

EMERITUS FACULTY NEWS 2004

CHARLIE BENTLEY

On October 13, Marybelle died of lung and liver cancer. We had celebrated 40 years of marriage on July 3. Other events of the year do not seem very important right now. Suffice it to say that I am continuing with my activities, primarily with Ice Coring and Drilling Services and to a small extent with GLAS. All the real work on GLAS for our project continues to be done by Ben Smith, at the University of Washington. I will plan for a fuller report next year.

Mary Belle (she had recently reverted to the original form of her name, but I couldn't make the change myself) was born in Paxton, Illinois, the daughter of Dorothy Phillips and Frank Wolford Goode. She attended Grinnell College and graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a BS in Art. She later received an MA in Comparative Literature and completed all but her dissertation for the PhD. We were married on July 3, 1964 and lived our entire lives together in Madison. She bore two children, Molly Clare and Raymond Alexander.

Mary Belle was a talented artist who produced innumerable and inimitable drawings for the amusement and delight of her family and friends. She loved the tactile sense of paper and pens, paint brushes. She was a voracious reader of fiction and literary criticism; books she had read had often to be given away to leave room in the house for more. She loved her solitude; she loved to travel—to places of constant (Paris) and not-so-constant (Leningrad) civilization and to Italian beaches with lots of sand, sun, and snack service. Hated Iceland, Poland, Istanbul (too macho); loved Ireland, Mexico. A purist, she communicated resolutely by letter with her family and friends, both often scattered around the world—no



Mary Belle Bentley.
October 24, 1936–October 13, 2004.

impersonal email for her. Her letters (as well as her conversation) revealed her bright wit, a strong gift for poetic expression, and a deep humanity.

Most of all she was devoted to the well-being of her family—children, husband, mother, sister—and friends. Always she did what she could (which was a great deal) to make their lives easier and more joyful. As for the materiality of life, her favorite anecdote concerned the famous Roman wife and mother of the Gracchi, Cornelia: a visiting Royal lady, after displaying her opulent jewels to Cornelia, asked for a similar display. Cornelia sent for her two children and said, "These are my jewels, in which alone I delight."

CARL BOWSER

Did I lose track? Has it been five years since I retired? Didn't I have any news for the annual *Outcrop* for the past couple of years? No, it wasn't for lack of intent, it's more that I wasn't in town to meet the deadlines. With travel, photographic ventures, house remodeling projects, and family visiting my schedule has become more irregular. My long-standing links with photography and earth sciences have now blossomed into a near, full-time involvement in the subject of fine art photography and photography instruction. Now Vice-president of The Center for Photography at Madison (CPM) I devote much of my time either working with CPM or on my own photographic ventures. Teaching classes in digital photography through the center, helping build darkrooms (including a long dreamed of one in my own basement), running a monthly landscape photography interest group, fund raising, showing works in the area, and taking photography workshops pretty much consume my "spare" time. This year I hope to have a web site up, so keep tuned; perhaps you can judge results for yourself.

When not at home Judy and I typically travel west to see family in Omaha and Phoenix. Driving whenever possible so that our "suitcase on wheels" can carry a large format 4x5 camera, a medium format, a 35 mm, and a digital camera and all the accessories we've spent as much as a month driving western back roads on our way to see family or to join them in trips to Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. Detours through the American southwest have provided me with any number of images that provide plenty of darkroom work (both wet and digital) when back in Madison. The Grand Canyon, Lees Ferry, Canyon de Chelly, Death Valley, Yosemite, the Santa Fe area, northern Arizona, the Sea of Cortez are but a few of the recent venues for my work.

When asked what my photographic subject preferences are, I normally respond "landscape photography and grand children". With seven grand children ranging in age from one to 11 Judy and I have no trouble finding reason to visit them.