, married East Jordan pharmacist, Jay M. Hite. The couple's daughter, Melissa Ann Hite, was born in Petoskey's Burns Clinic.

Ann and Jay were married 35 years. After his death in 1992, she was married to Leland S. Bisbee of Jackson, Mich., and they settled in his Belvedere summer home. His death, a brief 14 months later, prompted Ann to return to her beloved South Arm cottage.

Over the years, Ann was recognized as a tireless contributor to East Jordan, Charlevoix and nearby

communities. She served on the East Jordan Chamber of Commerce, East Jordan School Board, the Library Board and the Elm Point Commission. She was president of the Charlevoix County Jury Commission, vice chair of the local Republican Party, a Cub Scout den mother and Girl Scout leader. Ann spent 20 years on the Charlevoix County Jury Board, first appointed by Governor Milliken. She was president, vice president and secretary of the board.

Ann was appointed to the East Jordan commission to aid in rewriting the city charter, serving as its secretary. She was appointed a member of the first Charlevoix Hospital Foundation Board and served as chairman of the Community Relations Board.

Though highly dedicated to government and community projects, Ann was very much a devout and active member of Christ Episcopal Church, Charlevoix. As she said several times, "I've been involved in every aspect of the church, except singing in the choir."

For many years Ann has been visible working in the Charlevoix Hospital gift shop and Charlevoix's Rainbow Shoppe.

Ann Bisbee's amazing gift, however, was her outstanding good humor and sunny disposition. All those who knew her are blessed with happy memories. Her spontaneous laughter was a signature of her caring and generous personality. A mark of her popularity included membership in Kappa Alpha Theta while at Michigan State, a Lansing Junior League member and here in Northern Michigan, she belonged to book clubs, bridge clubs and breakfast clubs, to name just a few.

Ann Bisbee's survivors include her two children, Michael D. Miller (Alice Pletz) of East Jordan, Melissa A. Hite (Christopher Lorien) of Canton, Mich.; grandson, Kevin D. Miller (Marcy Paisley), Boulder, Colo., and their two sons, Dawson Maclean Miller and Wyatt Thompson Miller.

Also surviving are her nephew John Robert Dawson (Judy) and two children, nephew Spencer Dawson, and nieces Leah Dawson and Laura Ann Dawson with two children, and niece Elizabeth Jacobs (Jon) and two sons.

Bisbee survivors include: Patrice B. King, Leland S. Bisbee III, Clark E. Bisbee, Margaret B. Hermann and Constance B. Amend.

Ann was predeceased by her parents, her brother John Robert Dawson, sisters-in-law Clarice Carr and Sarah Ludders, and a nephew, David Leland Dawson.

A memorial service will take place at 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 11, in Christ Episcopal Church, Charlevoix.

A celebration of life memorial service will take place in Charlevoix this summer.

In lieu of flowers, family suggests donations in Ann's name to Charlevoix Area Hospital or The Rainbow Shoppe of Charlevoix. The family was served by the Penzien Funeral Homes Inc. in East Jordan.

Blessed are we, indeed, who shared life with this remarkable lady.