



George A. Erswell Jr.

HARPSWELL — Ret. Col. George Ashley Erswell Jr., 73, died Thursday, Aug. 24, 2000, at his home in South Harpswell. He was born in Hartford, Conn., the son of George A. and Marion Purington Erswell Sr.

He attended Brunswick schools, graduating in 1944. Erswell entered Bowdoin College, graduating in 1947 with a bachelor of arts degree. He was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He devoted many years to this organization after leaving the college.

His college attendance was interrupted due to his enrollment at Maine Maritime Academy.

He married Elizabeth Martin of Brunswick on June 18, 1949. After graduation he attended officer's candidate school in Lackland, Texas, where he was commissioned into the Air Force as a second lieutenant. He was assigned to McDill AFB, where he commanded a crash boat search and rescue unit for the strategic air command. He left active duty, joining the Air Force Reserves, where he was assigned

to Air Force Systems Command for several years at Andrews AFB. He retired as a colonel after 32 years of service.

He worked for United States Gypsum Company for 35 years in both manufacturing and sales.

Erswell was an avid swimmer, attending his first meet at the age of 10. He swam for both Brunswick High School and Bowdoin College. He continued his swimming career, joining Georgia Masters. Upon his return to Maine, finding no Masters Program, he, along with Sharon Forney, formed the Maine Masters Program. Erswell was nationally and world ranked in his age group, holding records in many of his events.

Erswell is survived by his wife, Betty of 51 years; his daughters, Kristi Hyde of Bath, Kimberly Hughes of Bath and Kathryn Erswell-Horn of Blacksburg, Va.; a sister, Sondra Carlson of Clifton Park, N.Y.; and five grandchildren, Sarah, Allison and Andrew Hughes and Ashley and Jamie Hyde.

He was predeceased by a son, George Ashley III, who died Oct. 2, 1969; and a granddaughter, Elizabeth "Libby" Hughes, who died Dec. 1, 1980.

Erswell's latest endeavor had been the creation of the Androscoggin Swim Center project. This will be an Olympic-sized long course pool that will be the largest facility of its kind in New England. This project is the culmination of five years of work involving a board of directors, a completed pool plan and secured building site. It was his wish that memorial donations be made to the Androscoggin Swim Center, c/o treasurer Ronald Paradis, 163 Park Row, Brunswick, ME 04011.

Visiting hours will be today from 6-8 p.m. at Stetson's Funeral Home, 12 Federal St., Brunswick. A celebration of his life will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 27 Pleasant St., Brunswick at 1 p.m. on Saturday followed by a reception in the church hall. Burial with military honors will be at Riverside Cemetery immediate-