

Newsmaker: *Recalls early days of organization*

Continued from A1

ticles on the preparation for death and his wish for hospice care.

"I read the articles and thought everybody needs the benefits of hospice if they are taking care of somebody with a terminal illness — like I did in the '60s for my mother, Edna Jeffries," said Liddell, who got her nickname from her maiden name.

Jeffries had been the women's page editor of the Intell, and Liddell, as a teenager, was a reporter for the newspaper.

"I took mother home from the hospital on a Sunday. The doctor told me to take her home because she was terminal and only bring her back when she became worse," Liddell said.

"My mother died four days later. I had to find a doctor, nurse, everything that Hospice now does automatically."

After that experience, Lid-

dell said, she understood the importance of hospice care, and she used that knowledge when she took part in Hospice of Lancaster County's planning committee.

"I was involved in the beginning (in 1978)," she said, because committee members were those who were involved in service- or community-oriented organizations.

After college, Liddell worked for the local Lung Association for nine years and then the American Cancer Society, first as a field representative before working her way up to become the Lancaster unit's executive director.

In 1979, Hospice of Lancaster County was incorporated. The committee continued to meet at the Health and Welfare Society and the Lancaster unit of the American Cancer Society, she said.

Hospice of Lancaster County cared for its first patient on March 11, 1980, the

date the organization now recognizes as its anniversary.

Liddell was a member of the first board of directors, which included representatives of family service organizations, hospitals and physicians.

The Rev. Paul Irion was the first board president.

Liddell continued her volunteer work with Hospice until 1986, when she became Hospice's first development director on a part-time basis. The next year, she was hired full time.

She had just retired from the state level of the American Cancer Society as associate crusade director in Hershey when she began as Hospice's development director.

"We were not computer-savvy then," Liddell said, noting she didn't even have a list of people to contact for fundraising.

When Hospice did start becoming computerized, "first they put on patient records,

then financial records and then, finally, fundraising records," she said.

While Liddell was development director, Hospice began its annual Light Up a Life event and Labor Day auction. Liddell stayed on as development director for seven years, retiring at age 68.

"I loved what I was doing but had a new man in my life," she said.

She married that man, James W. Liddell, in 1996. It was a second marriage for both. Her first husband was Dick Reinhold, who had been chief photographer of the Intell.

Between Liddell and her second husband, they have four grown children, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Even after Liddell left Hospice as a staff member, she continued working for the organization as a volunteer.

"I'm totally committed to Hospice. It's one of the

best organizations created to serve the community. I really do believe that," Liddell said.

After her second husband's death in 2001, Liddell committed herself to providing flowers for Essa Flory Hospice Center's lobby and family areas.

Her apple macaroon recipe is included in Hospice's fundraising cookbook.

She also has worked on the recent "Extraordinary" capital campaign for the Mount Joy Hospice Center and the Women's Giving Circle committee.

For her years of volunteer work with Hospice of Lancaster County, Liddell received the 2010 organizational support award from the National Council of Hospice & Palliative Professionals & National Hospice Foundation at its national meeting in Atlanta in September.

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