

## OBITUARY OF GERTRUDE HARSHMAN

She was the victim of cancer, which had first attacked two years ago but had grown rapidly worse after a second operation early this year. She had been bed-ridden since April. In order to help other sufferers with this dread disease, her family asks that any remembrances be in the form of contributions to the American Cancer Society.

Mrs. Satterlee's life story really begins six years before her birth, when her father, N.R. Harshman, arrived from the Middle West. He had been educated as an attorney, but in Fall City he entered partnership in a saw mill on the site of the present Henry Benham place. He contracted scarlet fever in 1891, and went to Seattle for treatment and care. He had a wonderful nurse - so wonderful, in fact, that the day he was well enough to get out of bed and go home, he married her.

### Lifetime in Fall City

Mrs. Harshman, an Ohio girl, remained in Seattle for a year, joining her husband in Fall City in 1892. On Jan. 18, 1895, their first and only child was born, and that was Gertrude, who except for a year and a half in California lived her whole life there in the place of her birth.

Gertrude Harshman went to the Fall City grade school, but at the time she was ready for high school there was no school here properly accredited to send graduates to the University of Washington. So she attended, and graduated, from Monroe high school, living during school at a girls' boarding house on one of the town's main streets. After graduation she enrolled at the U. of W. Two operations, one an appendectomy, the other on her foot, complicated her college career and it was five years before she received her degree, in 1919, having majored in home economics.

### Married in 1919

During her course she did some practice teaching at West Seattle high school, but she never had plans to teach or use her training in some sort of a career. In fact she knew what her "career" would be before she graduated from the university. In 1911, when she was only 16 years old, she had met a young man named George Satterlee, from California, who had come to the Valley with another Californian on a pleasure trip. She saw him again when he was stationed at the army camp on Stillwater Hill, as a member of the unit's medical corps. She graduated from the U. in June, 1919, and married George Satterlee on Sept 1, 1919. Not that her

special training in home economics was ever wasted, for during her very active life she helped countless friends and neighbors with sewing, knitting, crochet, tatting, needlepoint, or any other kind of project they cared to bring to her.

The Satterlees had five children: Georgia, whose untimely death occurred five years ago, Emma, who is Mrs. Julius McCurry of Fall City, Julie who is Mrs. Carl Spjut of Kent, Charles, a resident of Carrolls, Wash., a town near Longview and James, of North Bend. The Saterlees; keen interest in every kind of sport there is, from salt water fishing to basketball to hockey to football, rubbed off on their children, for both of their boys are athletic coaches; Charles is organizing a complete program of athletics for the grade school at Carrolls and Jim is a coach at Issaquah high school.

Mrs. Satterlee's parents, the Harshmans, were the builders of the first telephone system in Fall City, an achievement they undertook more or less accidentally. When Mr. Harshman and his partner were running the sawmill they installed a kind of intercom line between the mill and their homes, in order to keep in touch with each other. One after the other Fall City home owner asked if he couldn't be hooked up to the phone "subscribers" and a telephone company, whether he wanted it or not. The Harshman family home, office and plant of the Fall City Telephone Co. for so many years, is owned now by Robert Aydts.

By 1931 both of her parents had passed away, and Mrs. Satterlee inherited the telephone company. The Satterlee family moved from their house, now owned and occupied by the Aaron Coopers, to the Harshman residence. The Satterlees ran the company as a family - and that meant there was a job for everyone, from Mr. Satterlee, who did all the installation and repair work, through Mrs. Satterlee, who was the night operator, to the children, who were experienced switchboard operators, both the boys and the girls, by the time they were seven or eight years old. In 1947 the Fall City company was purchased by Cascade Telephone Co., and the Satterlees' 16 years at the switchboard came to a close.

#### Loved Books

Books were one of Mrs. Satterlee's greatest loves; she owned a great many and read a great deal. And she was active in club works. Illness interrupted her second term as president of the Fall City Study club, and she had attended many federation conferences within the state. She was also active in Masonic work, being a member of Mizpah Court No. 29, Order of Amaranth, of Palm Chapter, OES, of Past Matrons

and Patrons club of Mizpah Court, and of the King County Matrons of 1931 of the Order of Amaranth.

Retirement never hung heavy on her hands, for she was an enthusiastic, and active grandmother. She had seven grandchildren, six boys and one girl, and often cared for them.

The service at the Masonic Hall Friday afternoon was presented by the Amaranth, with the assistance of the Rev. Ernest Barber, acting pastor of the Fall City Community Methodist church. Mrs. L. A. Fritzberg sang, accompanied by Mrs. Frank Stubbs at the piano. Cremation followed, with Purdy, Kerr and Van Horn in charge of all arrangements.

Source: The Snoqualmie Valley Record, no date, transcribed from article provided 7/9/92 by Emma Jean Satterlee McCurry, Fall City, to Judy Kelley

Note: Handwriting at top of article - "Aug 4th 2:15A '53"