

### Thomas Clarence Heisey, Jr. '40

A well-loved member of the Class of 1940, "Tim" Heisey died on August 23, 1987, after a short illness. A life-long resident of Newark, Ohio, Tim was the last member of his family to be associated with the A.H. Heisey Co., a glass manufacturing firm founded by his grandfather.

Tim prepared for Amherst at Deerfield Academy. A member of Psi Upsilon fraternity, his extra-curricular activities at the College included membership on the staffs of *Touchstone* and of the Amherst College Press. During World War II he served in the Pacific Theater and Japan as a member of the Army Medical Corps. It was after his military service that Tim joined the family firm, of which he was president for several years before its closing in 1957.

Tim was an accomplished horseman who raised and showed his own mounts in national competitions. He rode in shows at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933 and 1934 and again during the New York Fair in 1939. His horse "Goodness Gracious" won several national championships.

An active member of his community, Tim participated in a number of civic and charitable organizations. He served for 30 years as secretary of the Newark Republican Executive Committee; from 1963 to the time of his death he was a jury commissioner for the Court of Common Pleas. He was a past president of both the Ohio Lung Association and the Ohio Chapter of the National Heart Association. He was a life member of the Heisey Collectors Association and a former warden of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Newark.

Tim's gentle and sensitive nature together with his rich sense of humor endeared him to his many Amherst friends. His approach to life was light-hearted but not frivolous; this, combined with his compassionate spirit, stamped him as a true gentleman.

Tim, who never married, is survived by a sister, Mary Merrill of Newark, a nephew and niece and two step-nephews and a step-niece, to whom the Class of 1940 sends its deep condolences.

—Frederick Byrne

### Lawton Stephen Ford Meaker '41

We have belatedly heard of the death of our classmate, Lawton S.F. Meaker, who died several years ago in California. Lawton was born in Boston on December 8, 1919. He prepared at Beacon School in Wellesley; at Amherst he was a member of the Lord Jeff Club. He served in the US Army Air Force during World War II and later from 1946 to 1961 worked as a radio engineer at the Headquarters of the US Air Force in Washington, DC. From 1947 to 1949 he acted as advisor to the United States Delegation to the International Telecommunications Conference. Later he moved to California, where he applied his vast skills as an engineering scientist at the Communications Division of McDonald Douglas Corp. In 1945 Lawton married Drusilla Clark, who predeceased him. He is survived by his three daughters: Kathleen, Susan and Pamela to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

David J. Avenius

### Sven Eric Molin '50

Sven Eric Molin died November 5, 1987, after a life-long struggle with diabetes. Amherst friends who knew Eric well may recall his daily insulin injections and occasional seizures. In

recent years diabetes had affected his eyesight and circulation; he had endured several operations. Through it all his mind stayed as sharp as his wit, and to the end he remained a dedicated teacher and scholar.

Eric ("Tink" in those days) came to Amherst from Rochester, N.Y., and subsequently from Wilmington, Del., where his parents moved when he was in college. At Amherst, he was an avid student of English literature and a fund of knowledge on all kinds of music. (I still see Eric deep in conversation with Lionel Hampton in the Thete Delt bar while Hamp's band, weary from playing the Senior Prom, waits impatiently for post-concert libations.) Eric was active in the college band, college radio station, and Thete Delta Chi fraternity, which he served with uncommon intelligence and diligence.

After Amherst, Eric earned an M.A. at Columbia Univ. and a Ph.D. at the Univ. of Pennsylvania. He taught briefly at Ohio Univ. and for many years at Randolph-Macon Women's College before joining the English department at George Mason Univ. in 1971. At various times in his career he held temporary positions at Columbia, C.W. Post, and the City University of New York. He was also a Fulbright lecturer in Finland and a research fellow in Ireland. Besides his teaching and administrative responsibilities at George Mason, Eric served for the past several years as his university's representative to the Folger Library's Institute for Renaissance and Eighteenth Century Studies.

Eric was devoted to both the institutional and the intellectual aspects of academic life. His students valued him as a stimulating and dedicated teacher; his colleagues cherished his wise counsel and deep commitment to quality education. At George Mason he was, at various times, a member of the University Senate, the Graduate Council, and the European Studies Committee, and he coordinated the Freshman Writing Program; he was also active in the American Association of University Professors. With equal dedication, Eric contributed to literary scholarship. To his fellow specialists in literature, he was an authority on eighteenth-century fiction and drama and the author of important journal articles, co-author of *Drama: The Major Genres* (Dodd, Mead, 1962), and co-author of a work-in-progress on the early nineteenth-century American theatrical entrepreneur, Dion Boucicault. Eric pursued his intellectual interests with fervor and energy until the end: a week before his death, he read a paper to the annual conference of the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies.

It was my privilege to know Eric even better in recent years than when we roomed together in the 1940s. Time had dimmed none of his puckish humor or his affection for music or his passionate commitment to a variety of causes. On my frequent visits to Washington, we reminisced about old times, caught up on university gossip, and shared our current professional and personal enthusiasms. We had abundant opportunities to do all those things in the summer of 1985, when my wife and I moved into Eric's house in Arlington, Va., for nearly two months; he was there much of the time, between trips to Ireland, Rochester, and elsewhere. The three of us (and our dog) formed an unconventional but very congenial family. I shall sorely miss Eric, as will legions of his friends, colleagues, and students.

Eric was married twice and had five sons, two of whom graduated from Amherst: Karl Teo (Ted) Molin II, '78, and Franklin Bache Molin,

'86. Contributions in memory of Sven Eric Molin can be made to the George Mason University Foundation and to the Diabetes Association.

—Alden T. Vaughan

### Edwin Stephen Griffiths '63

Ed Griffiths died at his Brooklyn, N.Y., home on September 4, 1987, of tuberculosis complicated by human immuno-deficiency virus infection. Though not the first Amherst alumnus to suffer from AIDS, Ed knew that the disease has rarely, if ever, been mentioned in these columns and wanted to be sure it was indicated in his case. This terrible epidemic striking so many talented men and women before their time has taken a dear friend and valued contemporary from us.

Ed was born in Salem, Ohio, on March 12, 1941, the oldest child of Arwyn and Mary Kovash Griffiths. He was a graduate of Western Reserve Academy. At Amherst Ed majored in English and graduated cum laude; his senior thesis on Yeats won the award for the best honors thesis of his year. Ed sang in the Glee Club and, as part of the movement away from fraternities in the 1960s that began with his class, was an independent. After Amherst, Ed went to New York, where he made his home for the rest of his life. He did graduate work in English at NYU and in psychology at the New School. Ed's chief work was in social services and editing. He was employed in various capacities over the years by the Experiment in International Living and by the New York City Departments of Social Services and Housing Preservation; most recently, he had worked as a free-lance editor. Ed's avocation, which often took up more energy and time than even his paying work, was community organizing and politics. One of his proudest achievements was his service during the last years as coordinator of his building's tenants committee, where he led its successful rent strike, the first ever won, against Leonard Spodek, the infamous New York "Dracula" landlord. Ed was also an active member of Amherst GALA, the gay and lesbian alumni/ae group.

Ed was predeceased by his parents and by his brother David. He is survived by his brother, Tom, of Dallas; his aunt, Patricia Tressler, of Salem; several nieces and nephews in Ohio and California; his dear friend and neighbor, Pat Shea; and his lover of 21 years, Sam Bailum, who nursed him until the end. In several basic ways Ed was and remained an outsider. He came from a working-class background to the elite environment of Amherst, the first in his family to attend college, and was a homosexual in a dominant heterosexual culture. But these factors became a source of strength for Ed. They gave him an unerring eye for sham and an intense sensitivity and tenacious opposition to injustice, qualities that were sometimes belied by his slight frame, quiet manner, and witty sense of the absurd. Ed also had a great gift for friendship and for attentiveness in relationships. Old friends retain his famous long letters written over the years and remember his remarkable ability as a listener. Truly interested in what you had to say, he could ask the most intelligent and pertinent questions, drawing out the best in you without calling attention to himself and making you feel that you were one of the most interesting people he had ever met. He left too soon and will be sorely missed.

—Joseph Cady '60  
—William Noonan '63