



# T O O T



Special Issue

*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc*

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***Email messages from Lu Beale's son and daughter.***

**Mother passed away peacefully at her home this evening, October 6.. We'd like to begin now to thank the many warm and wonderful members of PVS for their continual devotion and celebration of mother over the last 25 years. You were the source of such great joy in her life. She would want the best for all of you and for the club. We share your feeling of loss. There is much of her in all of us now and in a very true sense she will live on. Bless you all. Mary and David**

**The service for mother will be held on Wednesday, October 13 at 2pm at All Saints Episcopal Church on Chevy Chase Circle. A nice reception is planned for 3pm in the church reception hall. We look forward to seeing many of you there.**

**Mary and David**

A moving tribute to Lu has been published on the Sidwell Friends web site where Lu was the tennis coach for many years. This tribute captures the spirit of Lu so eloquently that we are enclosing a copy with this special issue.

Photo above taken on PVS trip to Big Sky in 2000.



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**TRIBUTE TO LU BEALE**

by Judy Catlin

**SERVING UP ACES AT SIDWELL**

Lu Beale -- the name conjures up visions of a small, trim woman in tennis whites dashing to the net for a crosscourt smash. Or teaching her students, gathered behind the baseline, how to whip a perfect down-the-line winner. Lu Beale -- girls' tennis coach at Sidwell for almost 30 years. You all know her. But did you know that she considers herself more of a writer than an athlete? That she worked for many years at the Associated Press? That she was a fine skier? A children's story writer? A wife and mother? A hiker with the Appalachian Trail Club? An aficionado of great literature? A mountain climber? Did you realize that we had a renaissance woman right here on Wisconsin Avenue?

Lucrece Hudgins was born in 1914 in Portsmouth, Virginia, where she grew up until her graduation from high school. Because schooling in Portsmouth ended after only 11 years in those days, Lu, as she has always been called, spent an additional year at Dana Hall, in the

Boston area. From there she won a scholarship to Wellesley College, majoring in English and graduating in 1937.

Soon after graduation, Lu gained a spot at The Boston Post as a feature writer, interviewing such diverse notables as Lady Astor, Arthur Fiedler, and Salvador Dali. Subsequently, she learned of an opening in the New York office of the Associated Press. It was there that she began her 27 year series of children's Christmas stories for the AP



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## Reproduced from the Sidwell Friends Web Site

(one or two of which can now be found on the web). The much-awaited stories, in 17 chapters, usually revolved around the trials and tribulations of Santa in meeting his Christmas Eve deadline — which, in the end, he always did.

In 1941, Lu transferred to the AP Washington branch, a most fortuitous move, for it was there that she met her husband-to-be, William Beale (who died only 2 years ago at the age of 97!) She has remained here ever since, raising two children — David and Mary, a Sidwell alumna, now a physician specializing in pediatrics and nephrology.

When Mary entered high school, Lu became friendly with Evelyn Fine, Director of Girls' Athletics. Lu had always been an outstanding tennis player, and Evelyn, with her fine eye for judging both athletic and people skills, offered her a job as tennis coach. It proved to be a wonderfully fruitful match for both — a gifted new teacher for the school and an unexpected second career for Lu, who stayed on until 1981. She truly loved the girls, and they, in turn, speak of her fair and gentle spirit — a quality not always prevalent among varsity athletic coaches.

But teaching tennis was not enough for the ever-adventurous Lu. At age 50, she took up skiing and didn't quit until age 86! For several years she belonged to the Ski Club of Washington, D.C. and wrote a series of articles on learning to ski at 50. Later she joined the Potomac Valley Ski Club where she was editor of the Potomac newsletter for 27 years and skied all the major mountain ranges of the United States and Europe. Hiking was another favorite, for Lu has always loved the outdoors, and enjoyed exploring the Catoctins, Sugar Loaf, and Old Rag with the Appalachian Trail Club. A special, yearly ritual (mostly successful) was trying to climb Mt. Washington — on her birthday!

All this while raising two children and a dachshund. Always, Lu has had a dachshund. The other day, during a telephone conversation, her latest small friend, Josie, could be heard barking her opinions in the background.

Now, at age 90, Lu has been slowed down by various health problems, including macular degeneration. This has somewhat hampered her lifelong passion for reading, but she still enjoys books on tape. And she never tires of telling people about her affection for Sidwell Friends. She truly loved her time there — her work, her fellow faculty members, and above all, her students. After attending school functions, she has often remarked, "They're not the best dressed kids, but they are the nicest."

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