

ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY *and* MUSEUMS ALASKA

Anchorage Museum, Sept. 28-30, 2017

John Cloe (1938-2016)



John Haile Cloe was born in Fredericksburg, VA, and passed away in his Lower Hillside Home in Anchorage.

A 1963 Virginia Military Institute graduate, John served 29 years in the U.S. Army. After two tours of combat duty in Vietnam he became the Elmendorf Air Force civilian historian, retiring as an Army Reserve colonel in 1992.

In 1970 while stationed at Fort Benning, GA, when the air conditioning failed, he “put in for a cooler assignment,” arriving in Alaska via the unpaved Alaska Highway.

As a historian, John contributed significantly to documenting Alaskan WW II military history and the post-War Cold War. Among his books: “Top Cover for America: The Air Force in Alaska” (1984), “Aleutian Warriors, a History of the 11th Air Force and Fleet Air Wing Four”, a comprehensive book about the WWII Alaska Theater (1992), and “Mission to the Kurils” on the US Aleutian bomber crews focus on the Japanese Home Islands (2016).

John and his wife Susan visited numerous battlefields around the world. For four recent summers he guided tours to historic WWII sites in the Aleutians.

John received many national military awards, and was the 1992 Alaska Historical Society “Historian of the Year” and received the Air Force Wing’s similar award in 1976, 1994, and 2003. His interest in the recovery and restoration of Aleutian aircraft united him with the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum.

Nora Keixwnei Dauenhauer (1927-2017)



Tlingit linguist, scholar, writer and poet Nora Dauenhauer of the Haines-Yakutat Lukaaxadi (Sockeye) clan died at the age of 90.

Married to Richard Dauenhauer and after raising 4 children she earned her GED, BA in Anthropology from Alaska Pacific University, then researched Tlingit language at the UAF Alaska Native Language Center.

In Juneau at the Sealaska Heritage Foundation she and Richard authored many books on the preservation of Tlingit oral tradition. “Anooshi Lingit Aani Ka: Russians in Tlingit America, the Battles of Sitka 1802 and 1804” co-authored with Lydia Black of Fairbanks was one of 14 winners of the 2008 prestigious American Book Awards.

She received many awards: Governor’s Award for the Arts 1989, UAS Honorary Doctor of Humanities 2001, and served as Alaska State Poet Laureate 2012-2014.

Neil Davis (1932-2016)



Thomas Neil Davis was born in Greeley CO, and died in Fairbanks.

Neil and younger brother Lewis lived with relatives and in an orphans’ home before joining their parents on one of the original North Pole homesteads in 1944.

Neil worked on the homestead and in his father’s sawmill while attending Fairbanks High School when possible. He was an Wien Airline apprentice mechanic before entering the University of Alaska as a 1950 science student. Later that year he married Rosemarie in Iowa. He received his BS in geophysics in 1955, moved the family to Pasadena, CA where he earned a Masters of Science at California Institute of Technology, then returned to Fairbanks to earn his UA Ph.D. in 1961.

Beginning in 1965 he served as assistant director at the Geophysical Institute and developed the Poker Flat rocket range completed in 1968.

Neil published not just scientific papers but 12 books including an

autobiography, the series of Alaska science articles “Alaska Science Nuggets”, a satire on state government and politics, as well as serious topics. He was an accomplished builder of sheds, cabins, boats, steam engines and a notorious prankster. Retiring in 1981, Neil then served as chair of the Alaska Power Authority and continued his writing.

Bill DeArmond (1938-2017)



William D. DeArmond died at Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle, WA, at age 79.

Bill was born in Sitka and graduated from Juneau High School in 1956 and Stanford University in 1960. Following Army service in Europe, he worked for many years at Radio Free Europe in Munich, Germany.

Bill moved back to Sitka in the mid-1990s where he worked as an editor for National Public Radio, the Southeaster Magazine, and the National Park Service. He also served many years on the Sitka Historical Resources Commission.

He married Malin Babcock and moved to Juneau in 2012. He is survived by Malin, daughter Elizabeth De Armond (Ken Hollender) of Wilmette, IL, stepchildren Doug Murray (Shauna) of Juneau, and Gwen Murray Horchover (Bob) of Clinton, WA.

Reverend Richard Gay (1920-2017)



Richard Rodda Gay was born in Phoenixville, PA, and passed away peacefully in Bend, Oregon.

Serving Methodist Churches, Richard received his Master of Divinity degree from Drew University School of Theology in Madison, NJ in 1945. During his undergraduate years he met and married Averill Virginia Fox, and while later serving congregations in eastern Pennsylvania, he earned his Master of Education degree from the University of Pittsburg. He and his family then moved to Ohio Wesleyan University where he taught for 10 years.

On Sept. 1, 1960, Richard arrived in Anchorage to serve as Chaplain and Professor of Religion, Philosophy and Logic at Alaska Methodist University. He also served as AMU Vice-President and as Executive Vice-President until his 1975 resignation. Richard served on numerous civic boards and commissions: Anchorage School Board, Red Cross, United Way, March of Dimes. He and Averill moved to Hope in 1986 then to the Pacific Northwest in 2015 to be closer to family.

Patricia Lee McClenahan (1941-2016)



Born in Chico, CA., Pat’s anthropological work in Alaska began after she and Navy husband raised their family in Oregon. Pat began her archaeological career in Alaska as a fieldwork crewmember for University of Alaska compliance on the Susitna Hydroelectric Project in 1984.

Pat surveyed and compiled the 1990 two-volume field report with Douglas Gibson on Cape Krusenstern National Monument. She next served as Chief of Cultural Resources for Katmai National Park and Preserve from 1992-1994, balancing protection of the Brooks River archaeology district with development of visitor facilities.

Pat served as technical advisor to the Bristol Bay and Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence Advisory Councils and earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Arkansas.

She became a principal Investigator for Pacific Northwest Resources Consultants of Alaska until her terminal battle with abdominal cancer.

Jim Rearden (1925-2017)



Jim Douglas Rearden was born in Petaluma, CA and died at South Peninsula Hospital in Homer. His wide ranging skills—writer of 28 books, over 500 articles for over 40 national and international magazines, photographer, editor, professor, biologist, veteran, made him a chronicler of Alaska and its people.

As a WWII Navy man after high school, he earned a BS at Oregon State, and during his junior year had a summer fish patrol agent job at Chignik with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1950 he earned a MS from the University of Maine, Orono then obtained a job at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Subsequently acknowledging he didn't enjoy teaching, he moved to Homer where his writing abilities shone, chronicling the stories of air pilots, dog mushers, etc. After 1959 Statehood he became an area biologist with the new Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. Continuing writing, he was hired by Bob Henning to be outdoors editor for Alaska Magazine.

Jim continued to write using a computer dictation system after becoming partially paralyzed in a fall. He received many awards including: 1999 Alaska Historical Society "Historian of the Year", 2011 "Governor's Award for the Humanities", and the Homer Arts Council "Artist of the Year" in 2016.

Clarissa Rizal (1956-2016)



Cancer claimed Tlingit weaver Clarissa Rizal, a Raven of the T'akdeintaan (black-legged Kittywake) Clan, one week after the death of another noted Tlingit weaver Teri Rofkar.

As an apprentice of traditional Klukwan weaver Jennie Thlunaut, Clarissa learned, documented, and passed on the endangered Chilkat weaving techniques through classes, a personal blog, workshops, apprenticeships, and exhibitions.

Clarissa spearheaded the "Weavers across the Water" robe assembling 44 Chilkat and Ravenstail squares, each the work of individual artists. More than 300 hours were required to assemble the squares for the robe presented to Master Carver Wayne Price at the dedication of Xunna Shuka Hit, the Huna Tribal House in Glacier Bay. Price danced in the robe for the first time; it is to be used for the maiden voyages of canoes around the Northwest Coast.

Clarissa won a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2016. When in Washington D.C. to receive the award, she placed the Chilkat and Ravenstail "Weavers Across the Water" robe on President Barack Obama's shoulders.

Teri Rofkar, Chas' koowu Tla'a (1957-2017)



Born in San Rafael, CA, and raised in Anchorage with summers in Anchorage and Pelican, Teri was of the Raven Clan from the Snail House. As an adult, Teri lived in Sitka, where she raised three children, and completed her life.

Tlingit weaving and basketry and teaching were Teri's passions. Crediting her grandmother Eliza Monk for introducing her to the weaving that became her life's work.

Her Tlingit weaving research and techniques were recognized internationally resulting in a National Endowment for the Arts' National Heritage Fellowship in 2009. In 2013 The Rasmuson Foundation presented her its "Distinguished Artist Award". She was an affiliate with the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology and served numerous apprenticeships within Alaska and at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA.

Teri was known for her spruce-root baskets and Ravenstail robes, a style unique in Southeast Alaska that nearly died out before Tlingit and Haida weavers revived it based on the research of Cheryl Samuel in Museum collections in St. Petersburg, London, Vienna, Copenhagen and Dublin.

Knowledgeable about traditional material gathering and weaving techniques, Teri also experimented with new materials. Her Ravensail robes and baskets are in collections in Alaska and the Field Museum (Chicago), Denver Art Museum, University of Pennsylvania, University of British Columbia and elsewhere.

Grace Berg Schaible (1925-2017)



Born and educated in Juneau, Grace Berg was persuaded by Charles Bunnell, First President of the University of Alaska to attend school in Alaska. She graduated with a degree in history then continued to Yale Law School. Upon return she became the first attorney sworn in under the laws of the new state of Alaska. Appointed by Governor Steve Cowper in 1987, Grace became the nation's first female state attorney general.

Grace married Dr. Arthur Schaible in New York City. They returned to Fairbanks to his medical practice and where she established her law firm. She helped guide the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation in Utqiagvik and her local law firm grew.

Grace generously supported arts, literacy, Girl Scouts and education, being named one of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' "Philanthropists of the Century". She gave more than a million dollars for the UA Museum of the North expansion and donated over 2,000 works of art, particularly relating to polar bears, her special passion. Included in her public service was serving on the Alaska Permanent Fund Board and on the University of Alaska Board of Regents.

Edmund Schuster (1935-2016)



Edmund Josef Eduard Schuster was born in Hirscheegg, Austria, with a lifelong sense of adventure. He left home at 17, worked as a coal miner then immigrated to Canada to work in uranium mines at Elliot Lake.

In 1964 Edmund came to Alaska and the Good Friday earthquake provided work opportunities to save money for study and becoming a scholar. He earned a GED, B.A. in History and Economics, an M.A. in Industrial Relations, and a Ph.D. in Industrial Sociology resulting in a 20-year teaching career at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Ever active during those years, he organized and led UAA's first cross-country ski team, was an avid hiker and runner, competing 26 consecutive years in the Mount Marathon run.

Married to Eveline Blanca Mueller until her passing in 1994, he memorialized her through donation of the Eveline State Recreation Park site in Homer. Edmund was a lifelong member of the Cook Inlet Historical Society and the Alaska German Club.

Heath Twichell, Jr. (1934-2017)



Heath Twichell passed away June 10, 2017 in Fall River, MA from complications of Chronic lymphocytic leukemia at age 82.

Heath graduated in 1956 from the US Military Academy and served 24 years as a US Army Infantry Officer. He retired as a Colonel, having served in a variety of command and staff assignments in the U.S., Europe, and Vietnam, including commander of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division. While on active duty, Heath taught Modern European History at West Point, and Strategy and Policy at the Naval War College. He earned a Ph.D. in History from American University. His doctoral thesis, a biography of Major General Henry T. Allen who explored the Copper, Tanana, and Koyukuk Rivers, won the Allan Nevins Prize in American History for best dissertation, nationwide, in 1971. "Allen: the Biography of an Army Officer, 1859-1930" was published in 1974 by Rutgers Press.

Upon retirement in 1980, Heath started a second career as a college professor and academic administrator at the Naval War College and Salve Regina University. His second book, a history of the building of the Alaska Highway during WWII titled "Northwest Epic: The Building of the Alaska Highway" is based on an unfinished memoir of his father, Colonel Heath Twichell. The book was published by St. Martin's Press in 1992, becoming the basis for five different TV documentaries.