

IN MEMORIAM PADDY WEBB-HEARSEY

Paddy Webb-Hearsey, teacher, poet, novelist, and humanist, died suddenly August 17, at the age of 70, while visiting a friend in Scotland. For the past 25 years, Professor Webb-Hearsey taught drama and theatre at the Faculty of Education, McGill University. She was an exceptional teacher and had a profound effect upon her students. She had special gifts of imagination and insight as well as knowledge and skills to provoke and stimulate the curiosity and thirst for learning.

While at McGill, Prof. Webb-Hearsey became known for exploring the place of drama in education. She spent 1982-83 as a visiting professor of education and theatre at the Melbourne College of Advanced Education in Australia. In addition to her regular duties at McGill, she directed numerous student productions, judged poetry competitions and did public readings, wrote scenarios in collaboration with Prof. George Mager for many public performances in ballet, and did poetry readings of her own poetry.

Among Prof. Webb-Hearsey's publications, all of them under the name Paddy Webb, were four books of her poetry, *Between Two Fires* (1971), *Children and Milkweed* (1978), *Rough Passage* (1985), and *Woman Listening* (1991); at least eight anthologies of poetry; and numerous individual poems and reviews in newspapers, periodicals, journals, and magazines. Her most recent book, *Woman Listening*, was described in *The Gazette* (Montreal) as showing "a keen lyrical gift, a rich attentiveness to language and an honesty about troubled feelings". Plans are being made to publish posthumously a new volume of her poetry which seems to reflect some of her feelings about her illness. Several of her poems were published in the *McGill Journal of Education*.

Prof. Webb-Hearsey was a person of boundless energy and enthusiasm. She founded the Lunchtime Theatre at the Faculty of Education and brought it to success. She became also known as an effective and erudite defender of human rights.

She was born Edna Patricia Andrews in England and received her formal education in London and Montreal. She went to live in Rye, on the Isle of Wight, after retiring from McGill in 1987.

A funeral service was held for her in London and a Memorial Gathering was held at the McGill Faculty of Education on October 28. She is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Eva Russell