



Jeannette Mae Saxton Coon, of Lahaina, Maui HI, matriarch of the Sailing Coon Family and Trilogy Excursions, passed away on December 8, 2011 at Maui Memorial Hospital at the age of 92. Jeannette's death was due to natural causes.

Jeannette was born in Boise, Idaho on June 14, 1919, to Claude and Celesta Saxton, a high school principal and a nurse, respectively. Jeannette spent her childhood and youth in Boise, Idaho. In 1938, after graduating from Boise High and attending two years at Walla Walla College, Jeannette married Capt. Eldon J. Coon.

The early years of their married life were spent living on Eldon's sailing/fishing boat in the summers and in Wenatchee & Port Townsend in the winters where they operated portrait studios.

Within a few years, Jeannette and Eldon moved further north to southeastern Alaska where they lived in Sitka and Petersburg, and eventually put down roots in the town of Ketchikan.

Jeannette and Eldon maintained a professional photography studio in Ketchikan for many years. Jeannette used her exceptional artistic abilities to "color-tint" the thousands of black and white pictures that Eldon took. Jeannette and Eldon also operated one of the first "eco-tourism" charter businesses in southeastern Alaska with the vessel Manana II.

In 1959, Jeannette returned to Walla Wall College and completed 2 years of schooling in one year, graduating cum laude with her BA degree. From 1960-1969, Jeannette was the girls counselor at Kay-Hi, high school in Ketchikan. Jeannette returned to school and obtained her master's degree in counseling in 1964 from the University of Florida, once again graduating summa cum laude, and then returning to Ketchikan and her counseling position until 1969.

Following a shipwreck in 1969 that destroyed both the Manana II and their charter business, the Coon family moved to Seattle, Washington, where Jeannette worked as a counselor for the State of Washington while Eldon and his sons Jim and Randy, built a 50 foot sailboat that they christened Trilogy.

In 1971, Jeannette, along with her husband Eldon, sons Jim & Randy, daughter Pattie & cousin Carole Saxton, embarked on a sailing adventure that would take them from the Pacific Northwest, down the coast of Mexico, Central and South America, over to the Galapagos Islands and the Marquesas islands in the South Pacific. The Coon family arrived in Hilo, Hawaii in December of 1972. In May of 1973, Jeannette and her family arrived in Lahaina on the island of Maui.

In June of 1973, Jeannette and the rest of the family began their fledgling charter business called Trilogy Excursions. Jeannette prepared all of the food, took all of the reservations and handled the books for the company. Jeannette started making her signature homemade cinnamon rolls for Trilogy, as well as her famous salad dressing, a tradition that has been carried on by the company to this day. Jeannette remained active in the day to day operations of Trilogy Excursions, until she retired in the mid 1980's.

All of her life, Jeannette was an accomplished artist. Her paintings of scenes around Maui are owned and treasured by people all over the world. Jeannette was also a much published writer and poet. Her poems have appeared in numerous magazines and publications. Jeannette chronicled the adventures of the family in her book "Trilogy, a Family Voyage of Faith" published in 1997.

Jeannette loved music and singing, and made sure to instill that love of music in her children. Many people however, would probably think of Jeannette in conjunction with her great wit and boisterous laughter. No one enjoyed a good joke, pun, or turn of phrase more than Jeannette.

Jeannette will also be remembered for her Solomon-like wisdom. Many, who knew her well, sought out her advice as they tried to sort out the issues of life. Jeannette had a great ability to extract the truly important issues out of the unimportant and help others to see things more clearly.

Most of all, Jeannette had an unwavering faith in God. Jeannette shared the love of her Savior with others in both word and action. Jeannette was a member of the Lahaina Seventh-day Adventist church and loved her church family dearly. For the past year and a half, Jeannette was lovingly cared for by her live-in caregiver Laurita Medley.

Jeannette was preceded in death by her husband Capt. Eldon Coon who passed away in 1982 and her sister Francis Lawrence who passed away in 2009. Jeannette is survived by two living siblings, her sister Marilyn Jones of San Francisco, CA, her brother Walter Saxton, of Vancouver, B.C. Jeannette is also survived by her 3 children, Jim (Lynn) Coon of Kula, Maui, Randy (Pam) Coon, of Kula, Maui, Pattie (John) Speer, Wichita, KS. Jeannette is survived by 11 grandchildren, Jennifer (Alex) Stasny, Jesse Landreth, Jolene (Jim) Vossen, Lily (Kenny) Campbell, Mei Li Coon, Ginger Coon, LiAnne Coon, Denver Coon, Riley Coon, Katie (Danny) Back and Bill Speer. She is also survived by 8 great grandchildren, Jady Vossen, Kaili Vossen, Annejolie Stasny, Caleb Back, Allize Stasny, Jack Campbell, Cooper Back and Winston Campbell.

Services celebrating her life will be held at the Lahaina Seventh day Adventist Church on Saturday, January 7th, at 3:00 PM. There will be a scattering of ashes off of Lahaina Roadstead, immediately after the service.

*Any memorials or donations may be sent to "The benevolence fund" of the Lahaina*

*Seventh-day Adventist church 655 Wainee St, Lahaina, HI, 96761*

