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**COMMUNITY REMEMBERS 'NEIGHBOR BETTY'**

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ANTRIM TOWNSHIP - Byron Breese had known Betty Jane Dehart for 30 years and he remembers well the last talk they had.

Breese, who lives at 15313 N. Young Road near Dehart's home, had been in the hospital when Dehart called last Thursday to check up on him.

When he told her how he was doing, she wished him well and said she was going out to mow her lawn. She was a small woman, but she did her own yard work, Breese said.

On Monday, Breese and his family received the horrifying news that 81-year-old Dehart was found dead in her home Monday afternoon from a gunshot wound.

"We were all in shock," said Lori Breese, Byron's daughter-in-law said.

Paul Devoe, 43, a suspect in Dehart's slaying and the killings of five others in Texas, was arrested by U.S. Marshals in New York state Monday. They found Dehart's car at the residence where Devoe was apprehended.

"She was a very good and wonderful person," Byron said.

On Tuesday, Lori and Byron shared a few memories of the woman fondly known as "Neighbor Betty."

According to the Breeses, those who knew Dehart would agree that she was a person who sincerely cared about other people. When she assisted someone in need, she was not the type to seek attention.

It's regrettable, they said, that her kindness was brought to an end by a killer's bullet.

"I knew her when I was a little girl," said Sue Eckstine, Greencastle. "I played with her children. She was a nice lady."

**Monday evening**

Lori Breese said she knew something was wrong.

It was around dinner time Monday when her 10-year-old daughter saw a long line of police cars and an ambulance along North Young Road. Lori Breese walked outside to see what was happening.

She approached a Pennsylvania State Trooper and asked about "Neighbor Betty."

"Is she OK?"

"No, ma'am. She's not."

The trooper assured Lori Breese that neither she nor her family were in danger. He said the ambulance was called for one of Dehart's daughters who was having breathing problems, Lori said.

Later on while speaking to her sister, Lori Breese said she knew something bad had happened.

Her sister asked: "You think it was of natural causes?"

"Our little road never gets this busy," she said. "If you saw the cars here, you'd know it's not something of 'natural causes.'"

**Family reaction**

The news of the tragedy has rocked the normally quiet community and left the family of Dehart in turmoil, according to Jim Chilcoat, Dehart's son-in-law.

"The family is devastated," he said from his Greencastle home. "Both daughters are taking it hard. We're trying to handle everything the best we can."

Chilcoat also voiced concern about Dehart's son in Arizona, and how he would receive the news about his mother's death.

The son was scheduled to arrive in Greencastle sometime today.

Noting there are no easy answers about the case, Chilcoat said Dehart would have given the man her car if asked. There was no need to shoot her, he said.

"This was a senseless act of violence," he said.

Chilcoat said that since the news of the tragedy first broke, his family has been inundated with requests by the media. He dismissed a media report that claimed Dehart was a surviving cancer patient. "That wasn't true," he said.

Other people throughout the community have shown support and offered prayers and condolences to the family.

"Our hearts go to the friends and people who have offered to help us," he said. "We appreciate their thoughts and their prayers."

One of Chilcoat's cherished memories is the day that he and his wife, Cindy, purchased the 2006 Honda Elantra for his mother-in-law. It was a Mother's Day gift and something they also did for his mother.

On March 16, 2006, Chilcoat and his wife took their mothers to the car dealership and surprised them with the new cars.

**Type of person**

Dehart lived in a modest mobile home at 15349 N. Young Road in Antrim Township. The home is near Hykes Road and Interstate 81 in a wooded, secluded area.

The 81-year-old has been described as a religious person who stood about 4 feet 11 inches and weighed 92 pounds. While she didn't frequent any local churches, according to family members, she did pray and listen to religious music.

"She was very quiet and stayed to herself," Chilcoat said. "She was the type who took no credit to herself. Instead, she lived for the joy she saw in her children's lives."

She raised her three children mostly on her own while working at the knitting mill in Waynesboro.

In fact, it was because of her years at the mill that she became an early riser, according to neighbor Byron Breese.

"She used to get up early every morning," he recalled.

When he asked her why, she laughed and blamed it on the mill. "I got in the habit of getting up early and I continued doing it that way," she said to him. Byron said. Dehart was not just a neighbor; she was more like family. Her generosity could be seen by everyone who knew her, he said.

"She would do anything for you and never ask for anything in return," he said.

Byron said he and his family probably knew Dehart as well as, or better than, anyone in the area did. Besides talking to her on a regular basis, they also knew her children.

"Her daughters would always check on her," he said. "One would faithfully call every day when she got off work. Her daughter, Cindy, would take her to breakfast every Saturday morning."

**Seen with daughters**

Michele Anderson of 15155 N. Young Road said that while she often saw Dehart outside with her daughters, she did not know her personally. Anderson and her boyfriend, Craig Carbaugh, have lived at their present location since June.

Anderson, like others in the community, said she was shocked about the murder.

"Why did he have to shoot her?" she said. "She was small and petite ... Her daughters always came back there to check on her."

Anderson's boyfriend, Carbaugh, knew the woman quite well, she said, as she recalled a light-hearted moment with Dehart.

"My boyfriend works on mobile homes. She had turkeys in her back yard and she was calling them pheasants."

According to Anderson, Dehart may have had poor vision and couldn't clearly identify the birds.

"My boyfriend told her they were turkeys," she said.

The killing has sparked fear among some of the neighbors. Anderson said she now keeps her doors locked.

Since the homes along North Young Road are only a short distance from I-81, the residents often hear traffic noise. In some cases, it would be hard to distinguish the sound of a gunshot from a truck tire being blown, Anderson said.

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