



JOYCE E. MASON

In 1951 Joyce Mason came as a young bride to Pelham. She fell in love with the town and townspeople and chose to call Pelham home. Here, Joyce and her husband, Bert, raised four wonderful and supportive children - Bruce, Brian, Marlene and Jennifer. These children have blessed Joyce seven more times by producing seven grandchildren.

After staying at home to raise her children, Joyce began working in 1972 as a dispatcher for the Pelham Police Department. For ten years she worked along side Dot Hardy and Glennie Edwards responding to emergency and not so dire phone calls to the police station. Ralph Boutwell was the chief of police when she joined the police staff. When she left ten years later William Collis was serving as chief.

The Honorable J. Albert Lynch asked Joyce in 1982 to replace the retiring Ed Hartz as clerk of the Pelham Municipal Court. Little did she know back then when she accepted the position that she and Judge Lynch would retire from court service in the same year - 1992.

While serving as the clerk of the court she was well known for comforting, clarifying and directing those who were confused or lost in the court system. Many a wayward youth was given an extra bit of "motherly wisdom" about how to avoid trouble or why it was important to pay court fines on time. Joyce never sought recognition or glory beyond the sense of self-satisfaction coming from "just doing the job she got paid for as well as she could." According to current judge, Michael E. Jones, few have performed her tasks with as much understanding, compassion and good will.

Joyce Mason was much more than a dedicated Pelham public servant for the last twenty years. She has been a friend to many of us. Her deeds and achievements as mother, town employee and even supervisor of the voter checklist have left a lasting impression on the town. Pelham is a better place in 1992 all because a young bride in 1951 decided to call this town home.