

In Memoriam Laura “Margene” Oswald • 1940-2015

Educator, entrepreneur, and businesswoman Laura Margene Oswald finished her earthly tasks on March 21, 2015. Although she had been in declining health for the past few years, her passing was sudden and unexpected.

“Margene,” as she was known to clock and watch people across the country, touched the lives of thousands, some of whom knew her only by telephone. To many she was the “voice” of Mile Hi Clock Supplies in Broomfield, CO. In fact, she put in a “full day” on the job the day before her death. Margene and her husband Lew operated the business for many years and supplied the trade with parts and materials that could be obtained via their website, mail order, and phone.

A native of Olathe, CO, in the western part of the state, Margene learned early the value of hard work and planning as she helped on the family farm in caring for and raising some of her seven siblings.

Her focus on gaining a quality education culminated in her graduation from Western State College in Gunnison, CO, in 1962 with a BA in education. Shortly after graduation she and Lew were married and lived for brief periods in Moab, UT, and Grand Junction, CO.

Prior to starting their family, Margene taught kinder-



garten. In 1973 the Oswalds moved to Broomfield, CO, and a few years later began operating Mile Hi Clock Supplies Co., a business in which she was a principal until her death.

Margene had a warm heart and a very pleasing personality—well suited to the daily contacts she made with the business’ national clientele. Throughout her life she maintained a sweet and simple demeanor that won the trust, respect, and hearts of many. For many years, until health issues arose, Margene and Lew could be seen around the United States at virtually all major NAWCC regional meetings, National Conventions, and local chapter shows. During these visits she and Lew met and made many new friends in the clock business.

A devoted mother and caring grandmother, Margene leaves behind her husband Llewellyn (Lew), son Kenneth (Suzanne) Oswald of Clovis, NM, daughter Brenda Oswald of Hephzibah, GA, three grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.

Her many friends and horological colleagues in the NAWCC, Chapters 21 (Denver), 100 (Colorado Springs), and 160 (Boulder) will miss her and the wise counsel and support she gave to all of us.

—John E. Bartos (CO)