

## Dorothy Weston Riley, loving mother, grandmother and noted equestrian

CUBA — Dorothy Weston Riley passed away Friday (Dec. 31, 2010) at Cuba Lake surrounded by family and friends after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Born Feb. 4, 1926, in Olean, she was a daughter of the late Douglas O. and Dorris Forness Weston. On June 4, 1945, at St. Mary's Church in Olean, she married James J. Riley, who predeceased her in May of 1992.

Dorothy, known to her many friends as "Dottie," graduated from Olean High School in 1944. She attended William Smith College, majoring in art.

Her love of horses was passed on to her, her children, and grandchildren through her grandfather, F.W. Forness — a well-known Olean businessman, politician and philanthropist. Dorothy was a respected member of the equestrian community, exhibiting her Saddlebred and Arabian horses both locally and nationally. She loved to encourage young people to ride, especially in the art of saddleseat horsemanship through her lesson programs and as a leader of the Luck Aces 4-H Club. Many of her students, including her daughter and granddaughter have gone on to win state and national recognition in the show ring.

Dorothy, herself, continued riding and showing into her 70s, an unusual feat for any equestrian.

Combining her love of art and horses, in 1986 she created the "Me and My Pony" educational coloring book series which sold nationally. She completed her last book in 2009.

Dottie's love for animals was well known. Besides her horses, she also raised and trained Labrador retrievers and English setters.

Dorothy worked as a DJ for WHDL during WWII and co-hosted a radio show called "Queen for a Day" with Don McClean, Mac Sue and Grace Smith at the Castle restaurant. She also narrated fashion shows for Bradners and other businesses and clubs.

In 1992, after the death of her husband, Dottie managed Olean Limousine service as both owner and president



until its sale in 1995. After selling, she continued to enjoy her horses, her family's involvement with them and traveling. Some of her trips included Alaska, Hawaii

and a riverboat ride down the Mississippi River.

Dorothy belonged to many organizations and clubs. She was a past member of DAR, Bartlett Country Club, Empire Arabian Horse Association, the International Arabian Horse Association and the United States Equestrian Federation, as well as other groups during her active life. Most recently, she belonged to the Out to Lunch Brunch, a group of her high school friends who met monthly for lunch.

Dorothy is survived by a daughter, Diane (Randy) Riley Varley, of Cuba Lake; a son, Stephen (Anna) Riley, of Cuba; five grandchildren Dr. Lori Foster, of Illinois, Lynn (Shane) Varley, Stillman, of Auburn, Whitney Riley, of Cuba, Jamie (Julie) Riley, of Hinsdale, Brenden Riley, of Cuba; two great-grandchildren, Kaleb and Jacob Riley, both of Hinsdale; and special friends George Wolfram and his daughter Pam Wolfram, and Les Clark and his mother Sharon Clark.

Her faithful cat, Grey, remained at her side throughout her illness.

In addition to her husband and parents, Dorothy was predeceased by a son, Thomas, who died shortly after birth; a sister, Marion Weston Barr; an aunt Evelyn Biracree; and an uncle, Stephen Biracree.

Family will receive friends from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday (Jan. 4, 2011) at the Guenther Funeral Home Inc., 1303 E. State St., Olean. A Scripture Wake service will be held at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in the funeral home. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday (Jan. 5, 2010) at St. Mary of the Angels Church in Olean. Father Gregory Dobson will officiate. Burial will be at the convenience of the family at St. Bonaventure Cemetery, Allegany.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to Joyful Rescues, 1319 Turock Road, Cuba, N.Y. 14727.