

## **Un-Sinkable Ann**

### **By Ross and Sue Barbour**

Ann Schroeder was a study in courage. She was born with a rare disease that stunted her growth. The doctor told her parents she wouldn't live past five years old. At ten years old she conquered rheumatic fever.

Ann became an avid Four Freshmen fan as a teenager. She lived in a suburb of New Orleans called Arabi. The song "Shiek of Arabi" made the town famous, but it was not nearly as dry as Arabia. One morning she awoke and found herself in knee deep in rising flood water. Her father had rushed to put her Freshmen records in the attic to keep them dry. She and her parents were rescued from their roof.

In the early 60's, Ann came to Los Angeles to study arranging with Dick Reynolds. After she returned home she had to have a very dangerous operation where they removed her pituitary gland. Then after taking care of both of her parents through their illnesses, she began her fight with Multiple Sclerosis.

Through all of this, she and her friend Dorothy came to see the Freshmen whenever possible. She always came with a smile on her face and a positive attitude. She came to the Reston, VA convention with her friend, Susie Amick.

And then came Katrina! Ann lost everything. She wouldn't have made it to safety if it hadn't been for Susie. We had tried for six months to find Ann and finally succeeded. Susie had taken her to a nursing home in a nearby town.

Ann got pneumonia before Christmas and had to be taken to the hospital. She died December 30th, 2007, listening to her "Freshmen tapes". She was 67 years old. Heaven doesn't seem to be such a bad choice compared to all she had to overcome in her life.

Farewell un-sinkable Ann. It's a Blue World Without You.

### **Sad News**

Society State Representative for Indiana, Art Graham, passed away on May 12, 2008 in Brownsburg, Indiana. Art was a longtime fan of the Freshmen and served as Indiana's Rep for many years.

Art worked for IBM for 30 years and retired as a senior systems engineer in 1992. Having grown up in the Indianapolis area, he was a lifelong racing enthusiast. Art also worked in a variety of capacities with the United States Auto Club, serving as a member of the USAC Board of Directors from 1982-1997. He was the Director of Timing and Scoring for the Indianapolis 500 from 1978-1997, during which time he oversaw the modernization of timing and scoring procedures for the race.

He loved big-band music and was especially proud of his relationship with The Four Freshmen and his work on behalf of the Society. In addition to his duties as State Rep, Art served as an important member of the Planning Committee for the 2008 convention of the Society.

Art is survived by his wife Diana, his daughter and two sons, his mother, and four grandchildren.