

OBITUARIES

SYBIL ANN HALLEY Always smiled, loved animals

Sybil Halley would have loved her memorial April 15 because the dozen mourners who jammed the small Listening Post room on the Ambassador Hotel's mezzanine had nothing but good things to say about her helpful, happy nature and love of animals.

A friend who frequently watched movies with her said she was a cheerful person who constantly sang and hummed to herself. Her favorite films were animal documentaries. She had a cat and sometimes reminded visitors how to behave around the cat, especially not to disturb it.

"She knocked on my door at midnight and handed me a feather," said one man. "I think her heart was too big for her little body."

"She was a very nice person, a good caring person, but some people made fun of her because of her habits," said Horace Thomas,

who knew her when she lived in the Mission in the 1970s. Thomas visited her occasionally and said he was going to help her clean her room but never got around to it.

Ms. Halley died in the hospital April 4 of a blood infection. She was 56.

"I took notice of her right away because she was so frail," said one mourner. "She wasn't healthy and just kept heading in the same direction, never complaining."

"I gave her a coat," said another. "She thanked me every day after that."

Ms. Halley lived at the Ambassador for three years. She had five children, her friends said, including a daughter who visited her.

"She was formerly homeless," said Jackie Mollitor, a social worker. "She loved living here and told me that every time I saw her. She always had a smile."

A friend at the hotel took her cat. ■

— TOM CARTER



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