



# *Columbia Association of Puppeteers*

## *July, 2005 Newsletter*



*Our July Meeting will be Thursday July 21st,  
at 7:00 p.m. at Steve & Marty's House & Shop  
906 SE Umatilla St, Portland, OR. It will be a tribute to  
Esther Heydt, who passed away on July 4, 2005*



Esther Heydt passed away early in the morning of July 4th, 2005. Esther was born on December 26, 1912, in New Rochelle, New York. She grew up in Stamford, Connecticut, and started getting interested in puppetry in her 20's with mostly casual interest in puppetry through her 30's

She began active performing and teaching in the 1950's, working Easter Break with teens on a show about Peter Rabbit. She worked with girl scout troops through the 1950's & 1960's.

In 1960, at the ripe old age of 48, she started college, which culminated in a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre in 1972. Whenever she could, she incorporated puppets in her school projects. She also lectured her fellow theatre students in puppetry (for Pay!!!) at San Diego State University. It was at SDSU that she learned to use POWER TOOLS!!!

In 1965, she assisted in opening the Puppet Theatre in Balboa Park to the general membership of the San Diego Puppetry Guild.

She built "Goldilocks and the Three Polar Bears" and "The Rainmaker" for summer shows in Balboa Park.

She also did a version of Bill Baird's "The Magic Onion" for the Balboa Summer Park Season, as well as "Chain of Command", which was sort of like The Secret of NAMH.

She specialized in revues, for they were simpler to transport, including a fruitcake revue, and several of her egg puppets were completed at this time as well as "Miss Vanilla". She also built her show "Make Way for Ducklings"

She lived in Chula Vista, California for 26 years between the years of 1964 and 1990. She spent the remaining years of her life in Portland, Oregon, and had been a CAP member for most of those years.

In Portland, Esther met Pearl Atchison, a teddy bear collector and started one of her favorite activities. converting teddy bears to puppets.

She continued to teach throughout her life. She helped Bill Stout and DeeDee Nugent prepare for Dragonmaker Productions appearance at the "Wonderful World of Puppets" at OMSI. She helped Kathleen Cline prepare for a preschool puppet show in 2004.

In her last ten days, she was teaching the nursing home staff how to operate puppets.

Her last show was as director on July 1, 2005, when her daughter Andrea operated July, one of Esther's Egg puppets, for the 4th of July Barbeque at the West Hills Convalescent Home. Esther, you will always be remembered and missed.

**CAP is the Puppeteers of America Guild proudly serving Oregon & Southwestern Washington**

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