**Andrew Spencer Benning**

Andrew Spencer Benning was born on January 10, 1926, the third son born to Chester William Benning, Sr. and Helen Lucille Cassell Benning of Yellow Springs. He was active in the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. To earn pocket change he would collect, cure and sell black walnuts, and also work at a local grocery store. Andrew was drafted by the Naval Reserves Seabees during World War II and shipped out on May 30, 1945. He was stationed in the Philippines, where his first assignment included building a hospital at Subic Bay. In the fall of 1945 he was assigned shore patrol duty in Manila. He was discharged in June of 1946. His discharge papers listed the requirement to complete his high school education which he did by becoming a member of the Yellow Springs High School Class of 1946.

Back in Yellow Springs, in 1948, at the urging of his Uncle Rufus, Andy obtained employment with the Village of Yellow Springs reading meters. He was particularly proud of his role each winter helping to distribute the Wheeling Gaunt bequest f flour and sugar to area widows. In 1950 he worked with Yellow Springs Little League managers and umpires. Andy worked for the Village of Yellow Springs for 43 years.

In 1951 Andy married Janet Shelton of Indiana, and with their children Gary, Andrea, and Tracy, they enjoyed trips to Indiana and Colorado, and local drive-in movies in the summer. Andy held part time jobs at the Little Art Theatre, the Page Manor Theatre, and also wired local homes. In 1950 he joined the Miami Township Fire Department rising through the ranks, where he became assistant chief in 1965, and chief in 1971 until his retirement in 1981.

Andy and Janet divorced in 1979, and in 1980 he married the former Judy May Erwin, the mother of Talitha and Maria. The couple divorced in 1982. Andy was continually active in the Yellow Springs community, supporting the Yellow Springs Public School Bulldog athletic teams, the Yellow Springs Historical Society, the Senor Citizens Center, Bryan High School Alumni Association, of which he was vice president, Yellow Springs Men’s Group, Glen Forest Cemetery Board, and the Miami Valley African American [need to check name] Genealogical Society. He also enjoyed league bowling, golf, bike riding, reading, history, and photography. In June of 1991 the Village of Yellow Springs declared Andy Benning week.

Andy Benning died on October 29, 2010. He was survived by his former wife Janet, children Gary, Andrea, and Tracy; his former wife Judy, and former stepdaughters Talitha Greene and Celia M. Prether, brothers Charles Benning, Donald Benning and sister-in-law Kume Benning.

Source: Adapted from *Yellow Springs News* obituary, November 4, 2010