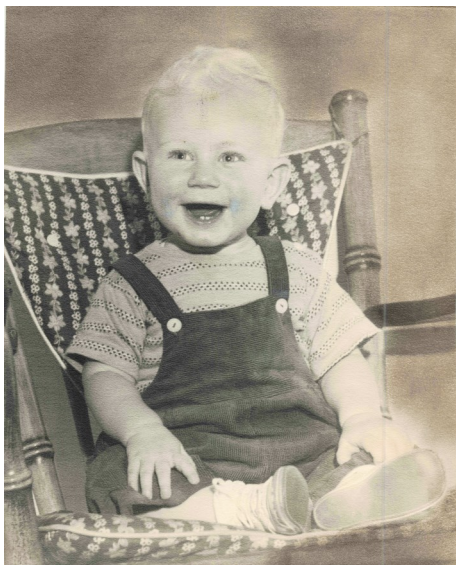


In Memory of Kenneth Oscar Dunder, November 22, 1944 – November 3, 2023



Ken Dunder, age 78 of Turner, Oregon, ventured on in his journey with a smile on his face, eager to chase the next spiritual calling that awaits.

Born in Portland, he attended Benson Polytechnic High School and graduated from Portland State University majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Geology. After working for Georgia Pacific in Albany focusing on resin research, he started his own company, Hydrokinetic Systems, a wastewater treatment engineering and design facility that addressed industrial and agriculture industries spanning the West Coast, from Deacero in Monterrey, Mexico, to Red Dog Zinc Mine in Kotzebue, Alaska. His efforts and that of his valued crew, cleaned wastewater for Fijitsu, Boeing, Van Waters & Rogers, Praegitzer Industries, Siltec Silicon, Teledyne

Wah Chang, NASA, Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery, and so many more. Their efforts, applying chemistry, mathematics and physics, make the world a better place at a time when environmental stewardship was just emerging. Later, Ken established a wastewater consulting firm, Clearwater Design.



Ken enjoyed farming and aquaculture at his home, Santiam Valley Ranch. There he developed innovative circulation systems featuring biofilters, ultraviolet and ozone systems. He enjoyed creating the 100-acre Wetland Reserve Program on the property, and delighted raising his chickens, along with veggies from the garden and greenhouse, and sheep in the pasture.

He had special affection for his dogs, Hopi, Tolkien and Rossi, and his pet horse, Carrie. Thirty years later, Ken was in the process of working with Oregon State University to address decomposition of polyethylene mulch at the farm.



From his joy in listening to jazz, to a quick song on a harmonica or piano, to learning Swedish, German, and Spanish, Ken's interest in life was a joy to others as they met him. He made a great omelet, was a Blazermaniac, enjoyed golf, fly fishing, scuba diving, bee keeping, and woodworking, spent relaxing time watching Oregon Public Broadcasting, and delighted in meeting folks from all walks of life. With his wife Kathy, he enjoyed traveling, delighting at Amalfi Coast in Italy, to Patagonia in Argentina, to Port Douglas in Australia, to Beqa Lagoon in Fiji, to Victoria in British Columbia.

An extrovert who enjoyed song and dance, during his quiet moments Ken's true delight was immersing himself in geology, dissecting the environment around him while traversing the roads of the Willamette Valley, taking him backwards to 10,000 years ago and envisioning the Missoula Floods. He gathered all sorts of rocks with great reverence, all a testament to his increasing understanding of the creation of earth, its landscapes, its soil and networking of mycorrhiza and their interactions with plants. He marveled at the diversity of the plants and animals that abounded, pondering the geology some 4.6 billion years ago and marveling at the magic of it all.

Ken's father and mother migrated from Sweden. His father, Oscar Dunder, served as a lumberjack and would take young Ken to the Coastal Forest; Ken never forgot the magical beauty of the natural environment and developed great knowledge about collecting and cooking edible mushrooms. Ken's mother, Rose Florin Dunder, was a bookbinder and an avid gardener. She developed two Begonia flowers that bear her name; her inspiration guided Ken to raise his own food and enjoyment of plants. Together, Oscar and Rose live a modest lifestyle in Portland, filled with family and friendship. Ken's uncle is Lambert Florin whose photography is housed at the Oregon Historical Society Research Library and features historical ghost towns of the West; Lambert played a mentorship role in Ken's later enjoyment of orchids, history, art, and photography.

After graduating from college, Ken and his first wife, Wendy, lived on a commune outside of Eugene. There Ken developed an interest in livestock and rustic lifestyle, featured by making bread for the community, and augmented by making his own beer and wine and a lifetime of harvesting firewood, enjoying the heat from a wood stove until his passing.

Ken is survived by his wife and partner, Kathy Bridges, his three sons, Marne, Nils and Erik, three stepsons, Jake, Andy and Luke Fitzpatrick, and two granddaughters, Malia and Alaina Fitzpatrick. A Celebration of Life is planned for June of 2024 and memorials honoring his life will be noted at that time.

