

THELMA B. {KENNEDY} & WALTER J. MACMILLAN

PETOSKEY, EMMET COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Thelma B. {Kennedy} & Walter J. MacMillan
 Extracted from Find-a-Grave



MacMillan
 Founder and Director
 Camp Daggett
 1925 - 1954

Walter J. Thelma B.
 1893-1978 1897-1984

Extracted from Find-a-Grave

Thelma B. MacMillan, 87

Funeral services for Thelma B. MacMillan, 87, of Petoskey, will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 13, at the United Methodist Church, Petoskey. The Rev. Donald Merrill will officiate and burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery.

Mrs. MacMillan died July 10, 1984, at Little Traverse Division of Northern Michigan Hospitals.

The former Thelma B. Kennedy was born Feb. 1, 1887, in Clinton, Ill., the daughter of Alphonse and Addie Kennedy. She moved to Michigan with her family as a young girl and attended Grand Rapids schools, graduating from Central High School in 1915.

On June 21, 1921, she married Walter MacMillan in Grand Rapids. The couple moved to Petoskey where Mr. MacMillan taught school for many years and was active in the

Camp Daggett program. Her husband preceded her in death Nov. 5, 1978.

Mrs. MacMillan was a member of the United Methodist Church in Petoskey and was active in the Co-Workers Club and in the church circles. She was also a member of the Petoskey Readers Club.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. John (Barbara) Post and Mrs. Byron (Jean) Bradley, both of Lansing; six grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; one sister, Mrs. Lillian Sauerman of Grand Rapids.

The family suggests memorials to the United Methodist Church Memorial Fund or Camp Daggett. Envelopes for those purposes are available at the Stone Funeral Home where the family will receive friends from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, July 12.

They Came for 2 Years, But Remained for 49

It was June of 1921 and Walter MacMillan was wondering where he could take his forthcoming bride, Thelma B. Kennedy, for a honeymoon.

He had spent some time at the HayoWentHa Camp on Torch Lake, was familiar with this part of the country and since he loved it in this northern section of Michigan, he hoped his bride would enjoy the area also.

After their wedding on June 21 at South Congregational Church in Grand Rapids, the newly married couple came north and spent some days on Mackinac Island, then in Harbor Springs and finally in Petoskey.

Needless to say, the new Mrs. MacMillan liked it here too.

When the call came for Mr. MacMillan to return to Petoskey as physical education director for the Petoskey Public School System, they both thought it would be wonderful to give a couple of years of their married life to this part of Michigan. Little did they realize they would spend 49 years in Petoskey and Mr. MacMillan would develop and serve as

director of Camp Daggett from 1925 until 1954.

Mr. MacMillan developed a full time physical education department in the school system in Petoskey. He was coach of golf and tennis and was assistant coach under John Hess in the early years.

Then he organized a year round program for boys outside of school hours which included a church league of basketball and track teams, soft ball and summer play ground activities.

Around 1923 until 1929 he organized swimming classes at Round Lake and remembers, "You couldn't count the number of boys who learned to swim there under this program. You know, you can't give swimming lessons in the big lake."

Then he helped to start the industrial league in basketball in 1922 and sponsored the junior and senior Hi-Y program in 1922. He remembered that Don Quade helped him from 1945 and he believes that this Hi-Y program lasted the longest time of any in the state. Unfortunately it has been discontinued.

He also developed boy's conferences in the early days and sent some youths down state to Y conferences. He helped to send boys to the HayoWent Ha Camp at Torch Lake. This was an officers training camp for Hi-Y boys.

Then he organized physical education exhibitions for the grade and high schools. They put on regular shows demonstrating all the skills they had learned and the gym was packed with friends and relatives he remembers.

"Camping was a big part of my mission to Petoskey" he recalls. "From 1923 until 1954 it was a wonderful privilege to develop and direct Camp Daggett, held on the present site since 1925. Wonderful people helped build the project, loved by so many" he continues.

He also appreciated that, "The camp could not have been built, or maintained through these years without the help of the wonderful people in this area."

What has Mrs. MacMillan been doing these 50 years of marriage?

Well, she has raised their daughters, Mrs. John (Barbara) Post and Mrs. Byron (Jean) Bradley. She has been active in church work, is a member of the Readers Club and Lockwood-MacDonald Hospital Auxiliary and was a camp mother at Camp Daggett for many years. She recalls cooking and living at the camp in the beginning when the facilities were most primitive and she loved every minute.

Mr. MacMillan is a past member of the Kiwanis and Rotary and former director of the Bay View Recreational Program and a member of the Big Brothers Organization. He is a life member of the Durand Lodge No. 344 F. and A.M.; Ivanhoe Commandery No. 36, Knights Templar and the Petoskey R.A.M. He spent 37 years as a teacher, before retirement and at the close of his tenure, taught ninth grade civics, seventh grade early history and general science for a couple of years.

Mr. MacMillan spent some time during World War I with the United States Army which interrupted his education, but he received his B.S. from Eastern Michigan University in 1931.

The MacMillans also have six grandchildren.

So that all their friends may join them in celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, the MacMillans will have an 'open house' on Sunday, June 20 from 2-5 p.m. in the United Methodist Church lounge. Everyone is welcome to visit at this time and share their reminiscings of these past 49 years in Petoskey.



Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. MacMillan