



Mary Ann Torrence

August 4, 1934 - July 20, 2013

Mary Ann Torrence, 78, former Erie resident, died Saturday at her home in Abingdon, Pennsylvania. Death was unexpected.

She was born August 4, 1934 in Ottawa, the daughter of Rev. J. Martin Torrence and Grace M. (Smith) Torrence. Her father was a Methodist minister and the family lived in several Kansas communities before moving to Erie, where she graduated from Erie High School.

She graduated from Kansas State Teachers College at Pittsburg with a Bachelor of Music Education degree and then taught in Chetopa for two years. She went to the island of Guam and taught music for three years. Next she went to the University of Idaho and earned a Masters of Music Education and taught at Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. She also took additional courses at the Washington State University. While there she was recruited to move to Philadelphia, where she taught 32 years in the School District of Philadelphia.

Mary Ann played principal French Horn in the Old York Road Symphony and was actively involved in numerous organizations that performed live music. She was assistant conductor and special guest conductor for several bands. Each year she attended several music conventions – the International Horn Society, International Trumpet Guild, International Women’s Brass Conference and the Music Educator’s National Conference. Other yearly gatherings she participated in were the Windjammers (to play and preserve Circus Music), the Great American Community Band (which meets in Lake Placid, N.Y.) and the Williamsburg Consort.

She was a member of the Erie Federated Church, where her father had served as pastor.

Survivors include her sister and brother-in-law – Helen and Jack Hines, of Erie; and several cousins.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m, Friday, at the Erie Federated Church. Burial will be in East Hill Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to the Federated Church.