

Mary Ellen Brands Landstrom

August, 1943

August 16, 1965 (22)

Chicago, IL

Mary Ellen Brands Landstrom was born in Rockford, IL on August, 1943 to Rennie Roberts and Lucille Brands. She was a 1961 graduate of West Rockford High School. On July 3, 1961, she married husband, Edward Joel Landstrom, who graduated from East High School in 1958, was a photographer for WTVO-TV in Rockford and also operated his own photography studios in Freeport and Rockford before going to work for a Chicago photography firm.



Mr. and Mrs. E. Joel Landstrom, plane crash victims

Tragically, **Mary Ellen** and husband, Edward Joel Landstrom, perished when United Airlines Flight 389 headed from Washington National Airport to Chicago's O'Hare Airport crashed into Lake Michigan the evening of August 16, 1965; authorities suspect a bomb caused the accident. The couple was returning from a combined business and pleasure trip. Their three year-old son, Blaine, who had been left with a babysitter, was reared by Mary Ellen's mother, Lucille (Alex) Kelotis.

Mary Landstrom was employed by United Air Lines as was sister, Susan Brands, who confirmed the couple was indeed aboard the flight. Mary was predeceased by her father; in addition to her mother and sister, Mary was also survived by brothers John and Paul Brands, both of Rockford. Husband, Joel, was survived by his daughter from a previous marriage, Lisa Kay, 6; his mother, Mrs. Janelle Landstrom (Oak Park); his father, Edward (Rockford; his sisters, Cindy and Linda; and his Grandmother, Mrs. Oscar Landstrom, then residing in the Faust Hotel.

Reference:

Rockford Register-Republic, Tuesday, August 17, 1965