

LEONARD: Eustis M. "Benny," 62, of North Street, Island Pond, passed away peacefully, Thursday, June 13, 2002, at his residence, surrounded by his family, after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was born Feb. 19, 1940 in Coventry, the son of Francis A. and Lavinia (Lafoe) Leonard. He attended schools in Island Pond and Orleans, and St. Johnsbury Trade School. On May 23, 1959, he married Muriel Jean Drew of Barnet. He attended the Brighton Congregational Church. Benny owned and operated Leonard's Auction Service for the past 21 years. His Wednesday night auctions were an entertainment event. Benny's banter urged the crowd to "settle down, you know we have to make a living at this." Over the years he sold all sorts of goods, from cars to boats to jewelry to antiques, and even, as Benny would put it, "junk." Early in life Benny owned and operated a body shop, an auto repair business and a used car business. He was known for his superb paint jobs. He was also a self-taught musician who learned to play several types of guitar and the organ. He led his band "Sonic White" for over 10 years. One of his proudest accomplishments was mastery of the song "Wipeout," for which he played lead guitar. Benny enjoyed hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, boating, and especially time spent at his hunting camp. He loved to eat raw hot dogs and bread while fishing, and was known to consume salted onion slices for a late night snack. He spent a lot of time with his family going to Florida for the winters and camping in the summers. To support himself during his winters in Florida he auctioneered and worked the flea markets. At one point he bought and sold 5,000 pairs of women's shoes during one season in Florida. Benny claimed to be able to sell all those shoes by fitting size eight shoes to ladies who said they wore size six. He is survived by his beloved wife, Muriel (Drew) Leonard of Island Pond; his children, Nancy Maxwell and her husband Gary of Island Pond, Lisa Wilkins and husband Ralph of Island Pond, and Mark Leonard and wife Kelley of Deltona, Fla.; his grandchildren, Matthew, Chantal and Christina Maxwell, Taylor and Mikayla Wilkins, and Morgan Leonard; his mother, Lavinia Tetreault and husband Ray of Debarry, Fla.; his sisters, Joyce Cushman of Gilman, Vt., and Rebecca Bjornstad and husband James of Cedarville, Ohio; and by several

nieces and nephews. There will be no calling hours. Funeral services will be held Sunday, June 16, at 2 p.m., at the First Congregational Church, Mountain Street, Island Pond, with the Revs. Roger Fletcher and James Bjornstad officiating. Burial will be in Lakeside Cemetery, Pleasant Street, Island Pond. Contributions may be made in his memory to the First Congregational Church, Sunday School Program, in care of Roger Fletcher, P.O. Box 415, Island Pond, VT 05846.