

Half Staff – Edwin B. Cobb, 99

April 3, 2007

Edwin Blaine Cobb, formerly of Rockport, died April 3, 2007, in Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital, Goleta, California, 26 days before his 100th birthday. He died from complications following surgery to repair a broken hip suffered in a fall March 28, 2007. Edwin was born April 29, 1907, in Newport, R.I. to the former Emily Frances Blaine and William Andrew Cobb, the second of four children.

He graduated in 1925 from Norwood High School, Norwood and in 1929 from Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree.

Following graduation from NU, he held several short term engineering positions before working for the engineering firm of Weston and Sampson from 1931 to 1939. He joined the engineering consulting firm of Metcalf and Eddy in Boston in 1940. He became a partner in 1953 and retired as senior vice-president in 1969. His professional expertise was in the design of water supply, distribution and treatment and in waste water treatment systems. His career with M&E was interrupted for three years during World War II. He served in the Pacific war theater as a lieutenant with the Civil Engineering Corps of the U.S. Naval Reserve.

He was an active member of several professional societies. He served as president of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers in 1955-56, and the New England Water Works Association in 1972-73, and was elected a life member of the American Water Works Association in 1979. He received several prestigious awards including the George Warren Fuller Award in 1971 from the AWWA and the Dexter Bracket Memorial Medal in 1956 and 1965 from the NEWWA. At the time of his retirement from M&E, he was registered as a professional engineer in 16 states.

In 1989, he volunteered his services to the Town of Rockport as an engineer to aid in any area of technical need, and was appointed to the Ad Hoc Water Committee. He made a major contribution to the town assisting town officials to provide a complete water program for future years.

He was a licensed amateur radio operator, and a member of the Cape Ann Amateur Radio Club, and the Santa Barbara Radio Club. He was a member of the Sandy Bay Yacht Club in Rockport and a member of the Orthodox Congregational Church in Lanesville.

In 1934, he married Mildred Laing Gibb with whom he had a daughter, Priscilla. After Mildred's death in 1936, he married Evelyn Belle Lawson in 1941. Evelyn died in 1992 after 51 years of marriage.

He moved to Goleta, California in 1994 to live with Priscilla and her husband Stanton Peale, who survive him. Edwin is survived by grandsons, Robert Edwin Peale and his wife Melinda A. Wright of Oviedo, Florida, Douglas Andrew Peale of San Jose; and by great-grandson, Christian Alexander Peale of Oviedo, Florida.

Arrangements: Burial of ashes will be April 28, 2007, at 1 p.m. at Beechbrook Cemetery,

401 Essex Ave., West Gloucester and a memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. at the Lanesville Orthodox Congregational Church, 1120 Washington St., Gloucester. Family and friends are cordially invited to attend. Funeral arrangements are being conducted by the James C. Greely Funeral Home, 212 Washington St., Gloucester.