

# The Owen



*A publication of information  
about life's difficult subjects*

## Family Newsletter

Winter Issue, 2016 \* Volume 19, Issue 1

From Our Family to Yours

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**Family Owned & Operated**  
**Sincere Service Is Our Way of Life**

### Owen Funeral Homes

5317 Dixie Highway  
502-447-2600  
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9318 Taylorsville Road  
502-266-9655  
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The Owen Family Newsletter is published by the Owen Funeral Home. We invite your comments or questions. Please direct all correspondence to the Owen Family.

Email: [info@owenfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@owenfuneralhome.com)

Email addresses are not retained by Owen.

Join us on



### Remembering Edith

#### *Edith Eleanor Roberts Owen*

*December 15, 1917 - November 27, 2015*

How do you sum up a life that was just two weeks shy of 98 years? The truth is, you can't. But, here are a few things that you may or may not know about this very special woman.

Edith Eleanor Roberts was born in Bethlehem, KY to Garnett and Anna Gertrude Roberts. Edith lost her beloved father when she was just 12 years old. She met a young Bird S. Owen, Jr. in her hometown while he was serving an apprenticeship to become a funeral director. They married and moved to Louisville where they opened their first funeral home on Virginia Avenue on August 27, 1939.



Music was an important part of Edith's life from the very beginning. She had a God-given talent and the ability to hear a song and then play it. Edith was the organist and singer for Owen Funeral Home for more than 75 years.

She was the owner and Chairman Emeritus of the Owen Funeral Home where she was also a funeral director. She was a co-owner of Highlands Family Owned Funeral Home.

Edith not only served the families at the funeral home, she served her community. She was president for several years of the WMU at the former Virginia Avenue Baptist Church and the Audubon Baptist Church. She was past president of the Ladies Auxiliary of Funeral

Directors Association of KY. She was on the boards of the Ladies Auxiliary of Southern Baptist Seminary, the Audubon Park Garden Club and Jubilee Housing (Georgetown Circle). She was a member of Eastern Star, Bright Star Chapter #16, Fall City Funeral Directors Association, Audubon Country Club and Audubon Baptist Church where she was the first woman deacon.

But, there is **so much more...**

**Edith Owen was a pioneer in the funeral industry.** She worked alongside her husband, Bird, from the opening day of the first funeral home until his death in 1987. She continued to serve the community working alongside their family, daughter Linda and son David, until health issues in recent years caused her to slow down a bit. Edith recalled that when the first funeral home opened, they waited for two months before serving their first family, but from that point until today, their commitment to “sincere service” built one of the most respected funeral homes in Kentucky.



Virginia Avenue Location



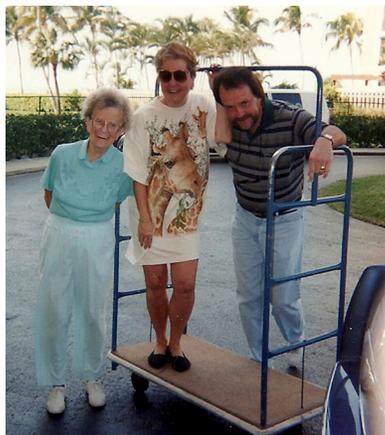
Bird and Edith doing yard work.

No job was too big or too small for the family to tackle. Edith, and her mother Anna Roberts, cleaned the funeral home from top to bottom. She remembered it was 15 years before the family could take a vacation. “Funeral service is a seven days a week/24 hour day business,” she often recalled. When she became a funeral director, in the United States less than five percent were women. That didn’t deter her. Although historically women have been the nurturing caregivers of the family, becoming licensed and earning their respective titles wasn’t an easy task. Years of dedication and education went into the professional women in the industry today. Edith was at the helm.

**Edith Owen was a Mother and Grandmother,** dedicated to her family. She and Bird were blessed with two children, Linda and David, who continue the family owned and operated funeral homes today. Her daughter Linda, daughter-in-law Pam and her granddaughter, Rachel are following in her footsteps and are also funeral directors. Edith set an example and lived by the philosophy that the funeral industry might



Rachel, Pam, Linda, David and Edith



Edith, Linda and David at her condo on Marco Island, FL

change, but the way in which you treat the families you serve does not. But aside from the impact her professional life had on her family, they are quick to tell you a story or a memory of how she made them laugh. She was plain spoken. She was always up for a good time and ready to join in the fun. Many of the photos on display at her service were of Edith, head thrown back, mouth wide open in the midst of laughter.

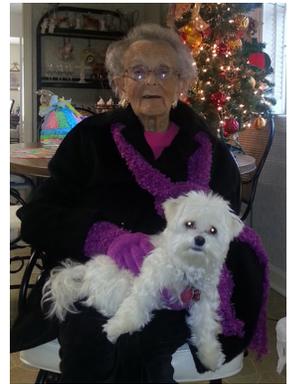


Edith and Mary sharing a lighthearted moment.



**Edith Owen was a pet owner.** A very important member of her family was her beloved Sammy Hawky. He provided her with complete devotion and filled many hours with snuggles and kisses.

Edith and her beloved Sammy



**Edith Owen had a lead foot!** She loved to drive - FAST. As a number of ministers eulogized Edith, story after lighthearted story was told of their experiences riding with Edith at the wheel. She may have been looking to add another title to her name. The Owen family sponsored race cars and drivers for several years. During that time, they won several championships and received a number of awards.



**Edith Owen was an avid gardener and lover of flowers.**

Finding her on her hands and knees, digging in the dirt, loving every minute of it, was a common occurrence. Both her personal home and the funeral home have won awards for Beautification of the Community.



**Edith Owen was a community leader.** She worked side by side with her husband, Bird, building their business while she raised her children, provided music for thousands of funeral services and worked tirelessly for her beloved church.

Her generosity of time and energy was widely known in the community. Again, those who eulogized her also told of her generosity of spirit. Edith had a way of leveling the situation and making everyone involved feel her compassion and willingness to help. Everyone who came into her life was likely to be taken under her wing and made an honorary member of the family.



Linda, Edith and David receiving the Pursuit of Excellence Award



Linda and Edith receiving an Award

Edith's generosity also extended to financially funding many causes. She and Bird donated a wing to a local medical facility.

Edith donated custom designed stainglass windows to her beloved Audubon Baptist Church.

The majority of her adult life was spent working in the "business of dying." But, for nearly 98 years, Edith Eleanor Roberts Owen taught us "How to Live." Rest in Peace, dear lady.



# Owen FUNERAL HOMES

## FOUNDING FAMILY

Bird S. Owen Jr. (1911-1987)  
Edith R. Owen (1917 - 2015)  
Linda Owen  
David L. Owen

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS DIXIE HIGHWAY

Mark McNeil, Manager  
Philip R. Simpson  
Glenn Bennett  
Michael L. Burns  
William B. Longest  
Shannon Mazur  
Yvonne M. Nantz  
Jackie Pugh

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Kenneth W. Hardin, Sr., Asst. Manager  
Rachel Barr  
Pamela H. Owen  
Ben Washam

## PRE-NEED SERVICES

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Jim Booher

## OWEN MONUMENT COMPANY

Gary Thomas, Manager

An Owner of

Highlands Funeral Home

3331 Taylorsville Road \* Louisville, KY 40205 \* 502-451-4420

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## Neighborhood News

### Grief Support Groups

*Provided by Owen Funeral Homes as a Free Public Service*

#### ***“Transitions”***

Group for Bereaved Persons & Families  
in their first few months of grief  
Location and times assigned quarterly

#### ***“Now and Beyond”***

Group for Spousal Loss  
Every 3rd Friday, 2:00 p.m.  
Southwest Regional Library (NEW Location)  
Every 3rd Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.  
Owen Funeral Home, Jeffersontown

#### ***Monthly Spousal Loss Luncheon***

Every 1st Friday, 2:00 p.m.  
Golden Corral Restaurant, 5362 Dixie Highway

**For Information: Please call Genene Nisbet,  
Bereavement Services Specialist at 447-7759.**

#### ***“A Parent’s Grief”***

1st and 3rd Monday, at 6:30 p.m.  
Hillview Baptist Church

#### ***Monthly Men’s Breakfast***

Every 3rd Monday, at 9:00 a.m.  
Frisch’s Restaurant  
7401 Dixie Highway

From Our Kitchen  
To Yours  
by Edith Owen

### Ring-A-Ling Punch



1 ½ cans frozen lemonade  
2 cups sugar  
2 64 oz. cranapple juice  
1 gallon of water  
1 2-liter bottle ginger ale per bowl

Stir ingredients into a large  
punch bowl – taste for more  
sugar or water.

This punch is an Owen family  
tradition. With each drink  
we hope you are filled with  
sweet memories.

***You Are Always Welcome -***

Owen Funeral Home staff welcomes the opportunity to show you around either of our facilities and to answer any questions you might have. Call the office or stop by.