

Judyth Ann Johnston (May 25, 1945 – May 29, 1970)

At age eleven Judy Johnston lost her mother to cancer. Afterward, she lived with her aunt on Jones Avenue until graduation from Rockmart High School in 1963. Armed with the Best Actress Award from her performance in the Junior Class Play, the beautiful young woman left small town life to seek fame and fortune elsewhere. Her southern, sassy charm, flavored with more than a hint of brashness, did attract attention but perhaps not in the way she might have imagined.

Tales of her photographs (minus clothing) appearing in a “men’s” magazine reached her hometown. While the news may have shocked a few with stiff small-town moral sensibilities, many others scrambled to find the edition with the flattering exposure. At any rate, there was no widespread public condemnation but rather a strange aura of community pride in the daring young woman who had the nerve for such an intriguing feat.

Sadly, Judy lived only to age 25 at which time her remains were brought back to Rockmart for burial beside her mother in Rose Hill Cemetery. Frozen in time as a starry-eyed, young, blond beauty, it is difficult to imagine that she would be 77 years old today.

We remember this unique young woman for her adventurous spirit as Rockmart marks 150 years of existence and we salute the diverse cast of characters that have shaped the town’s rich history.

Source: Yellow Jacket Yearbook 1963

Oral History 2022

Compiled by: Rockmart Sesquicentennial 2022

Cemetery Tour Committee



Senior picture, 1963 Yellow Jacket yearbook