

Athelyn Doris Hale maintained active volunteer, church schedule

By **MARTIN E. COMAS**

SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Athelyn Doris Hale was not about to take it easy after her husband retired and the couple moved to Volusia County in 1970.

Almost immediately, she became involved in her community, and the list of things she did was seemingly endless.

Hale was a hospital volunteer, a Red Cross volunteer, a library volunteer, a retirement home volunteer, a writer for several community newspapers, an impressive shuffleboard player, a church choir singer and a member of several church and community organizations.

She also enjoyed traveling, playing cards, cooking, taking pictures and knitting mittens for relatives in New England.

Hale, a homemaker and DeLand resident, died Thursday. She was 86.

"They were retired, and she took advantage of all the time she had," her daughter, Doris Athelyn Hale, said. "She was very fortunate that she had her good health for many years."

Born and raised in New London, N.H., Athelyn Hale attended Colby Junior College for Women and later Northampton Commercial College.

In 1937, she married Floyd Hale. It was a marriage that lasted more than 66 years. He died last January.

"They made quite a team together," her daughter said.

She worked part-time briefly for the U.S. Postal Service on a rural route delivery.

After her husband retired from the Postal Service, the couple moved to Lake Helen. They soon became active shuffleboard players, playing in tournaments throughout the state.

She was an officer and member of the Lake Helen, Orange City and Edgewater Shuffleboard Clubs.

Hale even reported on tournaments for several community newspapers, including the *DeLand Beacon* and the *Daytona Beach News Journal*.

As a member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Lake Helen, she sang in the choir, was president of the Women's Fellowship

group and belonged to several committees.

She was also vice president of the Southwest Volusia Writers Club and a 62-year member of the Eastern Star Association.

But being active in her community wasn't limited to Volusia County. In New Hampshire, she taught Sunday school, sang in the church choir and worked on several committees as a member of the First Baptist Church of Claremont.

She also was a Girl Scout leader and Red Cross volunteer.

Hale is also survived by sons Robert Ramon Hale, Richmond, Va., Alan Donald Hale, Chapin, S.C., David Burt Hale, Hooksett, N.H.; daughter, Margaret Pearl Moore, Prescott Valley, Ariz.; brother, Donald T. Gay, Fort Myers; sister, Kathleen E. Moran, Lake Helen; 18 grandchildren; and 31 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are being handled by Carpenter-Curry Funeral Home, DeLand.

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