July 26th 2007

Vicky Radenheimer led Bellevue Vets, had full, active life

When Joe Radenheimer lost his wife and Vicky Murrey lost her husband in the 1980s, they weren't sure if they'd ever find love again.

Then they found each other at the Widows and Widowers Club in Latonia.

"She sat right next to me and she wouldn't say a word to me," said Joe Radenheimer. "There was a woman at the end of table who hollered, 'Vicky, Talk to the man.' So she introduced herself and asked me what my name was."

They talked for a while then shared their first dance. The dance led to a surprise engagement, which led to nearly 17 years of marriage.

Vicky Murrey Radenheimer, of Burlington, died Thursday at the St. Elizabeth Hospice Center in Edgewood following complications from a stroke. She was 83.

A former president of the Southgate Seniors and the Bellevue Vets, Mrs. Radenheimer liked to bowl and loved to shop, especially in Florence.

"The pottery store on Mall Road is sure going to miss her," said Sylvia Jones of Edgewood, Mrs. Radenheimer's youngest daughter. "There were times when she wore me out shopping, and I'm the youngest of five kids. I think a lot of it was for the exercise, but she did buy. There's no doubt about that. If you'd have seen her closet, you'd know."

Joe Radenheimer can attest to that. He said that his wife enjoyed shopping for sweaters and jackets, in addition to her collection of rugs and clown figurines. She also had a wide array of vases.

"You ought to see this house," said Radenheimer. "It's got every kind of vase you can think of. It's beautiful."

Mrs. Radenheimer grew up in Kenton County. She and George Murrey Sr. were married for 43 years and had five children before he died in 1986.

"For about four years after, she stayed home and we couldn't pry her out of the house unless it was to go shopping with us," said Jones. "A friend of hers finally convinced her to go to one of the dances in Latonia."

Joe Radenheimer had to be talked into going to the Widows and Widowers Club as well. He said that after his first wife died, he and his son, Ron, would go bar-hopping until 3 a.m. some nights. His daughter, Barb, told him that he should go to the club in Latonia to meet other people his age.

Radenheimer did, but after his first visit, he told Barb that he didn't like it.

"I said, 'These women drive me crazy, pulling on my shirt and making me dance. I
couldn’t even have a conversation with the guy next to me.' She said, 'You have to go back and settle down.'"

It was on his second visit to the Widows and Widowers Club that Joe met his future wife. They shared a conversation, then a dance, and on Valentine's Day of 1990, Joe proposed.

"We went to a jewelry store in a Boone County and she said, 'What are you coming in here for?' I said, 'There might be something for sale so I want to walk around.' Then I told the girl behind the counter that I wanted the pear ring right in front of me. She said, 'It costs $3,000.' I said, 'I don't care.'"

"When I put it on Vicky, I thought she was going to faint. That was beginning of a very wonderful relationship."

Before she re-married in August of 1990, Mrs. Radenheimer was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a biopsy to remove 12 lymph nodes.

"She came out of there like a dream," said Joe Radenheimer. "She was ready to fight and it never returned to her. She was a hell of a woman."

The Radenheimers enjoyed family outings at the neighborhood swimming pool with some of Mrs. Radenheimer's 17 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren. Jones said that she couldn't have asked for a better step-dad.

When she re-married in August of 1999, she had Joe give her away. "It's rare to find true love once," said Jones. "But to find it twice is even rarer."

Mrs. Radenheimer was also preceded in death by a daughter, Carolyn Reimer, in 1986.

Surviving in addition to her husband and daughter are two other daughters, Kathy Murrey of Florence and Christine Hager of Erlanger; a son, George Murrey Jr.; a stepdaughter, Barb Lemberg of Florence and stepson, Ron Radenheimer of Southgate; 17 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services are set for 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Linnemann Funeral Home, Erlanger. Visitation will be there from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday. Burial will be at Floral Hills Cemetery, Taylor Mill.

Memorials are suggested to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 163549, Columbus, Ohio, 43216-3549, or the American Cancer Society, 297 Buttermilk Pike, Fort Mitchell, Ky. 41017.

Social Security Death Index about Victoria A. Radenheimer

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born:</td>
<td>10 May 1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Benefit:</td>
<td>41018 Erlanger, Kenton, Kentucky, United States of America</td>
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<td>Died:</td>
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