



Bertha Wade Curtin

January 6, 1921 - May 31, 2015

Bert Curtin

Bert Curtin was always fashionable, very bright and never afraid of a challenge. From her earliest years she blazed her own trail leading her from the banks of the Hudson River to the hills of Santa Barbara. She was hard working, generous with her knowledge and time, a mentor to many young people and devoted to her family, both immediate and extended. She had a wicked wit (a razor tongue, actually) and tremendous personal style, always striking in her fabulous scarves, interesting accessories and stunning silver jewelry.

Mrs. Curtin died with her family at her side on May 31, 2015 at the age of 94.

Bert Wade Curtin – born January 6, 1921 in in New Baltimore, New York -- grew up swimming on the Hudson River. She served in the United States Marine Corps as an air traffic controller at Parris Island during World War II attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. In

recent years Mrs. Curtin was frequently seen in Santa Barbara parades riding with the Marines, still proudly wearing her original uniform, fully (if not comfortably) buttoned.

In 1947, Bert and Jim Curtin married and moved to Oak Park, Illinois where they lived for 15 years and added three children to the family. A member of the American Society of Interior Designers, Mrs. Curtin opened her first business, Bert Curtin Interiors and received national attention for her work.

The Curtins moved to Santa Barbara in 1962, building a home in the hills of San Roque where she and Mr. Curtin hosted many fabulous, music filled parties. In addition to her design business Mrs. Curtin owned Finishing Touches and At Home, delightful boutiques selling home accessories, clothing, jewelry and gifts and was president of the Northside Business Association. Bert and Jim Curtin lived happily on their hill until his death in 1986.

A surprise call from a high school sweetheart resulted in a late romance. Mrs. Curtin married Paul J. Barry who moved from Albany to be with her in Santa Barbara, in 2000. Mr. Barry died in 2007.

A lifelong dog lover, in her later years Mrs. Curtin raised puppies for Guide Dogs of the Desert and was frequently seen at local hospitals with her therapy dogs Mirage and Destiny.

Mrs. Curtin is survived by three loving and well-adjusted children: Mary Liz Curtin (Stephen Scannell), Christopher Curtin, Julie Morris (Bill), three grandchildren, Kegan Scannell, Keara Scannell and Erika Val Morris and a host of wonderful friends.

A memorial party will be held at her home on June 28, 2015. Donations in her memory may be sent to Guide Dogs of the Desert. www.guidedogsofthedesert.org

Contact her family at bertcurtin@gmail.com