



Mr Richard George Houdek

November 3, 1934 - December 24, 2015

Richard G. (Dick) Houdek passed away on December 24th at Kimball Farms Nursing Home in Lenox after being ill for about a year and a half. Born in Los Angeles, he lived in Lenox for 35 years but always considered himself to be a Californian.

A graduate of the University of California, Riverside, after military service his newspaper career began and he covered many areas: weatherman on his first newspaper job, music critic for the LA Herald Examiner and writing regularly for the LA Times. He also began doing public relations for arts organizations, including the LA Philharmonic, UCLA Fine Arts Productions, California Institute of the Arts and the San Francisco Opera, where, in 1972, he met Peggy Dunlap, the opera's fund raising director. They were married two years later.

In 1980, they decided on a new adventure and came to Lenox to open a bed and breakfast, Walker House Inn, which they ran for 34 years. While in Lenox, Dick was active on many committees and continued to write, first as a columnist for the Advocate and a regular contributor to the Berkshire Eagle. He covered many different fields of music and theatre, dance, opera, classical, jazz and just about anything he was assigned. For 14 years, he was Arts Editor for HomeStyle Magazine where he wrote monthly about performances and the fine arts. His final articles appeared in the December 2015 issue of

HomeStyle,

Dick will be remembered for his strong sense of humor and his passion for many causes, including politics, music, art, film, theatre, and fair and equal rights for all.

He is survived by his sister, Nancy Jean Ivens of Hemet, CA, his wife Peggy of Pittsfield and four loving cats.

There will be no service, but a party of celebration of Dick will be held in the spring or early summer when the weather is warm as he loved it to be. In lieu of flowers, contributions to any of our local arts organization would be appreciated.