

## **Half Staff – James Thomas Smith**

**January 2, 1996**

James T. Smith, 86, of 29 Broadway, Rockport, died yesterday morning at Addison Gilbert Hospital. Mr. Smith was born on Nov. 18, 1909, in Brooklyn, NY to the late James Thomas Smith and Anne Gertrude (Comerford) Smith DeFoe.

A well-known singer on the North Shore, Mr. Smith was formerly past president of the Rockport Community Chorus and soloist (baritone) at St. Bartholomew Church in New York City. While a patrolman for the Mid-Town Squad of the New York City Police Department, he was a member of the New York City Policemen's Chorus.

Before moving to Rockport, he was an innovative program director at the Frederick Douglas Center of the Children's Aid Society in Harlem, N.Y., where he was recognized for helping children learn to read by enlisting the assistance of Broadway professionals in putting on plays.

An avid sailor, Mr. Smith was also a member of the Sandy Bay Yacht Club and, at one time, owned the schooner Mad Queen, which he spent many years sailing.

Mr. Smith is survived by his close friend, Marilyn O'Connell of Rockport; a sister, Florence DeFoe Kish, wife of George Kish, both of Florida; a niece, Jannine Cyr Metevier, wife of George Metevier of Maine; a niece, Caroline DeFoe Reiss, wife of Randy Reiss, of California; and a nephew, Robert DeFoe of Florida.

He was predeceased by his wife, Yvonne (Cyr) Smith and a brother, Harold, husband of Ruth DeFoe, of Florida.

A funeral service will be held tomorrow, at 1:30 p.m., in the Burgess and Mackey Funeral Home, 177 Mains St., Rockport.

Burial will be held in Locust Grove Cemetery, Lanesville.

Contributions may be made in his memory to the Rockport Public Library, 15 School St., Rockport, Mass., 01966.