

# OBITUARIES

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## WALTERS, SANFORD

Born May 12, 1918 in Provençal, LA and passed away Feb. 23, 2008 in Rockwall, TX. He is survived by his 7 children; Brenda, Carolyn, Bubba, Charlotte, Otis, Pam and Bogie. He has 23 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren. Sanford served in the United States Army and is a World War II Veteran. He is preceded in death by his wife Jeanette and son, Alan. There are no surviving brothers or sisters. Funeral services will be Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 10:00 AM at Roselawn Chapel. He will be laid to rest next to his beloved wife and son at Roselawn Memorial Park. The family will receive family and friends, Monday 6 to 8:00 PM at Roselawn Chapel.

**Roselawn**  
972-287-2121  
roselawncrematoryandfuneralhome.com

## WILCOX, LA VITA FORESTER WATTS

Born September 23, 1918 to Mary Livingston and William Franklin Forester. She married O'Hara Watts, who preceded her in death in 1988. She later married James W. Wilcox, who preceded her in death in 2001. Mrs. Wilcox is survived by her daughters: Martha Watts Viola and Mary Watts Johnston; three granddaughters; and four great-grandchildren. Memorial service will be at 2:00 PM, Wednesday, February 27, 2008 in the Chapel at Lovers Lane Methodist Church.



**Restland**  
972-238-7111  
restlandfuneralhome.com

## WINDHAM, DORA MAE "DODDIE"

Age 65, of Irving, died Saturday. Funeral service 10:30 am Tuesday at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. Interment at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at Highland Cemetery in Iowa Park. For full obituary, please go to donnellycolonial.com.

**DONNELLY'S**  
Colonial Funeral Home  
606 W. Airport Freeway  
Irving, TX (972) 579-1313  
www.donnelycolonial.com

## YEAGER, DAVID WARREN

Finally conquered his earthly battles and went to be with the Lord on February 24, 2008. He was born on June 6, 1956 in Dallas the second child of Donald Allen and Charlyne Yeager. He is preceded in death by his beloved father, adored sister, Dale Yeager and his stepfather Forrest Loving Anderson. His quick wit and love of family made him a unique human being. He was one of a kind and he brightened the lives of all who knew him. He left behind many treasured memories in those who loved him so much. He will be missed, but will forever be in our hearts. The Lord has taken his soul, but he will continue to live in our dreams and memories. He is survived by his mother, Charlyne Yeager Anderson; sister, Lisa Anderson-Sanchez, her husband, Robert and their child, Gage; nephew, David Dale Yeager and wife, Rachel; uncle, Davis Lloyd Yeager; and many cousins. Celebration of life services will be held on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at Williams Funeral Home in Garland, Texas with private graveside interment later in Buffalo City Cemetery, Buffalo, Texas. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.



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## In Memoriam

In Loving Memory of

**Mrs. Geraldine Short "CC"**

June 6, 1931 - Feb. 26, 2007



Forever in our hearts and minds. Love, Your husband Harold and children Dianne, Clyde, Barbara, Frankie and the grandkids

## PIETRO ESUTACHIO, JR.

Nov. 8, 1974 - Feb. 24, 2005  
You will always be in our hearts and minds. We love and miss you so much. Mom, Dad and Family

## OBITUARIES

### BEN CHAPMAN

# Was 'Creature from the Black Lagoon'

From Wire Reports  
As an actor, Ben Chapman never landed a star-making role. Far from it. He had small parts in only a few films, including an uncredited bit part in *Ma and Pa Kettle at Waikiki*.

But Mr. Chapman nevertheless achieved a degree of movie immortality — and he did it without uttering a word of dialogue or even showing his face.

The 6-foot-5 former Tahitian entertainer and ex-Marine played the title character in *Creature from the Black Lagoon*, the classic 1954 3-D monster movie that developed an enduring cult following.

Mr. Chapman, a retired Honolulu real estate salesman, died Thursday of congestive heart failure at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, said his longtime companion, Merrilee Kazarian. He was 79.

For Mr. Chapman, playing the so-called Gill Man in *Creature from the Black Lagoon* was the role of a lifetime.

"In the big picture, he achieved a small amount of success as an actor, but for baby-boomer 'monster kids,' he was the bomb," Tom Weaver, author of the 1992 "making of" book *Creature from the Black Lagoon*, told the *Los Angeles Times*.

Mr. Chapman, who was briefly a contract player at Universal in the early '50s, always said landing the Creature role was "a matter of being in the right place at the right time."

He was on the studio lot one day, when he was called into a casting director's office.



Ben Chapman said the costume for the creature, which included a large helmetlike head, was so hot someone on the set had to stand by with a hose to cool him off.

"They were looking for an imposing creature, and at 6-feet-5, I filled the bill," he told the *Palm Beach Post* in 2003.

In the film, which stars Richard Carlson and Julie Adams, a scientific expedition venturing along the Amazon River in search of fossils of a legendary prehistoric man-fish unexpectedly encounters a live specimen, who terrorizes them but falls for the expedition's only female (played by Ms. Adams).

"The creature suit was a one-piece outfit that zipped down the back with dorsal fins, hands that were gloves, feet that were like

boots," Mr. Chapman told the *Honolulu Observer* several years ago.

"They had me lay on a table, take a complete plaster of Paris mold of my body, then design this costume. I couldn't lose or gain weight, or it wouldn't fit right. The whole experience was like climbing into a large body stocking with creases."

Mr. Chapman told Mr. Weaver that he got so hot on the sound stage wearing the costume, which included a large helmetlike head, that someone had to stand by with a water hose to cool him off.

When they were shooting on the back lot, Mr. Chapman said, "I

would just stay in the lake to keep cool."

Mr. Chapman, as fans of the movie know, wasn't the only person to play the Gill Man.

Ricou Browning played him in the underwater scenes, which were shot in Wakulla Springs, Fla.

As Mr. Chapman once explained: "When you see the movie, anything below the surface of the water, it is the (stunt) doubles in Florida and anything above the surface is us at Universal in Hollywood."

Neither Mr. Chapman nor Mr. Browning received screen credit for playing the creature; the stu-

dio publicity department, according to Mr. Chapman, didn't want audiences to think of the creature as "a guy in a suit."

The movie proved to be so successful that Universal made two sequels — *Revenge of the Creature* (1955) and *The Creature Walks Among Us* (1956).

Mr. Chapman, however, did not return to the creature role in either film.

"Sure, I kind of resented that they didn't call me back, but what are you going to do?" Mr. Chapman said in a 1999 interview with the *Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal*. "My option (at the studio) was not picked up. You can't dwell on these things. Besides, ethnically, I'm Polynesian, so nothing really bothers me."

Mr. Chapman was born Oct. 29, 1928, in Oakland, Calif., while his Tahitian parents temporarily were living in the United States. After growing up in Tahiti, he returned to California in 1940 and went to school in San Francisco.

A cousin of actor Jon Hall, he was working as a Tahitian dancer in nightclubs when he was hired to play a bit part in the 1950 MGM musical romance *Pagan Love Song*.

He served in the Marines in the Korean War and received a Silver Star, a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

In addition to Ms. Kazarian, he is survived by his children, Benjamin Franklin Chapman III, Grant Chapman and Elyse Maree Rajevich; and his sister, Moea Baty.

Dennis McLellan,  
*Los Angeles Times*

## RICHARD BAER

# Writer on 'Bewitched,' 'The Munsters' and others

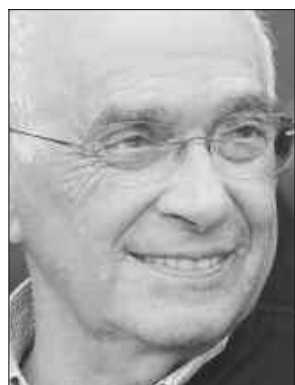
From Wire Reports  
Richard Baer, a television writer who contributed to such sitcoms as *Bewitched*, *That Girl* and *The Munsters*, has died. He was 79.

He died Friday at St. John's Health Center in Santa Monica, Calif., of complications from a heart attack suffered early in January, said a son, Matthew Baer.

Mr. Baer started in television in the 1950s, a gentler time, and "the shows reflected it," he told the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1994. "In a half-hour show, we would present the problem, and we would solve it."

He wrote for such series as *Leave It to Beaver* in 1958, *Petticoat Junction* in 1963 and *F Troop* in 1966.

"I have written for a lot of ... shows that will do anything for a laugh," he said in *The Chicago Tribune* in 1992.



Richard Baer earned an Emmy nomination for his work on *Hennesey*.

The series for which he wrote the most scripts was *Hennesey*, an early 1960s comedy-drama that brought him an Emmy nomination. He penned more than 30 episodes of the CBS show that starred Jackie Cooper as a Navy medical officer.

## Bob Ginnaven

Actor who appeared in *Dallas*, *Steel Magnolias*, *JFK*

Advertising executive and movie small-parts actor Bob Ginnaven of Little Rock, Ark., died Feb. 17. He was 71.

Robert Addison Ginnaven Jr., whose movie appearances included *Steel Magnolias* and Oliver Stone's *JFK* and whose TV appearances included *Dallas*, died at St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center in Little Rock. No cause of death was available.

Mr. Ginnaven had been a weatherman for Little Rock television station KATV and was well-

known in Little Rock's advertising, marketing and public relations community. From 1972-92 he was a principal and creative director of the Mangan Rains Ginnaven Holcomb Agency, and from 1992-99 he was principal and creative director of Ginnaven Patterson Associates.

He had roles in 21 movies. In *JFK*, he played Agent Y. In *White Lightning*, he appeared as Harvey. In *Steel Magnolias*, he was Mayor Brown. He performed in two off-Broadway plays.

He was the creator of national commercials for Radio Shack and Shell Oil Co.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanne Tyler Ginnaven of Little Rock; three sons, a daughter and six grandchildren.

*The Associated Press*

## NEWSMAKERS

### Genoa Leilani Keawe

Hawaiian music icon

One of the most enduring and beloved voices in Hawaiian music is silent with the death of "Aunty" Genoa Leilani Keawe.

Family members say the icon of traditional island music passed away peacefully in her sleep Monday morning. She was 89.

Known widely as Aunty Genoa, she recorded more than 20 albums, dating back to vinyl 78 rpm and 33 1/3 rpm albums, and about 150 singles.

Her son, Eric K. Keawe of Keawe Records, says his mother died peacefully at home in Papakolea.

He says she had suffered health problems over the last decade but always managed to bounce back into the limelight.

Ms. Keawe was a lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which will be conducting her funeral services.

"She was a very simple person. She loved the people of Hawaii and her many fans throughout the world for their support through her experiences and travels," her son said.

He said she maintained the strength of her beautiful soprano voice up to her last day at home.

Born Genoa Leilani Adolpho, Keawe married Edward P. Keawe-Aiko. They had 12 children, including three who are still living. She had 40 grandchildren, 98 great-grandchildren and 81 great-great-grandchildren.

Ms. Keawe's life in music start-

ed in Laie, center of Mormon culture in Hawaii. She sang with the island Mormon choir and said her sister, Annie, was a great influence on her music as they sang church songs together.

She began her professional career in 1939, singing for bandstand shows in Kailua and at the Officers Club before World War II with George Hookano and his band.

Ms. Keawe sang on the radio, and on early TV, she became a regular on the *Lucky Luck Show*, hosted by Robert Luck. She also sang on the nationally broadcast *Hawaii Calls* and at several clubs and hotels on Oahu. For the past decade, she had been performing weekly at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa.

She recorded on several island labels, starting with her group Genoa Keawe and Her Hawaiians on 49th State Records. She later produced, promoted and distributed her own recordings. She was president of Genoa Keawe Records, Inc., which also featured other Hawaiian music artists.

*The Associated Press*

## Raymond Kennedy

Novelist

Raymond Kennedy, a writer known for his dark, absurdist novels set largely in his native New England, died on Feb. 18 in Brooklyn. He was 73 and lived in Manhattan.

The cause was complications of a stroke, his daughter, Branwynne Kennedy, said.

Mr. Kennedy wrote eight novels, among them *My Father's Or-*

chard (Houghton Mifflin, 1963); *The Flower of the Republic* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1983); *Ride a Cockhorse* (Ticknor & Fields, 1991); and *The Romance of Eleanor Gray* (University Press of New England, 2003).

His books were characterized by their bleak settings (western Massachusetts was a favorite); baroque, boisterous prose; and grotesquely comic characters, notably the larger-than-life women who charged through his fictional universe like out-of-control trains.

Mr. Kennedy's work was not to every critic's taste. But those who championed him expressed an enthusiasm that bordered on ardor. Writing in *The Washington Post* in 1991, Jonathan Yardley called *Ride a Cockhorse* — the tale of a mild-mannered female loan officer run voraciously, and highly sexually, amok — "the best comic novel to come my way in a long time."

Raymond Arthur Kennedy was born on March 3, 1934, in Wilbraham, Mass. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1960. In the '60s and '70s he was a staff editor of Collier's Encyclopedia and the Encyclopedia Americana before joining the Columbia University faculty in 1982. He taught creative writing there until his retirement in 2006.

His first marriage ended in divorce; his second wife, the former Gloria Berzofsky, died in 2002. Branwynne Kennedy, his daughter from his marriage to Ms. Berzofsky, is his only immediate survivor.

*The New York Times*

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