

## *The Flowers of The Forest*

### **Carole Montgomery Castleberry CMSI # 1637 and Clan Genealogist**



Carole Montgomery Castleberry looked wonderful in CMSI tartan colors of purple and red. She designed many outfits using the tartan and wore them proudly at Highland Games, and especially at AGMs. She was always quiet, dignified and very friendly, but like so many CMSI members, her life outside clan activities was not well known. She was our clan member, a friend and e-mail buddy, and her passing was totally unexpected.

From the Shreveport, Louisiana *Times*: "Carole Montgomery Castleberry, 72, died Thursday, May 22, 2008, of lung cancer at Christus Schumper Grace Home in Shreveport."

Her funeral service was held May 28, and burial followed at the Springhill Cemetery. Rev. Walter Parker of the Springhill United Methodist Church officiated.

Born Dec. 4, 1935 in Hebronville, TX to Edith S. and John Corben Montgomery, Carole and family soon moved back to Springhill, Louisiana, the family home for five generations. After high school Carole lived in Washington D.C. and worked for the *U.S. News and World Report*. She later moved to Colorado. In 1960 she married Billy E. Castleberry. Working for an oil field firm, the Castleberrys lived in South Louisiana, Houston and Benghazi, Libya, where they witnessed the Ghadafi revolution.

After returning to Springhill, Carole became the first female police officer of the Springhill Police Department, graduating at the top of her class at the Police Academy in Bossier City.

Following Billy's death in 2000, Carole became an active volunteer with the Springhill Main Street Program, and wrote successful grants to support the Springhill Centennial in 2002. From that came the activity that partially filled the remainder of her years with joy — the Krewe of Artemis-Springhill. She also became the CMSI Clan genealogist after pursuing her interest in her Scottish lineage, and became a Certified Genealogist.

Carol was one of the five founders of the Krewe of Artemis-Springhill, and served as captain for its first two seasons. She reigned as Queen Artemis IV in 2005-2006, and was honored as Grand Marshal of the Main Street Mardi Gras Parade earlier this year.

Survivors are her brother, Jim Montgomery of Shreveport; her special cousin, Bonita Johnson Kamrath of Springhill; two aunts, Nettie Montgomery Johnson of Springhill and Hazel C. Montgomery of Franklin, TN; many other cousins of the Montgomery, Owen and Best families; and a host of friends.

At her funeral, members of the Springhill Police Department provided an Honor Guard. She was a Grand Southern Lady, and she will be greatly missed.