



Joanna Hill Mikesell

1920 - 2007

RICHMOND, Ind. - Joanna Hill Mikesell, age 87, of Richmond, died Saturday, March 3, 2007, at Friends Fellowship Community.

Born January 15, 1920, in Richmond to Joseph and Lucille Gaar Hill, she was a lifelong resident of Richmond. Joanna was a 1937 graduate of Morton High School and a 1941 graduate of Swarthmore College. She married Richard V. Mikesell in 1943 and are the proud parents of Mary Jo and Sarah Ann.

Her Community services include being a member of the Wayne County School Consolidation committee in 1958, the board of Directors of the Wayne County Historical Museum, and the Richmond Art Association in 1970. Joanna served from 1979 until 1982 on the Board of Historical Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. She was appointed to the advisory Board of Indiana University East from 1979 to 1989. She resigned from the Board of Earlham Cemetery in 2001 after twenty years. Always interested in her father's and grandfather's greenhouse enterprises she served on the Boards of the Joseph H. Hill and Hill Floral Products Companies from 1958 until 1995.

Proud of her maternal ancestors and having grown up in her great-grandparents home built in 1876 by Agnes and Abram Gaar, in 1974 the house was empty and showing signs of deterioration. Urged by her husband, she began a monumental and never ending project of restoration and preservation. Today the home is on the National Register of Historic Places and open to the public for special tours. In July of 2000, a book was published entitled `The Gaar Family Pioneers of Industry` written by Joanna and Annette Warfield.

A mutual love of ponies and horses, she and her husband were always supportive of the Wayne County Horse and Pony Clubs. A true basketball fan, while in Morton High School she sat in a cheering section called `Block M` at the old coliseum on North 7th Street. Still following `March Madness` every year with college teams eliminating each other, she always cheered for I.U. (win or lose).

Survivors include her daughters, Mary Jo Tubesing and her husband Dale of Richmond and Sarah Ann Bradley and friend, Mark Alexander of Richmond; two grandsons, Clark Richard Bradley and his wife Lara Rose of Texas and Dale Tubesing Jr. and his wife Theresa of Richmond; one granddaughter, Jo Ann Tubesing of Richmond; one great-grandson, Garrett J. Bonner; two great-granddaughters, Brooke and Drew Tubesing; brother-in-law, Don Mikesell; five nephews; cousins; and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard V. Mikesell, who died on March 26, 1983; her parents and sister-in-law, Betty Mikesell.

Funeral service for Joanna Hill Mikesell will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday March 7, 2007, at Doan & Mills Funeral Home, 790 National Road W., Richmond, with Rev. Max Knight officiating. Burial will be in Earlham Cemetery. Friends may call from 3-6 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Agnes and Abram Gaar Foundation, U.S. Bank, P.O. Box 818, Richmond, IN 47375.