



# SWOPE NEWS

## REUNION

Saturday July 16, 2011.

At the Black Buggy Evansville.

A.E. Swope  
1870-1955

Kate Swope  
1870-1939



Mayme  
1890-1953

Ralph  
1892-1948

Elnora  
1894-1997

Laura  
1900-1991

Kathryn  
1903-1981

Alice  
1905-1985

Isabel  
1908-

Year 2010

No 3 December

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### OBITUARY



Mary Sosbe Kramer, granddaughter of Laura Swope, quietly passed away following a long illness on Dec. 2, 2010, in Frenchtown, Mont. She was 60.

A memorial service is not planned based on Mary's wishes. In lieu of flowers, Mary requested that non-perishable items or donations be made to the Missoula Food Bank, 219 S. 3rd St., West, Missoula, Mont.

To know Mary is to understand why she did not want anyone to mourn her passing but rather live life to the fullest and to remember that there are people in need. Mary rarely put herself first.

Mary was a lifelong caregiver whose circle of family and friends often blurred the line between blood relations and acquaintances. Mary faced many obstacles in her life, including losing her father at an early age, yet she persevered. Her struggles through the years awakened in Mary a deeper understanding in the value of family and the power of giving.

Mary fondly remembers picking apples, blue berries and raspberries at Laura (Swope) and Jason McCutchan's home on Petersburg Road in McCutchanville, Ind. It was in her garden that Mary's first lessons in hard work and great cooking were born. And it was through her grandmother that Mary inherited a lifelong love of needlework.

As an adult, Mary moved west to Montana. The West opened her to a world filled with awe inspiring vistas and endless skies of soft blues, and she never looked back. Montana awakened new hobbies, like spending time with her family while picking huckleberries in the Spring, camping in the beautiful mountains of Montana and fishing on Holland Lake. She also grew a fondness for the rodeo.

Although many lessons she faced throughout her life were hard, she rose above them. She has taught many people what it means to be a better person. Mary's generous heart and loving spirit drew scores of people to her throughout her life. She was a forgiving, gracious person who without question took in her mother, ensuring her last years were as comfortable and as safe as possible. She filled a gap in her nieces' lives, becoming much more than simply "Aunt Mary."

Mary was exceptionally proud of her daughter, Shannone, who co-founded the non-profit, Missoula-based Chicks n Chaps in 2008 about the time Mary first underwent a double mastectomy and chemotherapy. At that time, Shannone had a chance meeting with the chairman of Missoula Stampede and later attended a camp for women meant to teach them about football. The idea of the clinic lead Shannone to challenge the Stampede to come up with a rodeo clinic for women as a fundraiser. The Stampede chairman asked Shannone to lead the way, and the seed for Chicks n Chaps was firmly planted.

Three months after Shannone thought of the idea, the first event was attended by 170 woman -- many of whom had never been to a rodeo before -- and raised more than \$20,000 for Tough Enough to Wear Pink and the fight against breast cancer.

Mary was born Jan. 21, 1950, in Evansville, Ind., to Everett Allen and Marjorie Kathryn (McCutchan) Sosbe, who preceded her in death.

She is survived by many loving family and friends, including her best friend, favorite cowboy and husband of 30 years, Henry "Jack" Kramer; two sons, Dennis (Judi) Kramer of Missoula and John (Kathy) Kramer of Billings; five daughters, , Shannone (K.C.) Hart, Dawn (Paul) Overbaugh and Audrey (Dave) Jorgensen, all of Missoula, Kathryn (Randy) McLaughlin of Billings, and Tricia (Dave) Miner of Butte; a sister, Kathryn (Robert) Schneider Sosbe of Washington, D.C., and Doris Schlottmann of Texas; two nieces, Sarah Sosbe of New York City and Laura Martin of Las Vegas; 22 grandchildren and five great-children.

Kathryn Sosbe

### FROM ISABEL

I promised Don I'd write about maybe not my best Christmas, but one of the most interesting. Mother had promised Alice and me (being the youngest, ages 5 and 7) that if we'd hide behind the dining room door maybe we'd see Santa Claus. So we waited thrilled with anticipation. Sure enough, soon we heard the jingle of bells and a hearty "HO-HO-HO!" Then cautiously as if afraid he was being observed, in crept the red clad, bearded figure, a big bag presumably presents on his back. He began pulling gifts out of his bag and placing them under the tree. "Oh great- is that a doll- yes- and some books" (always a treasure) "a few other things"- then he didn't forget- some oranges and nuts which we didn't often have. His task ended, with another "HO-HO-HO" he slipped away leaving his two small observers thrilled and anxious to see what he'd brought.

We didn't know it at the time of course, but found out later that Santa had been played by one of Mother's brothers, my Uncle Walter, a Principal of one of the Evansville schools, taking time out from a busy work load to thrill a couple of his sister's kids. It was probably as much of an interesting experience for him as it was for her two fascinated observers- a night we'd always remember.

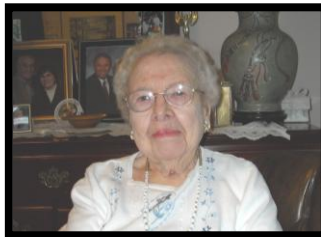
Merry Christmas and love to you all,

Anne Isabel

(I wish you a Merry Christmas, too.)

Her daughter, Gyanne Smith

### ISABEL



The first week of August Janice Evans stopped by to see Isabel. She took this picture for everyone to see.

### DANVILLE INDIANA

Sara Ruth Roy's graduated in physical therapy with a MS-51 in her class, 4awards were given she got 3.

Levi still selling seed and working with his music Becky' son Dana Lt. Commander in the navy is going to Afghanistan next year. He is 38 with 3 kids. Becky has 2 dance studios.

Maribeth kids busy with gymnastics and music.

Roger's Emily got a good job in her field.

We still spend some time in FL

Mae & Ross

### HI ALL FROM CHATTANOOGA TN!

I am doing good, still engaged to William Strozak! We are moving the end of the month to Smithville, MO to be closer to my son, Blake, who is now 12 years old. I have a job when I get there working at an Animal Shelter. I am looking very forward to spending time with my son and watching him enter the teenage years. God help us! He is very apt to becoming a video game designer and has even taken classes over the summer for that. It has been his goal since he was 7 years old, and he is not giving up on it!

I am hoping we can all come for next year's reunion so we can see everyone! We miss everyone and hope all have a great Christmas!

Jamie Swope

### PLEASANT MEMORIES OF INDIANA

Having been born in 1939, I was too young to remember Pearl Harbor and the beginning of World War II, but I was told we were living in Worthington, Indiana at that time. When the war broke out, my Dad, Guy Germano, was working as an instructor with the Civilization Conservation Corps. With the

bombing of Pearl Harbor, all the officers with the C.C.C. were immediately reassigned to the war effort, and most of the young men in the C.C.C. camps joined up, or were drafted. Consequently the C.C.C. quickly ended, and my Dad suddenly found himself without a job. He tried to enlist, but at age 35, he was already considered too old. Therefore, to be a part of the war effort, he applied for a position with the American Red Cross and was immediately accepted. After about 6 weeks of training in Washington, D.C., my Dad was assigned as a Red Cross Field Director in Florida, first in Tampa, for a short while, and then in Fort Myers, Florida at Buckingham Army Air Field. (There was no air force at that time).

My Mother, (Isabel Anne Swope Germano McKeeby, now still doing well at 102 years of age) was left to pack up on her own, and shortly after my Dad's assignment to Florida, Cooksey drove my Mother, my older sister, Gyanne, and me in our family's 1939 Chevrolet to meet my Dad at his new post. No one expected that car to get from Indiana to Florida, but it did, and lasted throughout the war until we traded it in for a new Studebaker in 1950.

While we were in Florida, I remember making a number of trips with my parents back to Indiana to see and visit with all our Swope relatives. We did this at least once a year, usually in the summer, but occasionally at other times too. We usually drove the same 1939 Chevrolet, which had no heater or air-conditioner. Although the car did have a little fan with rubber blades that sat on the dash, our drive to Indiana was usually pretty hot in summer and pretty cold in winter, but we didn't think too much about it then.

Once I remember, there was a time when my Dad could not get off from work, and so my Mother, sister, and I went for our annual visit to Indiana on the bus. Since it was during the war, there were on the road, at the same time, a large number of army convoys. There were also a lot of soldiers riding on the bus with us. Because we were little, some of the soldiers entertained Gyanne and me. I remember singing with the soldiers as we travelled on our way to Indiana.

Once we were back in Indiana, we usually stayed with the Cookseys, although we might also spend a night or two with the Riggs, the McCutchans, Elnora or Mayme. Since we didn't get up to Indiana that often, each time we returned, it was like a small Swope reunion, and we were treated

royally. There would be get togethers and dinners at one or more of the Swope sisters. At the Riggs' there would always be lots of home made ice cream with that good Jersey milk. Once at the Riggs', I also remember it was thrashing time, so we got to see all the activity, and joined in with the friends and workers at the great spread of food for the thrashers. I remember sliding down haystacks with Floyd and some of the other cousins. On another occasion in the winter, I remember Laura serving oyster soup, which I understood was "traditional" for the family at that time of year. Once I remember visiting Uncle Ralph at his store and him giving us candy. We, of course, would also go to see Granddad Swope while we were up in that direction. We always played cards - Hearts or Rummy with him. He usually won, but if he didn't, he would say, "Oh, shooting match!"

During these visits, Gyanne and I would get a chance to visit with a lot of our cousins who we did not get to see very often. I especially enjoyed being with the Cooksey boys and Neil particularly, since they were more my age. Neil had a great set of electric trains. Gyanne would visit with Dotsie, Lois, and Nancy. But there were also Floyd, Richard, Ross, and others who we would see from time to time.

While on these trips, I always especially enjoyed the visits to the Riggs' farm, visiting the barns, the corn cribs, the wheat bins, the hay lofts, seeing the cows, feeding the calves, visiting the bulls, seeing the other farm animals, watching the milking, gathering the eggs, sitting on the tractors, and just noticing everything else going on at the farm. I guess it was because of my obvious love for the farm that Aunt Kathryn and Uncle Jimmy asked me, during one of our summer family visits, if I would like to stay on at the farm with them for a few weeks to the end of the summer, and return back home to my family and home in Georgia on the train. I did, and loved it! This was the beginning of my spending the next 3 summers (until I began high school) on the Riggs' farm. This was an experience that I loved, and will never forget!

I look back now affectionately on our family trips back to Indiana and the visits with our Swope relatives!

Don Germano

### **FROM LEISURE LIVING**

For once I have quite a bit of news to report. I had my knee fusion Aug.11 and made it through the surgery! After that I spent 8 weeks in the nursing

home for IV antibiotic therapy and two extra weeks for continuing physical therapy. In the meantime Gene had begun moving our worldly possessions to our new apartment in Leisure Living at 2428 Leisure Ln. on the west side of Evansville. Our youngest daughter, Laurie had spent many hours painting the white walls making it more homelike. Therefore my homecoming wasn't to McCutchanville but to an unfamiliar Apt. For a few weeks we had a hard time finding things but we have now located almost everything. We are planning to put our house on S.E. Browning Rd. on the market in the spring. In the meantime our grandson, Logan is house-sitting for us. We were able to take two of our cats with us and they have turned into happy house cats, much to our surprise.. We left the newest cat to keep Logan company.

We had our Thanksgiving the Sunday before because Ted was here from Philly for the weekend. All the kids were here for the first time since Gene's 80th birthday in 1008. Meg and Laurie were here and Katie drove down from Bloomington. (Meg moved back here from Smyrna TN this fall and is living on the east side at 1506 Luthur Sq.) We all descended on Grant, Carla and their children, Ella and Gavin for our celebration. Gene was in charge of the pumpkin pies and also learned to make dressing!

We have ventured out several times, Dr. appointments, church and restaurants mostly. Learning to get in and out of the car has been quite an experience since it is my left knee that is fused, but we have it down now. Also we choose where we eat by considering if I can get in and sit on my four wheel walker with a seat and if the restroom is handicap accessible. Best wishes for a merry Christmas to our extended family and hopes that everyone enjoys good health during 1011.  
Nancy and Gene

### AIAA FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS

American Institute of Aeronautics and November 23, 2010 – Reston, Va. – The Astronautics (AIAA), the world's largest technical society dedicated to the global aerospace profession, announced the seven winners of the 2011 AIAA Foundation Educator Achievement Awards. Among them is **Penny Glackman** of Merion Elementary School, Merion, Pa.

The AIAA Foundation presents the Educator Achievement Awards every two years to precollege

educators who have demonstrated exemplary efforts in exciting students in grades K–12 about the study of mathematics, science, and related technical studies, and in preparing them to use and contribute to tomorrow's technologies.

AIAA President Mark J. Lewis stated: “The seven individuals receiving this year's AIAA Educator Achievement Awards, and the three named as Honorable Mentions, are living testaments to the influence that educators can have on the lives of their students. Often, all it takes is that one special teacher to ignite an initial spark of interest, or encourage and nurture an existing fascination towards a career in the technical disciplines. Aerospace is about the future; at a time when we recognize more than ever how important science, mathematics, and engineering education is to the continued success of our society, it is especially fitting that we recognize these outstanding educators' contributions.”;

Each winner will receive a trip to Washington, D.C., along with a guest, and will be honored at the AIAA Aerospace Spotlight Awards Gala on May 11, 2011.

The Educator Achievement Award has been presented to over 45 educators since 1997, and has become a sought after honor in the education community.

Ted Glackman

### LAWTON'S

The Lawton's are keeping busy, not only is it the holidays and who doesn't love time with family and friends, but we are celebrating the graduation of our youngest son, Kyle. He will graduate from USI with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in Math. He has been student teaching at Farilawn this fall and hopes to begin teaching full time as soon as he can. He has taught karate for years and cannot wait to teach school. He hopes to teach middle school math someday. We are very excited for him and extremely proud!

John continues to enjoy living on Captiva Island, fishing for sharks. He is now working at the Mad Hatter Restaurant. We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!!!!

Kim Lawton

### FROM AMY

Happy Holidays to all of the extended Swope family! Over Thanksgiving, my husband Jerry and I,

14 year old daughter Lily, and 12 year old son Fuller, all enjoyed spending time with my grandmother, "Meme" - Anne Isobel Germano McKeeby, my parents, Don and Sara Mac Germano, my brother Brian, sister-in-law Trish, and 17 year old niece Jennifer. We had a delicious meal, then enjoyed talking, playing card games, and just spending time with each other. I am so thankful that we have a close family, and that we've been able to be together to make and share memories for so many years!

The church my family attended when I was growing up was also my grandmother's church. She was the church librarian, and every Sunday, helped me to pick out good books to read. (My favorites were picture-books of the Parables, and a book about Clara Barton.) At her house, she had a book that I read and reread so often, she finally gave it to me as a present one year! It was The Story of the Christmas Guest by Helen Steiner Rice, which was an adaptation of Edwin Markham's famous poem, "How the Great Guest Came." It told the story of Conrad, the shoemaker. The Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying he would visit on Christmas Eve. All night long, Conrad waited eagerly for Jesus, but his only visitors were a weary beggar, an old woman, and a lost child. Conrad kindly met each of their needs, but he was very disappointed because the Lord hadn't come yet. As he prayed about it, he heard the Lord's voice reveal that He, Himself, had been each of these guests. "Of all of the gifts, love is the best. I was honored to be your Christmas guest."

This holiday, I hope you know and share Jesus' love as the most precious of gifts!  
Amy Germano Tice

### **FROM THE HUGH HENRY CAMP**

We all (Jerilyn from Washington state and her daughter from Vancouver, CA; Jana and her husband, Marty, son, John and grandson, Jace from Florida; Joetta and her husband, Walt and daughter, Kaylan from South Carolina and older daughter Caryn and her husband, Mike from Washington, DC) met at Mom and Dad's retirement village for the big party on August 21<sup>st</sup> to celebrate their 95<sup>th</sup> birthdays and 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Warren and Lana Henry and Ross and Mae Riggs also came for the weekend of fun, along with 165 other friends and family who signed the guest book! Mom and Dad received almost 200 greeting cards as well. So thanks to all of you who sent well wishes. We all had a great time and I think Dad

enjoyed his "15 minutes of fame". The folks are doing well, even with all the excitement of a party.

They have just recently given up their car, so are starting a new chapter in their lives of being 'beholden' to some youngster with a car! And Dad has finally given up maintaining the median of a nearby roadway, just a little too much to handle any more. I am constantly amazed at how good they look and feel (for 95 anyway.) I think Dad could run circles around me most days. I know he can still play a mean game of euchre.

The rest of the family is doing well and look forward to many more visits to Indiana. Happy Holidays to all and Happy New Year.  
Joetta Henry Senour

### **FROM CLIPPINGER ROAD**

I had another birthday last month. I'm like Isabel said, I don't celebrate them any more I just observe them. My health seems to be holding out though.

Angel is getting older too, she was 7 last October. She still tries to run things about the house. She lets me know when it's feeding time if I miss it, or nap time, and she starts letting me know about 9pm it is getting toward bed time.

I'm retiring from the Coast Guard Auxiliary this year after 45 years. I'll be dropping two web sites to keep up and dropping three Flotilla Staff offices.

I'm still a trustee at the church. Seems there is always something that we have a problem with. John, my son, is also on the trustees now and he is a big help. There are ballasts in the florescent lights that go out and light bulbs to change. There are always things that someone wants moved from one place to another. The last thing that came up was they wanted the basketball goals to be able to be lowered to seven feet. We called in Dale France to rework them. Can't always do everything ourselves.

Well I have rambled on enough, so tell next time, wishing everyone a happy new year.  
Paul Swope

### **Hello Family**

Yesterday was in the 30s and today is in the 60s, welcome to Texas. There hasn't been much change since the last newsletter, but Dad will shoot me if I don't put something in. :)

Spent the summer working as secretary to ten horse shows from North Carolina, Ohio and

Tennessee to Arkansas and TX. I put lots of miles on the truck and was able to spend more time in Evansville visiting Dad between shows.

Thanksgiving was lonely with no family here and we didn't travel. Everyone had plans, so Richard and I spent the day together alone.

We have no idea what Christmas will bring, but we are looking forward to being at one of the boys' home and celebrating with the Ratley clan.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and may all your wishes come true!

Love to all, Paula Sue and Richard

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### **FROM THE EDITOR**

#### **REUNION**

The date and place for 2011 has been set at Saturday July 16 2011. The place will be the Black Buggy Restaurant, Evansville Indiana. The Black Buggy in Evansville is at the corner of Lynch and Green River roads. We have a banquet room reserved from 11:30 through the lunch hour. The cost is \$9.99 per person, pay upon entering. Children have reduced pricing. You will not have to prepare anything. Just bring your appetite! All food drinks and desserts are included in the price.

There were 25 that signed in at the 2010 reunion. I do believe there was more than that at the reunion. When I get time I will go through the pictures and see if I can identify those that did not sign in.

Remember the shirt colors, those that observed the colors had a good time with them.

See the web page at [www.swopes.org/reunion.htm](http://www.swopes.org/reunion.htm) there are pictures from the 2009 reunion on this web site. I hope to have some of the 2010 reunion pictures on the web site soon. If you would like to print some pictures ask me for a CD of the pictures.

#### **ADDRESS**

We have been trying to keep all the addresses up to date. If you want the latest list let me know and I will get you one. Please try and keep the list up to date. If any of your family needs to be added let me know.

#### **EMAIL**

All of the family that is on the email list gets an up-to-date email list by email. There have been some bad addresses, if you have email and have not been getting updates, get your email address to me.

#### **ACCOUNTING**

Anyone wishing to audit the check book and account is welcome. If you would like a copy of the account sheet I can email it to you.

#### **NEWS LETTER**

We are still on a three a year news letter cycle. They go out April, August and December. I always need articles of family interest to keep the family up to date. Please get them to me in a timely fashion. We can have up to eight pages without additional postage required.

I have been charging all of you 5 cents a page over the years for printing of the News Letter. As with everything nowadays all the costs are going up. The cost actually has been slightly more than 5 cents per page for some time but the time has come when I have to raise my price for printing. Even the paper has taken an increase. Starting with this issue I will be charging 7 cents per page. If anyone wants the job of editor I will gladly give it up.

#### **WEB SITES**

Black Buggy <http://www.blackbuggy.com/index.htm>

Swopes <http://www.swopes.org/>

McCutchanville Church

<http://www.mccutchanvillecc.org/>

McCutchanville Cemetery

<http://www.mccutchanvillecemetery.org/>

Bluegrass Church <http://www.bluegrassumc.org/>