



Darrelyn “Dee” Milne was a native Washingtonian, born in Mt. Vernon to parents Darrell and Florence (Johnson) Semon. Her family moved to Centralia, then to Seattle where she grew up. Dee’s childhood summers were spent at her grandparents’ farm on Anderson Island. Her endless summer days at that last isolated outpost of wood stoves, kerosene lamps, and crank telephones, in the company of farmers, tugboat uncles, aunts and neighbors making home-baked cookies, cousins, grandparents, eccentric shopkeepers and young friends visiting from the city, left her with a love of life and beauty, animals and flowers and people, that lasted forever after.

After that best of childhoods, Dee worked as a telephone operator in Seattle and immersed herself in ballet and dance at the Cornish School of Ballet. She started an adult life of adventure by enlisting as a crew member on cousin Bob’s homemade schooner (the “Bobcat”) for a voyage from Anderson Island to Panama. Mom, concerned, leveraged her to enroll at the University of Washington after the voyage, as a condition for giving permission. (Mom then also signed on for part of the voyage.) Returned from Panama, Dee enrolled in the University’s Oceanography Department and would have been the first American woman to earn a BA degree in that subject except for ... another adventure. A year in Europe, much of it hitchhiking with French friend Chris Cripier. Upon her return, she completed the degree requirements and worked at the Department as a crustacean taxonomist and deckhand on the research vessel, *RV Brown Bear*. She and her future husband, then a graduate student at the University, discovered deep kinship with each other on the heaving, pitching stern of that vessel, cheering and exhilarated by the roaring midnight tumult of the Columbus Day Storm.



Dee married Dave Milne in August, 1964. Their marriage lasted for 54 years. As Dave pursued a career in higher education (Purdue, Oregon State, Evergreen), Dee managed their household and followed her guiding stars in the arts. She was a dancer and costume designer in and for musicals, a potter, a watercolor artist, and above all a fiber arts craftswoman. Dee joined the Olympia Weavers Guild during the 1970s and spent the next four decades weaving, spinning, coloring with natural dyes, sewing, embroidering, and creating tapestries, rugs, garments, baskets, masks and the like, using wool, linen, silk and grocery-bag plastic -- some items for sale, more just for the joy of creating beautiful things.

Her life of adventure continued with her husband, partly as a member of the Olympia Friendship Force travel club, partly in impromptu crazy expeditions organized with long-time family friends, in explorations of Mexico, Kenya, Belize, Australia, the USSR, European nations and many destinations in North America. With her husband, she hosted many adventure visits to Washington by nieces and nephews, and class picnics at Anderson Island. Dee loved to participate in strenuous field research projects in the salt marshes of Willapa Bay and especially enjoyed overnights with friends and family at the Bay's Tokeland Hotel.

Dee's life and creativity ended much too soon. She slipped into worsening dementia in 2016 and passed away two years later. Her absence is deeply felt by family—foremost among them brother, Richard Semon (and spouse Andrea); brother-in-law, Mike Milne (spouse Ruth); dear cousin, Jean Ameluxen; husband, Dave; and many, many friends. Her passing leaves an empty space in the lives of all who loved her.

If you'd like to make a contribution in Dee's honor, here are two of her favorites: Seattle Children's Hospital, MS-S-200, PO Box 5371, Seattle, WA 98145-5005; Anderson Island Historical Society, Johnson Farm, Otso Point Road, Anderson Island, WA 98303; or contribute to a charitable organization of your choice!

A memorial celebration will be held Saturday, November 3, 2018, 2:00 p.m. at Anderson Island Community Clubhouse, 11319 Yoman Road, Anderson Island, WA 98303; phone, 253-884-2893.