

Obituary

Born: Monday, June 20, 1932

Died: Thursday, March 19, 2009

William H. Foster, 76, of Woolrich, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Thursday March 19 - a few hours shy of the one year anniversary of the passing of his wife Marbeth Stitzer Foster. Bill was born on June 20, 1932 in Mahanoy City to the late Russell and Catherine Foster. After graduating from Mahanoy City High School in 1950, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education from Kutztown State College in 1954 and an MFA from Columbia University in 1955. From 1955-57, he served in the US Army as a member of the TDY72FA Band in Germany before returning to teach art at Governor Mifflin Junior High School in Shillington PA. He married Marbeth on March 21, 1959. In 1960 he accepted a position in the art department at Lock Haven State College. From 1952 and throughout his career at Lock Haven, Bill's work was featured in numerous juried and invitational exhibitions, as well as one-man shows. His signature pieces, called "Transformations" were colorful abstract three-dimensional works that transform themselves as the viewer changes position and the interplay of light is varied. As a body of work they illustrate everything he knew and so generously taught about color and form. The genius of his art revealed itself playfully to viewers willing to invest themselves beyond the initial, and deceptive, simplicity of the work. Bill will be remembered as a continual inspiration to his many students who pursued careers both in and out of the art field. Although he excelled in his own art, he would be the first to say that teaching was his passion. As one of the more challenging and engaging professors on campus during his tenure, he and Marbeth were also well-known for opening their hearts and home to students. Bill's interest and enthusiasm for his subject and his students continued over his 35 year career at Lock Haven. He retired in December of 1996. He is survived by his beloved cat Rex; brother, Robert of Camp Hill, PA ; his children, Rebecca of Pinckney MI, Christopher of Los Angeles CA, and Ken of New Orleans LA; son-in-law Bob Weisenberger and grandsons Vonn and Ryne; granddogs Boo, Sula, Zephyr, Brando and Rocky; and grandcats Oscar, Jet and Doodle. A celebration of Bill's life will be scheduled by the family at a later date. Contributions in his memory can be made to the Clinton County CleanScapes, Garden Building 3rd Floor, Lock Haven PA 17745; Susquehanna Hospice, 1100 Grampian Blvd, Williamsport PA 17701; or Clinton County Democratic Committee, Attn: Dave Wallace, 408 Jarrett Ave, Lock Haven PA 17745. Arrangements are being completed by the Yost-Gedon Funeral Home 121 W. Main St. Lock Haven, PA.. Online condolences can be made to www.yost-gedonfuneralhome.com

Service Summary

- Service details not available -