



## Arthur Hayes Parson

January 30, 2021

Arthur Hayes Parson, 78, passed away peacefully at home on January 30, 2021. He was born in 1942, the first child of Dr. Edward L. and Mildred Hayes Parson.

His formative years growing up were in Watertown, Wisconsin, where his activities included Demolay, football, band and drama. An avid reader at a young age, Arthur would go on to write plays that were performed in school. The family moved to Prescott in 1959 and Arthur graduated from Prescott High School in 1960 continuing to act and write.

He went to college at Arizona State University and was in plays there, as well, before transferring to the University of Hawaii to major in Asian Studies where his love of wearing Hawaiian shirts began. After an accident, Arthur returned to the mainland to earn his bachelor's degree at the UofA. He went back to Hawaii to train for the Peace Corps. In April of 1965, Arthur was in Thailand working for the Bangkok Post beginning as a proofreader, and working up to an editor position.

IN 1967, the draw of Honolulu would find Arthur calling it home for the next several years, until ultimately, moving to Prescott in 1992. He attended the Methodist Church. When not working, Arthur would frequent Bouchercon mystery conventions, and pursue his love of book collecting. He especially enjoyed his many years involved with Prescott writing groups, of which he was a great resource of author information. He was charter member of the Wolfe Pack, the official Nero Wolfe literary society. Arthur had traveled extensively in

his younger days, but later looked forward to celebrating many birthdays hosted by his sister and brother in law on his trips to Texas.

Arthur is survived by his sisters, Karen Andries of McKinney, Texas, Candice Heck of Cottonwood, AZ, and Lisa Parson-Negri, brother-in-law, Jay Negri, of Prescott, three nephews and three nieces. He will be deeply missed.

A Celebration of Life will take place at a later time. In lieu of flowers, the family would like you to pick up a book, enjoy the world it takes you and fondly, think of Arthur.

# Tribute Wall

SL

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Susan Lanning** - March 01, 2021 at 05:02 PM

SL

“ *I met Art almost 20 years ago in the local writers group. He was usually very quiet at the meetings, but when he did speak it was obvious he knew so much more about authors than most of us. He was one of the first members of our small mystery writers group, Suspicious Characters, when we formed in the fall of 2002, becoming our font of information about authors and their novels. Over the years he attended most of the Bouchercons (get-togethers of famous mystery authors and their fans), and he visited the Poison Pen mystery bookstore in Scottsdale regularly to meet many of the authors he told us about. His favorite author, no longer living of course, was Rex Stout with the Nero Wolfe mysteries. Art was an amazing man, quiet, kind, knowledgeable and one our group learned to care about deeply. His passing, especially during this time of isolation, grieves us all. Hard to imagine our group meeting again without him. I will miss him terribly.*

*Susan Lanning*

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**Susan Lanning** - March 01, 2021 at 05:01 PM



“ Art was a member of the group, *Suspicious Characters*, long before my husband and I moved to Prescott, AZ. Not long after we were asked to join the group, we met Art and, over time, found out exactly why the group so revered him. His knowledge of the genre, mystery fiction, was legendary. And not only that, he was incredibly generous with his books as well as experiences. In his quiet way, he commanded awe.

*Not long before Art left this world, my husband, Richard moved on. I like to think of them, both avid readers and mystery buffs, forming a group of the illustrious for all of us when we are ready to join.*

*We all miss Art. His spot will never be filled.*

*Shirley Willis*

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**Shirley Willis** - February 20, 2021 at 02:18 PM

AS

“ I didn't know a lot about Arthur Parson. He seemed a very quiet person, and I only saw him at writers' meetings. However, I did know a little of what he revealed to us through what he mentioned of his travels and by his mannerisms. These mannerisms appeared to show me some of the admirable qualities of his character. The information he offered in our meetings was always to the point, strictly factual, and presented in a plain, clear manner. In all that I observed of his behavior and speech, he exhibited a gentle and humble nature. This is what I knew and admired about Arthur Hayes Parson (“Art”). His attendance always added a certain something to our meetings. The *Suspicious Characters* writing group will not be the same and we miss him.

*Andrew Somerville*

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**Andrew Somerville** - February 20, 2021 at 01:59 PM

AS

“ My son, Andy, and I send condolences to the family of Arthur Parsons.

*Art was very special to us and to many others. He was one of the founders of Suspicious Characters, a murder mystery writing group; and I've known him since 2002, when I attended their 2nd meeting. He was such a kind man, soft spoken, and was a foundation of information about authors and their books.*

*Because Art was quiet, extremely intelligent, had a phenomenal memory, and had lived in Asia, I decided he had been a CIA agent; and wrote a story about him being a spy. Art really got a "kick" out of that. Others in our Suspicious Characters group would ask him if was a spy and he'd answer, "I can't talk about that." So we never knew, but I have my suspicions...*

*Andy and I would call him occasionally during this pandemic, and we'd talk about books. He'd always say how much he was looking forward to the Suspicious Characters getting together again. Suspicious Characters won't seem the same without Art sitting there.*

*I will truly miss him.*

*Ann Somerville*

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**Ann Somerville** - February 20, 2021 at 10:55 AM