

Wauk. Freeman
Sept. 13, 1996

OBITUARY — MENENDEZ, JOAN H.
JULY 10, 1932 — SEPT. 11, 1996
ENGLAND — Joan Holman Menendez of Lostwithel, Cornwall, England, died of cancer Sept. 11, 1996. She was born on July 10, 1932, in Waukesha.

WAUKESHA — John Holman remembers a Christmas present his sister, Joan, gave him many years ago.

"She gave me a pair of gloves, but they were both left-handed," Holman said, chuckling about his older, off-beat sister who traveled and worked around the world most of her life, making friends and exploring unusual places.

"She was a free spirit," Holman said from his law office in Washington, D.C. "She was happy with herself and her own company. She'd just go off and do her own thing, but she would often end up with a lot of people."

Joan Holman Menendez died Tuesday of breast cancer at her home in Cornwall, England. She was 64.

Menendez was born and raised in Waukesha, but her desire to learn led her away early. She studied at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and worked as an economist for an electric company and the state's Department of Agriculture. She also hosted a local women's program on a Madison television station for several years.

But Menendez, it seemed, couldn't keep still. She joined the Peace Corps and served as a food consultant in Ecuador. She later married Tremar Menendez, a botanical expert from England. They moved to Papua, New Guinea, and managed a palm oil plantation there.

When the couple moved back to the town of Eagle in the 1980s, she became involved with local politics as a town supervisor. Both Tremar and Joan Menendez volunteered their time as on-site living history interpreters at Old World Wisconsin. Menendez also did free-lance work for the Mukwonago Chief and The Freeman.

Her parents, John A. Holman and Myrtle Salter Holman preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband, Tremar Menendez of Cornwall, England, her brother John C. Holman (Anne) of Washington, D.C., three stepchildren and three nieces.

Joan graduated from Waukesha High School and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was a promotional home economist for the Potomac Electric Company and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. She was a consumer marketing agent for the University of Wisconsin Extension Service and hosted a woman's program on WISC-TV, Channel 3, in Madison for several years.

Joan joined the Peace Corps and served in Ecuador as a food consultant. In Ecuador she met and married Tremar Menendez, a botanical expert, and they moved to Papua, New Guinea, and he managed a palm oil plantation there for several years. The Menendezes moved back to Wisconsin and lived in Waukesha County for several years. Joan was an Eagle town supervisor, and wrote for the Waukesha Freeman and the Mukwonago Chief. Joan and Tremar both were part of Old World Wisconsin in Eagle as on-site living history interpreters. They returned to Cornwall in 1994.

[Compiled in part by Robert G. Hood, who was Joan's husband from 1953 to 1967]

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"She just went through life and didn't worry about what tomorrow was going to bring," Holman said. "She never viewed anything as a crisis."

In addition to her husband and brother, Menendez is survived by three stepchildren and three nieces. Private funeral services will be held at the Menendez home in England.