



Editor was passionate about Roland Park

By Nick Gestido and
Larry Perl

Posted 7/30/08

Longtime Roland Park resident John Meredith Bond, who fought hard to preserve the community he loved from development, died at Gilchrist Hospice, in Towson, on July 19. He was 90.

Bond grew up in Ruxton and moved to Roland Park in 1926. He and his late wife, Agness Fulton Bond, who died earlier this year, lived in Roland Park until 1997. They moved to Timonium because it was the only place in the Baltimore area where they could find a suitable rancher without stairs, said their daughter, Elizabeth Cockey, who now lives there.

The couple moved back to this area eight years later, to live in the Roland Park Place retirement community.

Bond, a graduate of Roland Park Elementary School and the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, took two years worth of night school courses at Loyola College before enlisting in the Army during World War II.

He later joined his brother, Edwin, as co-owner of a commercial photography studio, Bond Brothers; then did public relations work as an industrial editor for the American Cancer Society, Goucher College, and the leasing firm of Peterson, Howell and Heather, where he worked from 1960 until his retirement in 1983.

He was a director of the Middle Atlantic Association of Industrial Editors and a former treasurer of the Baltimore Public Relations Council.

Bond was active in the Roland Park Civic League and a longtime editor of its newsletter, the Roland Park News.

He also led several fights to preserve the community from development. He actively fought the widening of Cold Spring Lane in the 1960s, for example. Most recently, he said he wished he had had the energy to join a community protest against the sale of 17 acres of Baltimore Country Club property to the Keswick Multi-Care Center, which plans to build a retirement community on the site.

"He would have been the first one carrying a (protest) sign," Cockey said.

Bond was interested in broadcast and print journalism and was an active member and former treasurer of the Mencken Society. One of his recent projects was a compilation of more than 175 letters to the editors of The Sun and other newspapers spanning 30 years or more.

Bond is survived by three children, William Whitfield Bond, of Baltimore; Richard Fulton Bond, of Grasonville, and Cockey; two grandchildren, Dorothy Young and Spencer Bond; and three great-grandchildren, Michael Richardson, Taylor Young and Trinity Young.

He was preceded in death by his wife and a daughter, Meredith Kane.

A memorial gathering followed by a reception will take place at Roland Park Place, 830 W. 40th St., on Saturday, Aug. 2, at 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Gilchrist Hospice Care, 555 W. Towsontown Blvd., Towson, MD 21204; or to a charity of choice.

user comments (0)