

Ed Huizer

September 15, 1923 – April 27, 2015

The caption under Ed Huizer's high school photo in the 1939 Newark, New Jersey yearbook refers to him as "cool, calm, and collected...[and] conservative in dress and talk." For those who knew Ed during his more than 60 years in Alaska, those words are an apt description of the man many felt privileged to call a friend. Possessed of a palpable integrity, Ed was always considerate of others, reserved in his opinions, and slow to speak - but when he did, it was always worth listening.

Born on September 15, 1923, Ed passed away on April 27, 2015, in his Fritz Cove home in Juneau, Alaska.

Following high school, Ed attended Middlebury college for two years, but his college education was interrupted by World War II. In 1943 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and trained to fly Grumman Avenger torpedo bombers on submarine search missions.

Following 2 ½ years of military service, Ed enrolled in the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Alaska where he majored in Geology and minored in Biology. After graduating in 1949, he continued to take graduate courses in Fish and Wildlife Management. Ed was also active in the U. of A. mountaineering club, and took part in one of the earliest expeditions to put a member on the summit of Mt. McKinley. He was also a member of the team that made the first ascent of Mt. Hess, an 11,940 foot mountain in the Alaska Range.

While attending the University of Alaska, Ed spent the summers in Petersburg working as a crew member on a number of commercial halibut and salmon fishing vessels.

In the spring of 1953 Ed took a job with the Alaska Territorial Department of Fisheries as a junior biologist assigned to the Taku River king salmon studies, once being flown to the headwaters of the Taku and its tributaries with a Coleman box full of food supplies, enough planks and basic tools to



build a small boat, then floating down river, sampling with a small gill net to determine the populations. In the fall of 1953 he was assigned to king crab studies in Kodiak. While in that position, he was instrumental in developing a tag for king crab that was retained during molting, an important tool for studying the life history and migration patterns of king crab.

In the summer of 1959, Ed became district manager for Juneau and Yakutat commercial fisheries with the newly formed State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). Continuing his employment with ADF&G during the 1960s and 1970s, Ed subsequently served as Statewide Water Rights Coordinator, and finally as ADF&G Deputy Commissioner. He retired from ADF&G in 1978. During his time as ADF&G Deputy Commissioner, Ed was actively involved in the U.S./Canada salmon negotiations which eventually led to the signing of the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty in 1985.

In 1958, Ed married Marge (Wentworth) Huizer and they made their home in Juneau. Marge preceded Ed in death in December, 2001. Both were active outdoor enthusiasts and for many years could be found almost daily on one of the many Juneau area trails with one or more of their dogs. Together they laid out and cut much of the popular Spaulding Meadow trail, including the Waydelich Creek crossing, and contributed to the construction of the John Muir cabin. They leave behind a community that continues to benefit from many such contributions. Ed leaves behind nephew Wes Dain of Chapel Hill, N.C., nieces Susan Single-Dain and Joann Dain Hoag, of Ontario, Canada and Etna, New York, respectively, and in-laws Jack and Bessie Severtson of Great Falls, MT, as well as a host of friends at Amalga Harbor and around Alaska who admired and cared for him.