



Dennis A. Fisher

Dennis A. Fisher, 64, former sports editor and columnist for the Lancaster New Era, passed away on Tuesday evening, November 18, at his home in Mount Joy. Despite his diagnosis of brain cancer in July 2007, Dennis spent a remarkable year traveling and enjoying the company of family and friends. He was married to Suzanne Hacker Fisher for 34 years.

Born in Philadelphia, Dennis was the son of the late Mervin D. and Inez Fisher. He graduated from Upper Darby High School, Peirce Business School, and Temple University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in radio/television/film in 1970. At Temple he wrote a column called "Den's Pen" for the Temple News and worked as a radio broadcaster for Temple

basketball and football games.

After graduation he got a job as a sports writer for the Lancaster New Era, where he would spend his entire career. For 14 years his byline appeared nearly every day. In 1984 he stepped into the role of sports editor. He was still a presence in print, however, as a columnist, interviewing sports celebrities and commenting, almost invariably with humor, on the local sports scene. His insight leavened with wit won him a first place Keystone Press Award for Outdoor/ Sports Columnist in 2004. After his retirement in 2006 he continued to write bi-weekly sports columns for the New Era as well as travel stories for the Sunday News. Every June he and his wife Sue set off on adventures throughout Europe and North America. His stories took readers from the snow-capped peaks of the Jungfrau - one of his favorite places on earth - to the canals of Venice to the vineyards of Alsace to the foothills of Alaska's Denali and back to Maine and its ubiquitous moose. He also was an accomplished photographer, whose travel pictures frequently bested those of fellow LNP employees in the annual in-house vacation photo contest.

Even when Dennis was a child, his singing talents took him to a variety of Philadelphia churches and to local Army bases, where he performed with the USO. As an adult, he was a featured soloist at Hope United Methodist Church in Ephrata, where he is a member. He also served on the church's Lay Care Advisory Board.

A long-time golfer, Dennis had looked forward to spending a large portion of his retirement on the links, as well as tending to his beloved cats. Illness, however, intervened in those plans. He was able, though, to live an extraordinarily full final year, thanks to his vast and supportive network of family and friends and the superb care of the doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, his local physicians at Oyster Point, the caring nurses at Extended Family Care, and, in his final hours, the team at Hospice.

He will be dearly missed by family and friends who remember his sense of humor, his zeal for life, and his undying notion that everyone needs a good laugh.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sister Lana, wife of Richard Sutton, West Chester; a nephew Steven, husband of Colette Sutton, Bryn Mawr; a niece Bethany, wife of Randy Hechinger, West Chester; two great-nieces, Kylie and Sophie Hechinger, West Chester; and a sister-in-law, Kathy Hacker, wife of Jack Tinney, Wynnewood.

A memorial service celebrating his life and his music will be held Saturday, November 22, at 11:00 a.m. at Hope United Methodist Church, 3474 Rothsville Road, Ephrata. The family will receive friends briefly at 10:00 prior to the service, but all are invited to remain after the service for lunch and fellowship time and a chance to swap stories about a time Dennis made them laugh. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Dennis' memory to Hope United Methodist Church, 3474 Rothsville Road, Ephrata, PA 17522, or to the Humane League of Lancaster County, 2195 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Arrangements are being handled by Founds Funeral Home, West Chester.