

Hear Ye Hear Ye

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Web Extras

Summer 2009

Welcome to the Hear Ye Hear Ye Web Extras. Web Extras are designed for the Hear Ye Hear Ye (HYHY) reader with Internet access. Web Extras enable the HYHY staff to bring additional information and tools to you our reader. This format relieves us from space limitations and allows us to provide additional useful information to you.

The HYHY staff is keenly aware of the fact that not all RGS members live in the Rochester area. One of our goals for this year is to increase value to out of town members by: providing specific information about Rochester and the region; providing tools and links to assist in research; and making information available that members miss by not being able to attend meetings. Web Extras is one step toward reaching that goal.

Unlike our previous editions of Web Extras, this edition does not contain hyperlinks from the current edition of the Hear Ye Hear Ye. This is no longer necessary because the summer issue of the Hear Ye Hear Ye is available online where all hyperlinks are active. See the insert for the summer issue for the web address to access the online version of the Hear Ye Hear Ye.

This edition of Web Extras is devoted to the memory of our dear friend R. Carter Livermore. For those of you who knew him and were unable to attend his memorial service, we are posting the eulogies given at that service by Carter's minister, Rev. Paul Gongloff, and by RGS President, Roy Thurston. Carter lived a rich and full life and the story of his life is quite fascinating and well worth reading.

We hope you find the Web Extras useful and that you will take the time to further explore the RGS web page. We welcome your comments and suggestions. You can contact the HYHY staff at hyhyeditor@gmail.com with comments, suggestions, questions or article submissions.

A Celebration of Life

Ray Carter Livermore

May 2, 1917 – May 5, 2009

Service: May 16, 2009

Rev. Paul Gongloff

Good Chemistry

*We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.
It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.*

Pastors have the privilege of standing with all kinds of people on their holy ground...for births and baptisms, for graduations and leave-takings, for crises and accomplishments, for marriage and parenthood, living and dying. It certainly has been a privilege and honor to know and love Carter and to be with his family during the setting of his sun. His detailed end-of-life planning included having both a living will and a health care proxy that made Carter's last days a good passage for all. It brings to mind poet, John Oxenham, who in many ways named Carter's wishes:

*Lord, when Thou seest that my work is done,
Let me not linger on,
With failing powers,
A down the weary hours, --
A workless worker in a world of work,
But, with a word,
Just bid me home,
And I will come
Right gladly,
Yes, right gladly*

Will I come.

John, David, Eileen, kids grand and great, beloved in-laws, outlaws and friends (John: daughter, Kristen; son, Tucker; (former wife, Jane); David/Eileen: Mary, Andrew, Robert, Donald; Carter's 3 cousins on wife's side: Dick, David, and Danny Gifford) today we join in grief but also in gratitude...for God has given us and countless others an unforgettable treasure in Ray Carter Livermore.

Carter was born in 'gorges' Ithaca to Sally and Kenneth Carter Livermore. His father, KC, was a pioneering Cornell professor in the agricultural college. When Carter was 3, the family moved to Quaker Hill Farm on Rte. 65 at #251, just above Honeoye Falls. There K.C. developed a farm seed business. Many here have known of Livermore's 'Better Bred' seeds.... potatoes, sweet corn, grains, grasses, sunflowers, their own variety of cabbage and more. From their living parable of seeds, soils and sowers, the Livermores distributed seeds and other farm products to farmers across Western New York. One of the most treasured family stories has to do with a hotter than Hades day when Carter and his dad K.C. were working on a trailer getting loaded up with cabbages from Carter's own two acre cabbage patch. Carter may have been the first Cabbage Patch Kid.

The Livermores two sons, Carter and Avery, did many things together on the farm, in school, and in the village. Avery was the genius, photographic memory guy, and Carter was the "I've got an itch and I have to pursue the details of it" guy. Many things bonded them together as brothers. Tragically, when Avery was 14, he went out to the chicken coop to shoot the fox that was killing the hens. Avery slipped and accidentally shot himself. Needless to say that broke the hearts of KC, Sally, and Carter. Being left as the only child, Carter went on to carry some of his brother's dreams and his own, as well as family traditions and high performance standards.

Being a forever-curious kid, Carter's passion for learning grew from birth on. He built crystal radios, designed structures with his Erector set, conducted experiments with his chemistry set, and developed photos in his dark room. In high school, one of his science teachers was a coach who on game days left Carter to teach his science class during the last period of the day while he went off to 'play ball.' It was probably the first and last time a teenager taught at Honeoye Falls high school. Also, with his family's commitment to education, if the local school didn't have the equivalent of today's AP classes, Carter went for tutoring elsewhere, including with a teacher at Monroe High School in Rochester.

When it came time for college, his dad 'KC' made a deal with Carter: "We'll pay for Cornell if you take at least one year of courses in the agricultural college." So, being independent and a little stubborn, Carter honored the expectation by taking as many science courses in the ag school as he could that first year, then as a sophomore went merrily into chemistry, his true love. Upon graduation as an organic chemist/ chemical engineer, he signed on with Kodak. During WWII, after getting government clearance, his work for Kodak in Kingsport, Tennessee built the company's abiding trust in Carter's skills and integrity as a person and as a chemist. As a result, for years he handled Kodak's biggest trade secrets.....research documents, patents, and chemical processes for emerging products. Because of the thousands of scientific papers and patents he researched, Carter could read technical French and German and converse with all kinds of people across the world...and did.

Carter came from a family with wide and deep connections to their communityreligious, governmental, educational, agricultural, economic and historical. . His dad served as a town justice, on church committees, on the county board of supervisors, and with the Grange. His mother, who was also a Cornell grad, had her own arenas of caring involvement with church and community. From both his parents Carter learned a small town conservatism that cares for the earth, one's family, one's church and one's community. You don't exist just for yourself. God has put you here for goodness sake in all kinds of relationships. Thus, Carter was a 'we' person, not a 'me' person. For example, because of Carter's relational and financial stewardship, Covenant's ministries have been sustained for many people over many years. Even until last year, Carter more than carried his weight when it came to setting up tables for a church dinner or finding a way to support people in need.

Rumor has it that Carter knew the best place to find a potential wife was at church. So once upon a time when he went to a play here and saw this cute young woman named Florence, he gently chased her until she caught him over on Grand Ave. Together they spent good years parenting their sons, John and David, in the midst of this congregation. Both were very active with the Sunday School, the young adults supper club, and the campers group that included the Williams, the Halls, the Gibsons and others. Church was their circle of friends. Among many things, the boys still remember all the plays and the crank wind machine, and making the sound of thunder with sheet metal.

One little known story occurred in the 1950s. Carter was so ill at one point he was out of work for a while. The Sunday School class bought a TV for

him...probably knowing he could then watch Modern Farmer in the morning, Mr. Wizard in the late afternoon, and Omnibus on weekends. Also among the flood of memories for John and David is that of their dad coming up every night to say bedtime prayers with them before they were 'securely' bedded down.

During those family years, Carter got involved in community affairs and politics. After election to the East Irondequoit School Board, along with Ken Lacey, he got involved with development of the East Ridge School District and their major building program for baby boomer kids. Carter visited other school districts to research their building programs, then spent evenings at the dining room table reviewing architectural proposals for East Ridge High School. Carter was also involved with the creation of a water district for Durand/Point Pleasant and other county and town issues.

When Carter made a commitment, he kept it to the max. He could be graciously persistent with a dash of stubbornness thrown in. Not only was he interested in all kinds of things, he studied up on them to the point where he could and would give you "the details" on the who, the what, the when and the wherefore. As an active member of the Kodak and Rochester Genealogical Societies and the New York State Council of Genealogical Organizations, Carter could trace his family tree and yours almost all the way back to our distant cousins, Adam and Eve.

Carter always wanted to know the roots from whence we have been sprung. Ah, the ground plowed, the seeds to be sown, the harvest produced, the history to be honored. One of his last projects led to this wonderful resource on Researching Native Americans in New York State. Not only was Carter the tape librarian, he turned his household in a large file cabinet filled with family and New York State history.

In recent years, despite all the weathering of the years, with a shuffle of his feet, a smile on his face, his bowtie firmly in place and that shock of white hair I have always coveted, Carter could still tell doctors 'all about' his medical history and the science of the treatments for his non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Even though he was the oldest person to ever receive the protocol treatment, being a wiry, Every-Ready guy, Carter would go out the next day to weed-whack, mow or snow blow his yard and his neighbors. In gratitude, everybody tried to fatten him up but he always burned too many calories for that to happen.

Just last week David and John told me, "Our dad was never going to die." As in the Broadway show, Annie, for Carter there was always 'tomorrow'. He had

plans. Things to do, places to go, people to see, research awaiting his curiosity. Just three weeks ago he was off to see the new ethanol plant in the town of Shelby east of Medina.

All told....with years of history yet to tell....Carter, God and the world had a good chemistry. What can we say but “Thank you, God, for your beloved and our beloved Carter.” Amen.

Carter Livermore’s Eulogy, 11 A.M. 16 May 2009
Covenant United Methodist Church
1124 Culver Rd., Rochester

Good morning,

I’m Roy Thurston, President of the Rochester Genealogical Society of which Carter has been a member for so many, many years. At the beginning of the very first meeting of RGS that I attended, as is our custom first time visitors are asked to stand, introduce themselves, give the area of your research and the surnames of your ancestors. It was during the break, while I was waiting to speak to our membership chair, that Carter came up to me, introduced himself and welcomed me to the organization. This was the beginning of my association with this wonderful man, whom I would find myself working with as I quickly moved up through the offices to the Presidency of RGS, then, a decade later to be recycled again as President of this fine organization. As everyone who is here this morning can no doubt attest to, it is an honor and privilege to have known Carter Livermore.

When I arrived at my office last Monday morning there was a message from Carter’s son David, asking me to call him. I quickly returned his call, left my home number and when I arrived home a message from David at 9:08 am saying that Carter was in the Hospital and in guarded condition. I immediately passed the information along to the societies BOD and Committee Chairs. On Tuesday evening as I arrived home there was another message from David at 5:14 stating that Carter had passed away at peacefully 4:30 and was now with the Lord.

On speaking to David on the telephone, David mentioned how pleased Carter was when he was granted by the Board of Directors on 23 May 2007, a Lifetime Honorary Membership in the Rochester Genealogical Society for his long time service as a contributing member and RGS Tape Librarian.

I wish now that the lifetime could have been much, much longer.

On notifying our membership of Carter's passing, there was a deluge of e-mail messages. Let me read excerpts from a few of these:

Carter was a dedicated perfectionist who took loving care taping each and every speaker we had at our meetings. It was just part of his life and I know that love extended to everything he did and to everyone. It was an honor to call him friend.
Greg Spacher

He will be sorely missed at RGS It's difficult to imagine an RGS meeting without dear Carter. I have known Carter for about 50 years.
He informed me of some of his life's experiences, a fully enjoyed, active life.
Diane J. Graziano

He was a very old friend. As an officer in the Society, I could always count on Carter to help. It was always interesting to talk with him and to listen to his recollections. Ed Gaulin

I had a thought that I would like to share with you. What do you think about honoring Carter's memory by naming the tape library the R. Carter Livermore Memorial Library Audio Library. I purposely left out the word tape in case we choose to convert to digital in the future. The tape library was his baby and I like the idea of keeping his memory alive. Nancy Merzke

We are in Italy and will not be returning until May 13th. We want to thank you for keeping us informed about Carter's passing. He was a kind and a gentle man, who did all things with a quiet competence. He will be missed. Ed Groszewski

Thanks for letting us know about Carter. He was a wonderful person and a great asset to our organization. Pat Mims

A joy to know, it made me happy, just to see Carter. I am so sad and will miss him very much. How fortunate we were to have him with us. Sharon Burch

I have many memories about Carter, but the one that sticks in my mind is seeing him at the August board meeting. He was recovering from his latest bout with cancer and I expected to see him pale and gaunt, I could not believe my eyes. He looked more youthful than I'd ever seen him before. His eyes were wide and bright, he was smiling from ear to ear and his cheeks were so rosy they looked sun kissed. But it was his face that captured my imagination. His skin was bright and smooth and his whole face was shining. He had a glow about him and I remember thinking that he looked as if he had spent time with the angels and what I was seeing was the afterglow. I will never forget that moment and I know that he has that same glow again today.

He knew my cousin for many years, and at the last RGS meeting I promised to show him some baby pictures. He was delighted with the idea and said he would be looking forward to that.

We have some unfinished business. I want him back. Nancy Merzke

A very nice honest man I was proud to know. May he rest in peace. Bob Wambach

I remember him as a true gentleman, always ready with a smile and an encouraging word. It was an honor to have known him for all these years. Larry Naukum

What a loss for our Society! Carter was always an inspiration to me. He never let ill health interfere with leading a full life and actively pursuing his interests and he always had a kind word for everyone. His spirit and contributions will be sorely missed. Carmen Bush

Carter Livermore was a kind person and a true Gentleman.
Carter sparkled always. Susan Washington

Carter mentioned to me once that one of his favorite poems was 'Sea Fever' by John Mansfield.

I must go down to the sea again to the lonely sea and the sky.
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by.
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail shaking,
And a gray mist on the sea's face, and a gray dawn breaking.

I must go down to the sea again, for the call of the running tide is a wild
call and a clear call, that may not be denied.

And all I ask is a windy day, with the white clouds flying
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea birds flying.

I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,
To the gull's way and the whale's way
Where the winds like a whetted knife.
And all I ask is a happy song from a laughing fellow rover.
And a quiet sleep and a sweet dream, now the long trips over.

You have always been there to help during both of my widely spaced
tenure's of office as President of RGS.

We will miss you Carter, and rest assured we will never forget you.