

OBITUARIES

A CHRONICLE OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL LIVES

Life story | John Day

Head in clouds, and happy

A Linfield College physicist urged all, 'Look up and see!'

By AMY MARTINEZ STARKE
THE OREGONIAN

John Day's fellow golfers could tell how long their game would last. If there was a clear blue sky, it would be a short game. But if there were clouds, he gazed up at them like a little kid, with something to say about each changing cloud formation: the wave clouds, the lenticulars, the big billowy cumulus.

Meanwhile golfers backed up on the tees.

John, a Linfield College physics professor, was a sky evangelist whose cry was: "Look up and see!"

He was eternally dreaming up ideas for getting people to look up at the sky. It frustrated and disappointed him that people didn't love clouds as he did, and he was hungry for an audience to share his enthusiasm.

In time, he began photographing clouds with his Minolta. "Photo op!"

he would yell. The car would slam to a stop, no matter where he was, and the sliding door would snap open.

Throughout his long life, which ended June 21, 2008, at age 95, he was both physicist and metaphysicist. He could speak of the science of clouds and of their beauty almost in the same breath.

He was writing a book at the time of his death; until his 90s, he taught one class a year at Linfield.

John Day was no science whiz as a child; his happiest childhood memories were of fishing near Pikes Peak. His mother made him take piano, and he worked his way through Colorado College as a pianist in a dance band. A major in physics and math, he called himself a mediocre student.

The band played in Pueblo, Colo., one night, and there he and Mary Hyatt danced, talked for a long time, and exchanged addresses. They married in 1937.

John got a job as an airport guide in the Bay Area and enjoyed standing at the dock watching the flying boats from the Philippines carrying passengers or airmail. He was Amelia Earhart's driver for a day in Oakland.

He signed on as a member of the first class at the Boeing School of Aeronautics in Oakland and went to work as a forecaster for Pan Am World Airways, helping provide weather forecasting for the flying boats, the Clip-



ABOVE: John Day and Mary Hyatt met in Pueblo, Colo., when John played piano in a dance band, and they married in 1937. John grew up in Colorado Springs.



LEFT: Late in his life, John Day (right) joined Bruce Huffman and Jim Ragsdale as goodwill "ambassadors" in McMinnville, where they handed out carnations on Mother's Day.

BELOW: This John Day photo of a red barn outside McMinnville is very similar to one of his photos that became a 37-cent U.S. postage stamp in 2004. A slide show of cloud photos taken by John may be found at blog.oregonlive.com/lifestories.

pers. He had assignments in Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, New Caledonia and Japan.

War broke out. The U.S. Navy took over the company for transport and John became an instant lieutenant j.g.

After the war, John decided on an

academic career. He taught physics and meteorology at Oregon State and 10 years later got a Ph.D. in cloud physics.

For two years, he worked at the University of Redlands in California, where he lived in the home of Joan

Baez's father and got to know the future star.

John returned to Oregon in the late 1950s to a position at Linfield College and put down roots. He wrote a number of books, including textbooks, and co-authored several Peterson's Field

Guides.

John and Mary had five children whom he regularly quizzed with questions such as "Now, why does fog form?"

He helped start a continuing education program at Linfield, and considered that his greatest achievement.

Upon official retirement in 1978, he began to write a weekly column for the McMinnville News Register, "Words on the Weather." He wrote that column until last year.

He also started projects: audiovisual cloud slide shows with music for hospitals. He started Day Photo, enlarging his pictures and framing them. He started Quiet Time Art Cards. He began hounding the Postal Service for a cloudscape series. He submitted several slides, and sure enough, one of his photographs was chosen as one of the 2004 "Cloudscape" stamp series.

He helped create a Sky Watcher's Cloud Chart which hangs all over the country, and in 2002, he wrote "The Book of Clouds," a coffee-table book with plenty of his photos.

John was a lifelong United Methodist and taught an adult Sunday school class for more than 40 years. But his own eclectic spiritual tastes included mystic Joel Goldsmith and philosopher Teilhard de Chardin. He was a longtime member and fundraiser for Care Resources Inc., an agency that helped provide medical aid to the poor. He was also such an idealist about human nature some called him "John Quixote." He had an ongoing pen pal relationship with a prisoner, who could see up at the clouds, but not out.

In the 1990s, he decided he didn't need to learn how to use a computer. But his children pushed him, and in 1997, a daughter created a Web site for his cloud photos, newspaper column and a list of the top 10 reasons to watch clouds.

"I'd like to be known as the Cloud Man," he decided. So cloudman.com it became.

To his delight, the Web site's guest book was almost immediately filled with messages from kindred spirits around the world.

John couldn't get over the fact that the Web site gave him a worldwide audience to share his enthusiasm. The planet had become his classroom, and people everywhere were learning just how much they were missing when they did not "Look up and see!" You could even say he was on cloud nine.

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John A. Day

Born: May 24, 1913, Salina, Kan.

Died: June 21, 2008, McMinnville

Survivors: Wife, Mary; son, John W., daughters, Patti Webb, Carolyn McCloskey, Janice Richardson and Christy Leonhardt; 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren

Service: Has been held, Linfield College

Remembrances: Camp Magruder (United Methodist church camp on Oregon coast)



Two slide shows, one of photos from the life of John Day, and the other dozens of cloud photos taken by John Day, may be found at: blog.oregonlive.com/lifestories

LOCAL OBITUARIES

Obituary policy

News obituaries are a free service of The Oregonian. They are written by staff members of The Oregonian for residents of the Portland area. Because of the number of submissions and limited space, The Oregonian cannot guarantee publication dates. If space is limited, obituaries with upcoming local services are published before ones without them.

The Oregonian accepts obituary information on its standard form from the family or funeral home. The obituary desk can be reached at 503-294-5058. The fax number is 503-294-5059.

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All obituaries on these pages are preserved in The Oregonian's archives, and are available online at obitsarchive.com and other media.

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Douglas Ray Allred

Douglas Ray Allred died June 8, 2008, at age 84.

Douglas Ray Allred was born May 10, 1924, in Provo, Utah, and moved to the Portland area as a child. He was a general contractor who owned Atlas General Construction. He also was a pilot. In 1948, he married Lorraine Wymetalek.

Survivors include his wife; son, Douglas R.

III; and daughter, Diane L. Cox.

Gathering later. Remembrances to the American Lung Association. Arrangements by Finley's.

Claudia L. Barberio

A graveside funeral will be at 1 p.m. Monday, July 14, 2008, in the Coburg I.O.O.F. Cemetery for Claudia L. Barberio, who died from complications of a stroke at age 86.

Claudia L. Smith was born Sept. 28, 1921, in

Coburg, where she was raised. She was a PBX operator for Pacific Northwest Bell who moved to Portland in 1970.

Survivors include her daughters, Billie Rae Graber and Linda Clemens; sons, Leonard Clemens and John Barberio Jr.; and sister, Carol Jensen.

Remembrances to Oregon Public Broadcasting. Arrangements by Poole-Larsen in Eugene.

Dorothy Mabel "Connie" Bates

Dorothy Mabel "Connie" Bates died June 20 at age 84.

Dorothy Mabel Conn was born Oct. 9, 1923, in Libby, Mont. She lived in Post Falls, Idaho, before moving to Corbett in the late 1930s. She was a licensed practical nurse for Providence Hospital and the White Shield Home. In 1941, she married Floyd E. Bates.

Survivors include her husband; son, Dennis; daughters, Judy Dixon, Linda Holmstrom and Kathy Norquist; seven grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Remembrances to Pregnancy Resource Centers of Greater Portland. Arrangements by Gresham Memorial.

Ralph Henry Boeckman

A funeral will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 16, 2008, in Postlewait Events in Canby for Ralph Henry Boeckman, who died July 9 at age 56.

Ralph Henry Boeckman was born May 26, 1952, in Vancouver. He served in the Oregon Army National Guard and was a farmer in the Wilsonville-Canby area. Earlier this year, he married Carol J. Beavers.

Survivors include his wife; daughter, Au-Tossie; sons, Zechariah and Ralph II; mother, Eleanore M.; sisters, Marie Keller, Brenda Kay Hulit and Jennie Huff; and brothers, Richard and Loren.

Remembrances to the Coastal Conservation Association, Houston. Arrangements by Cornwell Colonial.

Irene Boitano

A funeral will be at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 16, 2008, in St. Peter's Catholic Church for Irene Boitano, who died July 5 at age 89.

Irene Laurenzio was born Dec. 30, 1918, in Portland, grew up in Troutdale and returned to Portland in 1942. She was co-owner with her husband of City Sanitary Service. She was a member of Ascension Catholic Church for more than 50 years. In 1942, she married Mario Boitano; he died in 1985.

Survivors include her son, Joe; and four grandchildren.

Remembrances to Vincent de Paul Society of St. Peter's Catholic Church. Arrangements by Farnstrom-Gable.

Eleanor Grace Brown

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 19, 2008, in Tualatin United Methodist Church for Eleanor Grace Brown, who died June 29 of pancreatic cancer at age 84.

Eleanor Grace Bell was born April 15, 1924, in Springfield. She moved to Beaverton in the late 1940s and was a homemaker as well as a lab technician for Tektronix, where she worked for 22 years. In 1948, she married Francis Brown; he died in 2003.

Survivors include her sons, Ed Reitz, Robert Brown and Tom Brown; daughter, Lois Wickes; stepsons, Ron and Jim; brother, Harold Bell; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Remembrances to Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation. Arrangements by Autumn.

Emelia Celoria

A funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 15, 2008, in St. Therese Catholic Church for Emelia Celoria, who died July 12 at age 87.

Emelia Cereghino was born Feb. 6, 1921, in Genoa, Italy. She graduated from Parkrose High School and lived most of her life in the

Parkrose area. She was a bookkeeper for Providence Hospital and had worked for an anesthesiologist group. In 1944, she married Louis J. Celoria; he died in 1995.

Survivors include her niece, Gloria Hudson; and nephew, Frank Cereghino.

Remembrances to Legacy Hopewell House. Arrangements by Zeller.

Thomas Lee Dunaway

A funeral will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, 2008, in Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Portland for Thomas Lee Dunaway, who died July 9 of pancreatic cancer at age 74.

Thomas Lee Dunaway was born March 11, 1934, in Portland, where he lived all his life. He graduated from Jefferson High School and served in the Air Force. He was a civil engineer for Multnomah County. In 1956, he married Cecilia Schmidt; she died in 1980. In 1982, he married Virginia Robel; she died in 2006.

Survivors include his daughters, Shelly Castleberry, Kim Zerba and Janet Wolff; son, Charles; stepdaughter, Sue Robel; stepson, Steve Robe; and eight grandchildren.

Remembrances to the American Cancer Society. Arrangements by Gateway Little Chapel of the Chimes.

Wayne Walter Hattrup

A funeral will be at 11 a.m. Monday, July 14, 2008, in Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home for Wayne Walter Hattrup, who died July 5 at age 76.

Wayne Walter Hattrup was born May 24, 1932, in Keuterville, Idaho, and raised in The Dalles and Portland. He graduated from Central Catholic High School and Seattle University. He served in the Navy and was a tax auditor for the state of Oregon. He married Kaye Rupp; she died in 1994.

Survivors include his sons, David and Stephen; brothers, Kenneth, Clinton and Robert; and sister, Gladine.

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