

Jean K. Telling

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EASTON — Jean K. Telling of St. Michaels died peacefully on March 19, 2014, at William Hill Gardens in Easton at 98.

She was born in 1915 in New York to William P. and Edna B. Kolbe, the oldest of three children. Jean lived her young life in New Rochelle, N.Y. She excelled in sports, especially track and swimming. Jean competed in swimming events for Larchmont Shore Club, and by the age of 15, she had won Junior and Senior Championships in Westchester County. She also traveled to France, where she medaled in freestyle, back and breast stroke. Jean trained for the 1932 Olympic team but did not make it.

After graduating from New Rochelle High School, she had planned to attend Wellesley College, but unfortunately the Depression wiped out her father's savings. She eventually became a secretary then in the New York office of the FBI, where she worked under J. Edgar Hoover. In 1938, Jean married Charles L. Berry of Larchmont, N.Y. Their daughter Lynne was born in December 1943. Sadly, Lt. Berry was killed June 12, 1944, in the D-Day invasion, so he never knew his daughter.

After the war, in 1947, Jean married Wilbur A. Telling, also a veteran. They moved to Ohio and eventually built a home in Bainbridge, Ohio, in a small lake development called Lake Lucerne. Jean was a homemaker for many years. She loved gardening and excelled in sewing and knitting. When Lynne left for college, Jean went to work as a receptionist for a local dentist — a job she held for many years. When her husband Bill became wheelchair bound, she stayed home to nurse him until his death in 1996.

When Lynne and her husband Jim Verioti decided to retire to St. Michaels, they found a small house for Jean, also. She spent 10 years there with her cat, Rosie, happily working in her yard. Her love of animals and working outside she passed on to her daughter, Lynne, who loved her dearly.

Services will be private.

In her memory, donations may be sent to Talbot County Humane Society, Easton. Arrangements are by the Ostrowski Funeral Home, St. Michaels. Please visit www.ostrowskifh.com.