



Kenneth H Watson

November 18, 1913 - May 7, 2013

Kenneth H. (Ken) Watson passed away on May 7, 2013 at the age of 99 years in Prescott, Arizona. Ken was born November 18, 1913, in San Pedro, California.

He came to Arizona in 1918, moved to Prescott and stayed until May of 1919, when his father, H.B. Watson, started a newspaper in Wickenburg, the "Arizona State Miner." The family then moved to Phoenix in 1924 where Ken's father started another newspaper, the "Five Points Star," which published until his death in 1925.

Ken attended Monroe and Adams Schools in Phoenix and graduated from Phoenix Union High School in 1930 at the age of 17. In August of that year he went to work as an apprentice printer for the "Arizona Republic" (later know as the "Republic and Gazette") in their commercial printing department.

In 1937 he married Mary Louise Graham, who was a member of the Class of 1933 of PUHS. She passed away in 1964, and Ken married Patricia Mathews in 1969. Pat passed away in 2011.

In 1942 he enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps and spent 26 months overseas, from Australia to New Guinea to Leyte to Luzon to Okinawa, printing bombing charts for the 5th Air Corps.

Returning home in 1946, he bought stock in McGrew Printing and Lithographing Company, continuing to work there until he retired in 1978 as president and general manager.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed bowling, pool, and golf. Ken had two hole-in-one plays in his lifetime: the first at the age of 75 and the second at the age of 90. He played baseball in the old Twilight League in Phoenix and also softball. In basic training for the Air Corps at McDill Field in Florida, he taught the other recruits how to “fast pitch” in their softball games-- a tactic that no one had seen before.

He retired to Clarkdale, Arizona, in 1979, and was a member of the Clarkdale Restoration Commission, which was charged with restoring the Clark Memorial Clubhouse. He was also a volunteer at Marcus J. Lawrence Hospital (now Verde Valley Medical Center) in Cottonwood, Arizona.

Ken was a longtime member of the First Families of Arizona, as his German father came to Tombstone in 1879. His mother, Johannah Julianna Lundgren, was a fullblooded Swede who ventured from her homeland to the U.S. in 1904.

Ken also was a member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club, the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He is survived by his daughter, Julia Watson-Frandsen, his son-in-law, Clifford Frandsen, and numerous nephews and nieces. He was cremated and, at his request, no services will be held. Hampton Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Dear Julia,

What a beautiful tribute you wrote to your Dad. I've been writing to you in my head since I read of your Dad's passing. I went out and bought a bottle of French champagne to suitably toast one of Clarkdale's treasures. He may have decided to attend his 100th birthday celebration on the other side where there is a gang of Clarkdale friends waiting to welcome him and to toast him as I did.

The Clark Memorial Restoration Commission was so blessed to have him. We all worked on the restoration of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse in the 1980's. What fun and what an enormous task we took on, Kenny and Vesta had a special history to share from their high school days and from that time on and over all those years all those members shared of love of Clarkdale. We opened many bottles of champagne to serve at the fund raisers in the Clark Memorial so it seemed only fitting that I salute his passing by popping a bottle just for him.

He touched so many lives with Joy and Love. After my mother died he would send me little collections of jokes that you may have sent to him. What a thoughtful sweet man.

Shopping in Safeway over the decades I would always find Kenny and Pat, what a team, and always a happy special greeting with hugs.

I know he's looking down and smiling that wonderful smile of his.

With Love,

Janice Benatz

Janice Benatz - May 18, 2013 at 11:18 AM

JW

janice, we are so pleased that you toasted ken with champagne --a fitting tribute! he was a treasure to all who knew him...thank you for writing this lovely note...julia

julia watson - June 01, 2013 at 09:45 PM

KR

“ *Julia - My father, Bill Esgar, and Kenny played softball and worked together at McGrew's for many years. I also worked for McGrew's until it was no more. I remember your dad as a man of integrity and fairness and also a quick wit. Our sympathy is extended to you and yours in his passing.*

Bob and Karen Esgar

Karen R.Esgar - May 13, 2013 at 11:04 AM

MD

“ *Kenny and Pat were both very good neighbors and cherished friends. He was one of the most active persons I know, and had a wonderful lust for life. I know that in his Volume 3 he is with Pat again. and his smile will be sorely missed. He spoiled my daughter as much as he spoiled his dogs: We will always carry great memories. May the family find peace in knowing that in every life he touched, I have no doubt he brought a smile.*

Mary Denton & Bailey Smith

Mary Denton - May 12, 2013 at 05:59 PM

BN

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Kenny. He was a very nice man. his knowledge of Arizona history was amazing. I will never forget when Pat & Kenny lost there little dog. I was on a mission to find them another dog.....and I found Gizmo his mom had to go to a nursing home and I thought he was perfect for Pat & Kenny. only problem was we were not told that Gizmo was a runner. so the first time the door was open Gizmo took off Kenny said they chased that dog all over Clarkdale. After they caught him Pat called and had to remind me that I said if for some reason they could not keep Gizmo I would take him. I said o.k. I will be by in the morning to pick him up. as we were ready to end the call I could hear Kenny in the background saying..... WAIT PAT EVERYBODY DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE. the rest is history they both fell in love with little Gizmo I was so happy I was able to find Gizmo for them. and Pat & Kenny loved him. R.I.P. Kenny thank you for all the interesting stories you shared with me. I am so proud to get to know you.

Brenda Neuburger - May 12, 2013 at 02:40 PM

JU

brenda...perfect comments about my dad and his integrity...many thanks. j

julia - May 13, 2013 at 06:48 PM

MF

“ Kenny was one of our favorite neighbors here in Clarkdale. He also happened to be one of my favorite Bank customers. His trips in the Bronco with Pat and Freckles would always bring a smile to our faces. He was always up for a discussion of current events, local or world-wide. He is a special person who will be missed.

Eldon and MaryLou Forbes

MaryLou Forbes - May 11, 2013 at 07:09 PM