



Carl Edward Ruud

June 20, 1931 - April 3, 2012

Carl Edward Ruud passed away on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at his home in Cheney, Washington at the age of 80. Carl was born June 20, 1931 to Carl Oliver Ruud and Eloise McKay Ruud in Waterville, Washington. He was the 5th of 7 children and was nicknamed “Samson” by a hired man because he weighed 11 pounds at birth. Growing up on a ranch in Waterville in the 30s and 40s with his brothers and sisters was the country life we all read about in nostalgic novels. Carl attended school in Waterville, participating in sports and music programs, graduating in 1950 with letters in football, basketball, baseball and tennis. He attended Wenatchee Valley College and Eastern Washington College of Education (EWU) on football scholarships and graduated in 1954 with a BA in Physical Education and Social Studies, certified to teach. At Eastern, he met Marlene Diane Thiel. They were married in April of 1954. In October 1954, Carl “joined” the army and after training as a Medic in Texas was stationed in Germany in March 1955. He and Marlene lived in Landstuhl, Germany until the summer of 1956. He was discharged in September 1956. While in Europe, they visited eleven countries, usually camping in their tent. The trip to Europe, time spent there and the trip back, including many and varied adventures, were one of the highlights of their lives. Carl began his teaching career with the 1956-57 school year in Cashmere, Washington. He and Marlene spent the 1957-58 school year in Champaign/Urbana, Illinois, where Carl received a Masters in Recreation Administration from the University of Illinois. While there, as a graduate

teaching assistant he taught "Prescribed Exercise and Wrestling". They returned to Cashmere for the 1958-59 school year and he taught and coached there until 1967. While living in Cashmere, Carl and Marlene had three daughters, Lisa, Tana and Lonna. He was a fun and active father, bike riding, gardening and swimming with his girls, and encouraging music and performance by building a stage in the backyard. Carl served on the Cashmere Park Board and as president of the Cashmere Chamber of Commerce. He also went into partnership with his brother John to purchase and manage the R Chuckwagon Drive-In in Cashmere. In 1967, Carl received his Masters in Education and certification as a school counselor from Eastern Washington State College. In June 1968 he was employed by EWSC as assistant professor and director of the Upward Bound Program. In July of that year, he and Marlene divorced. His family continued living in Cashmere, while he moved to Cheney. In Cheney, he met Patricia Fuechsel-Ritzheimer and they married in December of 1968. He and Patsy continued to live in Cheney with her three young sons, Fred, Mike and Pete. In 1988, Carl and Patsy became the parents of Patsy's grand-daughter Katie, whom he loved beyond all other things. In 1983 he took a school counseling position at Priest River, Idaho Junior High. In 1985, he became the school counselor at Liberty Junior/Senior High school in Spangle, Washington. He worked at Liberty until 2002, at the age of 71, he retired from teaching. In total, he taught for 43 years. At the age of 14, Carl received his first guitar from a neighbor, Pete Hubacker. Carl's mother encouraged musical appreciation with all of her children, and he participated in chorus and music programs in school at Waterville and at college. Of "Papas nine grandchildren, three are accomplished musicians. Beginning in 2005, he began his second career playing guitar and singing with various partners, sometimes at small venues, but primarily at retirement centers and nursing homes, where his love of traditional and folk music were very warmly appreciated. He loved gardening (especially the sport of raising dahlias with his brothers John and Francis) and participated in the Cheney Community Garden. He actively worked on his

student apartments and enjoyed getting to know his renters. He enthusiastically worked on family history projects with his sister Esther. He enjoyed traveling to visit his children and grandchildren. Carl and his sister Esther 's lives always intertwined, they loved each other dearly and they became the very best of friends. He was his family's peacemaker, his children's friend and advisor. An extroverted "ideaman" always willing to get involved, or give a hand. He loved us unconditionally. He was taken unexpectedly and too soon. He is preceded in death by his parents, Oliver and Eloise Ruud and his step-son Michael Ritzheimer. He is survived by his wife Patricia, his daughters, Lisa Thompson, Tana Urizar, Lonna Welch and Katie Ritzheimer, his step-sons Fred Ritzheimer and Pete Ritzheimer, his brothers and sisters, Fred Ruud, Lois Stinson , John Ruud, Francis Ruud, Esther Stradling and Ila Rupley. He is also survived by nine grandchildren and many, many nieces and nephews whom he loved and kept track of in the tradition of his mother. A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 7, at Cheney Funeral Chapel, 1632 W. 1st. St., Cheney, WA. Burial will be at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, April 9 at the Waterville Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

MD

“ I am so sorry for your lost. I lived in Carl's 523 Blue house for 3 years. He was the best land lord anyone could ask for, he always reminded me of my own Grandfather. Sweet and very caring, and always available and ready to help. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.

Marie Demerath - April 17, 2012 at 01:36 PM

RT

“ Carl was an amazing landlord to me and the three other girls living in the Blue house in Cheney. He was always so kind to us, often bringing potted flowers to beautify our porch. We all loved Carl, He will be truly missed.

Rachael Trigg - April 13, 2012 at 10:58 PM

SM

“ I am so sorry to here about Carl. I worked with him at liberty school.I will miss his smile and popins to see us every once in a while and to bring us a bunch of dalias to plant.I always enjoyed talking about music with him and watching him play at different locations.He always inspired me to keep singing and would always ask how my girls were doing.Take care of that guitar he sure loved playing it.He will always be in my thoughts.What a cool guy. Take care Steve Martensen

Steve Martensen - April 13, 2012 at 12:59 PM

TU

“ Thank you so much to Dad's friends and family members for their kind thoughts and prayers. We all have so many special memories with Carl that will help comfort us. We'll miss his unconditional love, his stories, his sense of humor and his kindness greatly.

Tana Ruud Urizar - April 11, 2012 at 10:41 PM

KK

“ Dear Ruud Family, I was fortunate enough to know Carl and his kindness when I was his tenant in the big Blue House on the corner of 4th and D back from 2005-08. My roommates and I have the fondest memories of Carl always coming to fix anything that needed it. Carl would always cut flowers from outside in in the springtime and bring them in for us to enjoy. I have nothing but great memories from the time that I lived in Carl's house, he was a kind man and great landlord. Sending my best to your family,
Kasey Knox

Kasey Knox - April 10, 2012 at 09:34 PM

ET

“ Dear Ruud Family, We have many fond memories of Carl and his family. First of all I remember Carl as the star running back for the Waterville Shockers football team when they demolished our Dryden High team in the fall of 1949. On virtually every play they handed the ball to Carl and it took most of our eight man team to bring him down. He was as powerful as a mighty work horse. Later at Cashmere Grace Lutheran our families worshiped and fellowshiped together. Lastly we enjoyed having Marlene and the girls live across the street from us in Wenatchee. I also remember Carl's strong interest in creating things. He had a true entrepreneurial sense and enjoyed trying new things. Sincerely, Earl Tilly

Earl Tilly - April 09, 2012 at 08:41 AM

DM

“ Sorry to hear about Carl. He was always a fun easy going person to work with.

Dave & Nancy Miller - April 07, 2012 at 10:17 AM

JG

“ When I think of my Uncle Carl, the first thing that comes to mind is how encouraging he was. It did not matter what I was doing, what I was hoping to do, or even what I had done before; Uncle Carl was excited for me. His positive energy made me feel important and made me believe that anything was possible. A small example of this positivity came through when he would entertain the seniors at the retirement center where I worked. The songs he chose and his ability to engage each individual with his music made them feel more confident, capable, and happier. The residents who listened to him were energized. He is my professional mentor and friend, as well as my uncle. I will miss him greatly.

Joshua Gray - April 06, 2012 at 06:39 PM

KC

“ carl was a very special person he was always willing to listen and give great advice he will be missed by all that new him

kirby and tamie cunningham - April 06, 2012 at 12:11 PM

MR

“ Carl's first love was always his family. He was loved and respected by many. Our lives are richer for having known him.

Marsha Ritzheimer - April 06, 2012 at 10:49 AM