

Half Staff – Melissa C. (Collins) Smith

March 6, 2000

Melissa C. (Collins) Smith, 92, of Rockport, renowned restaurateur, author and Realtor, wife of the late William P.C. Smith, died peacefully Monday morning, March 6, at the Oakwood Nursing Home in Manchester-by-the-Sea. She was born in New Jersey on Dec. 21, 1907, the daughter of the late Allan R. and Melissa E. (McMeekin) Collins.

Mrs. Smith owned and operated the Blacksmith Shop Restaurant in Rockport from 1929 until 1965; the Faraday Inn from 1951-56; the Easterly Inn of Gloucester from 1963-72; and the Cable House Bed and Breakfast Inn from 1948-98.

She authored three popular cookbooks and sold real estate in her retirement years.

Mrs. Smith was a member of the First Congregational Church of Rockport, where she was active in the church fairs. She was also a member of the Rockport Board of Trade, the Motif No. 1 Day Committee, the Rockport Christmas Pageant, the Rockport Garden Club, the Sandy Bay Historical Society, the Pigeon Cove Circle and the Addison Gilbert Hospital Ladies Auxiliary.

She is survived by two sons, Robert M.C. Smith, husband of Eileen K. Smith, of Rockport, W.P. Colin Smith Jr., husband of Margaret Smith of Boulder, Colo.; grandchildren Melissa, Shelley, Susan, Robert, Allan, Elizabeth, Margaret, Colin, Sarah and Cameron; great-grandchildren, Benton, Avery, Victoria, Katherine, Elizabeth and Michael; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Mrs. Smith was predeceased by a brother, Robert M. Collins; and a sister, Ruby C. LaFond.