PJB 3-12-05

JACOBS, PAULINE N. (NARVA)

JACOBS, PAULINE N., who along with her triplet sisters made headlines in 1925 as the first triplets born at Jane Brown Memorial Hospital, died at her home on February 27, 2005 in Weston, Massachusetts. She was 79.



Ms. Jacobs was the daughter of Morris and Anna Narva, and grew up on Warrington St. in Providence. Her parents emigrated to the United States in the early 1900's - her father from Poland and her mother from the Ukraine. Mr. Narva was the co-founder of Morton's Shoe Stores, Inc., later headed by the triplets' older brother Morton Narva.

Ms. Jacobs graduated from Classical High School and then was a student at Pembroke College. In 1944, she married Dr. Edward Hoffman, a Baltimore dentist, who then went off to serve in the Navy in World War II.

Ms. Jacobs and Dr. Hoffman had two children, David (born in 1947) and Mark (born in 1949). They lived in suburban Baltimore, in a home designed by Dr. Hoffman and with gardens created by Ms. Jacobs. Ms. Jacobs was active in the PTA, served as a Cub Scout den mother, and did volunteer work in several organizations.

After a divorce in 1968, she returned to New England. In 1972 she married Aaron Jacobs, an economics professor at Boston State College, and settled in Boston. Ms. Jacobs played an important part in raising her husband's two children from a previous marriage, Merle and Edward.

Ms. Jacobs worked in a variety of secretarial positions in Boston from 1970 to 1990. She retired in 1990 after ten years as an administrative secretary at Brigham & Women's Hospital, but continued to do volunteer work there and for a number of organizations.

Her volunteer work in the Boston area also included playing piano for the elderly at senior centers, working for the Arthritis Foundation, serving as co-director of the day care center at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, volunteering at the New England Deaconess Hospital, and