

ANN PASHLEY: AN INSPIRATION TO MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY

5/07/96

Sunday, May 12, is Mother's Day and I would like to dedicate this column to all mothers everywhere. It will mark the first anniversary of my own mother's funeral, which makes it all the more meaningful for me.

It was only \$14, but at the time it was lost it was sorely needed. The date was November 6, 1939, and it was lost in the fire that destroyed Bisby Lodge at the Adirondack League Club.

The story was related to me by Robert Pashley of Old Forge, and the money was lost by his mother, Ann Pashley. Mrs. Pashley was the cook at the prestigious resort establishment, one of the many over the years where she could ply her trade.

There were five children in the Pashley family that had its start in Clayville. One of the children, Charles, was afflicted with tuberculosis. In that day and time, rest and mountain air were the only known cures. It was 1936 and times being what they were, the Pashleys were hard pressed to bring that about.

Mrs. Pashley came up with the only solution open to her. She came to Old Forge and got a job doing what she knew best – cooking. The other four children, Dorothy, Patricia, Fredrick and Robert, moved with her to the area. Since any job was hard to come by in 1936, her husband remained with his work and spent weekends with the family.

She found a ready market for her skills in the Old Forge area. While Dorothy baby-sat the younger children, she worked. Over the years she served the Seventh Lake House, the League Club, Moosehead Hotel, Higby's and Rocky Point. The last 20 years of her career were as pastry chef at Higby's.

It was hard to stump her when it came to food preparation, but the work crew at Bisby's did just that. They presented her with a porcupine carcass along with a song and dance about how they were traditional Adirondack fare. She agonized long and hard over here source of material, finally giving up in desperation on how to cook it. Manager Floyd Gallagher finally told her, "Annie, you can't cook that thing. They are just pulling your leg. Furthermore, they wouldn't eat it if you did."

Her original purpose for moving to the Adirondacks because of Charles' TB was successful. While she was employed at Kamp Kill Kare, Mrs. Garvin paid for his care at the Trudeau Clinic and he later was a patient at the State facility at Ray Brook.

In 1945, son Fredrick was killed while on active duty with the military. His memory is honored and preserved by Old Forge's Covey-Pashley American Legion Post #893.

Like her son, Ann M. Pashley went above and beyond the call of duty in every respect. As a Gold Star Mother with selfless dedication to her family, I can think of no one better qualified to be recognized on such an occasion.

Mothers – God bless them one and all.