

In Memoriam

Dovel "Curly" Devon



1993 *Silver Circle* member **Dovel "Curly" DeVon** died on March 18th at the age of 84. Curley was always the "guy in the back room" who made things happen.

After leaving the Army where he learned radio engineering, Curley started his career as a disc jockey in Montana and Yakima, Washington, before moving to

television. In 1953, he started work for the Voice of America Radio, taking his family with him to live in the Philippines. By 1966, he relocated to San Francisco, becoming a video engineer at KQED 9. Curley ran camera, worked remotes and lit studio productions. *Newsroom*, *Firing Line*, *Over Easy* and *World Press* are but a few of the many programs and series he worked. He was promoted to broadcast supervisor overseeing the daily air operation of master control and videotape areas, until his retirement in 1994.

Curley is survived by his wife, **Peggy**, son **Dana Lance DeVon** and two stepchildren, **David Whiteside** and **Margaret Whiteside Hutek**.

Loni Ding



Isadora Quanehia Ding Welsh, or Ding Bick Lon, known as **Loni Ding**, passed away peacefully February 20, 2010 at Summit Hospital in Oakland, following a stroke. She was 78.

She produced more than 250 broadcast programs, including five series, for public television and international broadcast on a wide range of subjects. Along with her independent productions, Ding produced programs collaboratively for the California Historical Society, California State Department of Education, Chinese for Affirmative Action, San Francisco Opera Center, and KQED-TV. The *San Francisco Examiner* called her "a master of her craft."

From 1970 to 1977, Loni was a Senior Producer/Director at KQED. She co-founded and was Executive Producer of *Open Studio*. She became the Executive Director of CET (Center for Educational Telecommunications).

Ding received numerous awards and accolades including Regional Emmy® awards and a Broadcast Media and Preceptor award from San Francisco State University.

Merle Ellis



Merle B. Ellis Jr., a butcher and broadcaster who became a celebrity by showing the nation how to cut and prepare meat economically, died at his Tiburon home on Jan. 20th. He was 76.

Mr. Ellis was born in Sioux City, Iowa, on Jan. 12, 1934. He began cutting meat at his

father's butcher shop as a teenager, where he learned the trade that would put him through college, support a family and spawn a successful broadcasting career.

Mr. Ellis joined the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was a cook stationed at Ford Ord near Monterey, "defending the beaches of Carmel," as he put it. He enrolled at San Francisco State College in 1955, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in broadcasting and met his future wife, **Neva**, in 1959.

The couple were married in 1960 and moved to Mill Valley in 1962 and then to Tiburon in 1964, where Mr. Ellis would spend the rest of his life.

He launched his broadcasting career in the early 1960s, when he directed and produced television programming for KPIX and KRON in San Francisco.

Starting in the early 1970s, and while working behind the meat counter at the Corner Market in Tiburon, Mr. Ellis wrote a food column for *The Ark* newspaper. The column, titled *The Butcher*, was soon picked up by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and later went into nationwide syndication.

He authored three acclaimed cookbooks, including best selling *Cutting Up in the Kitchen*. He made appearances on *The Dinah Shore Show* and *Good Morning America*, hosted *Cookin' USA* for the Nashville Network and appeared with his wife on the PBS show *Cut Up and Cook*. He befriended well-known cooking personalities **Julia Child**, **James Beard** and **Jacques Pepin**.

Mr. Ellis left the celebrity limelight a decade ago and returned to his roots as a neighborhood butcher. Most recently, he worked part-time at the meat counter at the Petaluma Market and previously at the Mill Valley Market in Mill Valley, where he developed quite a following.

"He was from the Midwest and he never left behind his Midwestern sensibilities and sense of humor," said daughter **Gari Ellis** of San Rafael. "And he never forgot where he came from."