



Mikey Pittendrigh died August 7, 2008 in Bozeman, Montana. Born Margaret Dorothy Eitelbach in Woodcliff, New Jersey, February 13, 1918, to Louis and Dorothy Eitelbach, she grew up in Cliffside Park New Jersey. Mikey was one of two children; her older brother was Howard Eitelbach. She attended public schools, and as a child was recognized for her singing talents. In college she majored in Art History at Barnard College, N.Y.C., graduating in the class of 1940. Having worked for a short time at a newspaper, she married Colin S. Pittendrigh, biologist, from Whitley Bay, England. They moved directly to Trinidad, B.W.I, and lived in the rain forest, where Colin was working on malaria control as part of the war effort, returning in 1945.

In addition to having a great appreciation for all the arts, Mikey had a great love for the peace and beauty of the wilderness, and one of her goal's in life was to live very near to it. Another was to travel, and she reached many destinations in Europe, South America, Japan, the United States and Alaska. Also defining of her personality was her deep compassion and concern for the weak and the less fortunate. She did volunteer work teaching English in the women's prison in Clinton New Jersey; in California she did tutoring for a short time at the Milpitis Correctional Facility. She belonged to the Southern Poverty Law Association, which in general fights intolerance and prejudice, and to the People for the American Way, which has similar goals in addition to fighting extremism of all kinds. Her culinary talents became well-known where ever her husband's career took them, including 22 years at Princeton University in New Jersey, and 15 years in Palo Alto and on the Monterey Peninsula in conjunction with Stanford's main campus and with its Hopkins Marine Biology Station. In 1984 she and Colin retired to Bozeman, where their son's family had moved in 1975. Mikey was a loving and supporting wife and mother. Her supreme gentleness, patience, loyalty and dedication were appreciated by all her immediate family. Her husband, one of the first and most pre-eminent scientists to define the field of biological clocks, or circadian rhythms, preceded her in death in March, 1996.

She is survived by her daughter, Robin Pittendrigh Rourk, high school teacher and artist, and her grandson, Nicholas Rourk both of Louisville, Colorado and by her son, Sandy (Colin Stephenson Pittendrigh), computer programmer, and lifelong fisherman, his wife Adele Pittendrigh, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences, M. S. U., and her granddaughter, Nadya Pittendrigh of Chicago.

A celebration of Mikey's life will be held by family and close friends on the Beartooth at a future date.

Special thanks go to the Bozeman Hospice and the staff at Spring Meadows.

Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service