

# Margaret's eulogy - delivered by F. N. Barrett

WHILE SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES FOR A PASSAGE  
DESCRIPTIVE OF THE LIFE OF MARGARET DOWNES.....THIS READING FROM  
THE BOOK OF SIRACH SEEMS APPROPRIATE:

Barrett



Happy the husband of a good wife,  
twice-lengthened are his days;  
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,  
peaceful and full is his life.  
A good wife is a generous gift  
bestowed upon him who fears the Lord;  
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,  
and a smile is ever on his face.  
A gracious wife delights her husband,  
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;  
A gift from the Lord is her governed speech,  
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.  
Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,  
priceless her chaste person.  
Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens,  
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance  
of her home.

This is the Word of the Lord.

MANY OF US WERE FAMILIAR WITH THE BIG WHITE HOUSE  
TRIMMED IN GREEN, THAT SITS ATOP THE HILL ON SALT SPRINGS ROAD.  
.....THE HOME OF JOHN AND MARGARET DOWNES FOR A QUARTER CENTURY  
.....A HOME PERSONIFYING THE SPIRIT OF "HUMANAE VITAE".....  
WHERE JOHN AND MARGARET WERE FREE, AND YET, RESPONSIBLE COLLABORATORS  
WITH GOD IN THE GENERATION AND EDUCATION OF NEW LIVES.....  
A HOME WHERE SANCTITY OF LOVE AND LIFE OVER-SHADOWED THE ERRORS  
PRACTICED BY SOCIETY

FROM THEIR EARLIEST DAYS.....THE CHILDREN WERE TAUGHT  
BY PARENTAL EXAMPLE.....THAT LIFE IS TO GIVE.....THAT LOVE IS TO SHARE  
.....THAT WORK IS TO BE DONE

REMEMBER THAT BIG CENTER -HALL STAIRCASE.....????  
IT WAS A SYMBOL OF FAMILY COOPERATION: .....THE RISERS AND STEPS  
HAD TO BE DUSTED.....THE SPINDLES AND NEWELPOST HAD TO BE POLISHED  
BY EACH ONE IN TURN ( as Margaret often recalled )WAS IT....MARY....  
PEGGY.....JOANNE.....BETSY.....CATHERINE.....DOROTHY ....or NANCY.....  
AT TENDER AGE WITH HANDS ON HIP.....REMARKING....."MOTHER, NOW I KNOW  
WHY YOU HAVE ALL US CHILDREN.....IT'S JUST TO CLEAN THIS BIG HOUSE"  
(Eddie, the only brother of 7 sisters had only to empty the rubbish)

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