

Obituary - Dr. Al Tyler



Al and Nancy at their Salt Spring Island home.



Old friends: Al and Vera.



Al and Nancy on their scotch whisky tour in Scotland.

On September 7, 2005, PICES suffered the loss of a loyal friend, with the unexpected death of Al Tyler. Al died peacefully in his sleep at his home on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. He was thoroughly enjoying his new life there, engaging in all his favorite pastimes. Prior to his retirement in 1992, he had served as Associate Dean of the School of Fisheries and Ocean Science at the University of Alaska Fairbanks for ten years, and during that time we had developed not only a smooth and effective working relationship, but Al and Nancy and I had also developed a strong friendship. I had visited them on the island only a few weeks before Al's death.

Al took part in many PICES Annual Meetings, and served as the Chairman of the Bering Sea Working Group (Working Group 5), producing a hard cover book on "Dynamics of the Bering Sea." Published by PICES in 1999, this book was a timely milestone in the synthesis of rapidly accumulating research results.

Al was born in Philadelphia and spent his young years there, ultimately going to the University of Pennsylvania, where he met and married Nancy. They moved to Canada for the completion of his doctoral work. His highly productive career included ten years with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada at Nanaimo, and ten years at the Oregon State University, before joining the University of Alaska Fairbanks. During these decades, Al

conducted research and published many significant papers, and served as mentor for many younger colleagues. I recall, however, that he was happiest when working with students. He took a personal interest in their progress, and, even though his position with us did not require it, taught popular and innovative fisheries courses, bringing in experts to lecture from as far and wide as China and Japan. At the time of his death, he was completing a textbook on fisheries, designed to bring into the curriculum all aspects of fisheries rather than just the biological.

Al had many interests. One I shared with him was a love of really fine single malt scotch whisky. One spring, Al and Nancy and I spent two weeks in Scotland exploring this interest. He was also an excellent chef, specializing in Indian curries. He had done some serious studying on the subject, and produced a wonderful little cookbook. He was also a talented painter. With retirement, he finally was able to enjoy all these activities, as well as daily hikes and bird walks. Sadly, this period of his life was cut short. He will be greatly missed.

In addition to his wife, Nancy, Al is survived by his daughter Ellen and husband Halfdan; daughter Jeanne and partner Patrick; son Paul and partner Jacqueline; and grandchildren Mikael and Hildur.

*Vera Alexander
Chairman, PICES*

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