



Ardy Keck

November 1, 1921 - December 4, 2010

Ardy Keck, 89 of Fort Collins, Colorado passed away on December 4, 2010 at home after a courageous battle against lymphoma. Ardy was born November 1, 1921 in Decatur, Illinois to the Hollis Keck's and his three older siblings. Ardy attended public schools in Decatur, Illinois and during high school, worked in a steel foundry as well. Enduring the depression hardships with his family left indelible memories which influenced his work ethic and compelled him to be conservative throughout his life. Ardy enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II, serving as a diesel mechanic in the engine room below the water line on an LST off the North African coast. Upon honorable discharge from the Navy, Ardy resumed his courtship of Alice Lee Whitley, the pretty little girl next door who was born one year and two and a half months after he was. They were married on September 9, 1945 and celebrated their 65th anniversary in 2010. Through all those years they had fun confounding people by both signing A.L. Keck on everything. Unless you knew their handwriting, you didn't know whose signature it was. Ardy and Alice moved to Fort Collins, Colorado where Ardy completed a degree in Forestry at Colorado State University and worked summers at Rocky Mountain National Park. He had numerous hair-raising and amusing stories to tell about those years. After graduation from CSU, Ardy returned to Decatur and became owner/manager of a bird hunting lodge at Rice Lake. Once again he could regale friends and family with countless stories of the famous and infamous people he befriended in those days. On March 31, 1950 Ardy and Alice welcomed their

only child, Craig, known as Bo, into their world. After living with Alice's parents for several years, the little family of three struck out for Fort Collins again. Ardy worked for the CSU Forestry Department, planting windbreaks in the four state areas of Colorado/Wyoming/Nebraska and Kansas. He then switched to being a food service manager until retirement, while Alice worked in bookkeeping at CSU. After retirement from CSU, Ardy worked at the Fort Collins Elks Club. Ardy was an avid golfer and fly fisherman, excelling at both. He was urged a number of times to become a professional golfer. He passed his fishing prowess on to Bo and Bo remembers fondly the many days they shared stalking the big ones. The Keck's in retirement remodeled their cabin at Rustic up the Poudre River, making it their permanent home from 1983 until 1997. They then moved to the cityFort Collins to their current address. It was impossible to go anywhere in Fort collins without running into old friends or people Ardy worked with at CSU or especially long-ago students at CSU who worked under his supervision. He received endless credit for helping make them what they are today. This gave him great joy. Always they called him "Mr. Keck". Ardy was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Russell and Junior; and sister, Ruth. He is survived by his wife, of 65 years, Alice Lee Keck of Fort Collins; his son, Craig M. Keck Bo and his daughter-in-law, Jeanie Keck of Bozeman, Montana. The family would like to thank Pathways Hospice for the extraordinary care given to Ardy. An Open House will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2011 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Keck family home, 2524 Coventry Ct. in Fort Collins.

Tribute Wall

DK

“ I am the grandson of Elmer Keck. I don't think I met Ardy, but I remember my grandpa speaking of him highly. I visted Holis many times with grandpa. I know this is late forthcoming and maybe never will be seen. We are all Keck,s and it is amazing how family's get seperated over the years. I just received this from my father and wanted to touch base. Sorry for your loss I know Ardy was a great man.

David Keck - September 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Dear Alice and Bo, We are so sorry to hear that Ardy has passed, and we share in your loss. Ardy was a "very special" man in my life when I worked for him at CSU, Ellis and Newsom Halls. I have many special and funny memories of him and loved his annual Christmas letter. He alway kept us up to date on your successes, Bo, and of course loved you dearly, Alice, as do we. Please give each other a BIG hug for us and know that you are special people and have been life time friends. I am proud to have had him as my friend. Ardy was special and will be missed! Our love, thoughts and prayers. Rick & Teresa Sherman, Montrose, CO

Rick Sherman - April 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Always liked Ardy and you too Alice. We plan on seeing you next Sunday. He was always one my favorite people.

Jerry & June Kissock - April 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Alice and Bo, it is with great sadness to hear of Ardy's passing. Ardy took me under his wing as a new manager at CSU and helped me learn the ropes of managing a dining hall and was primarily responsible for helping promote me into a senior management position in my early career at CSU. I remember the time Ardy took me out to the golf course to teach me how to play golf, needless to say I made more divits in the grass than I did hitting the ball, but it was an experience I'll never forget. I remember getting lost hunting in the Poudre Canyon and just happened to walk down to the Poudre River near Ardy and Alice's mountain home. I couldn't believe it when I seen Ardy outside his home. He drove me back up to where we were camping and we reminisced about working at CSU. We always enjoyed our visits with Alice and Ardy and will miss Ardy's quick wit. He will be truly missed.

Ron & Lynn Pantier - April 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ Bo and Alice I was stunned to hear Ardy had passed away. I wasn't aware he was ill. I have a lot of fond memories of your dad. Sometimes In the spring he would call me at work and say lets go fishing. I'd tell him I needed to work and he would say I need to talk to you about something we can fish while we talk business Fix a couple sack lunches and let's go. He tried to show me how to catch fish on the Poudre. Ardy would tell me to cast in a certain area and after several casts with no luck he'd say let me in there and he would catch a nice trout. That man could fish. I suppose you remember the time I got a fly hooked in my ear and you took it out. Your dad told everyone about me hooking my own ear. He thought it was funny and it really was. Ardy's passing leaves a void in many peoples lives. He was good to me and a great help to me as I became a manager. I hope God is as good to Ardy as Ardy was to me. Chuck Nuckols

Chuck Nuckols - December 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ Hi Mrs. Keck, This is Sunny, Edith's daughter. I am not sure if you remember me, but my mom worked with Ardy at Ellis Hall way back in the day. I have just learned of the sad news of Ardy's passing. I rememeber many times as a little girl coming to see my mom and always had to give Ardy a real big hug and one before leaving with a peck on the cheek. It seemed to make his day even brighter from a little girl who couldn't say his name right and my mom getting a kick out of it. I have thought about you both over the years and I'm sure my mom has too. Even though my mom does not live in Ft. Collins, I'm signing the guest book from us both. I'm sorry for your loss and my deepest heart felt condolences to you and your family.
Sunny and Eidth

Edith and Sunny Dilka - December 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Dear Alice Keck Family, May the Love of friends bring you great comfort and God's love give you peace during this difficult time. Our Deepest Sympathy. Love,

Lupe & Frank Apodaca - December 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Dear Alice, We were saddened to read of Arly's passing, but will always remember him as a fine man and friend. Sorry that we haven't been able to keep in touch more often, but our own health sometimes leave much to be desired, prohibiting us from getting around much any more. Please accept our sincere condolences and feel free to let us know if there is anything at all that we might do to help you through this sad time. Love, Frances and Jack

Jack & Frances Miller - December 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ We have signed the guest book, but my not so nimble fingers placed an 'L' where the 'D' should have been in Ardy's name. Also stuck a w' where an 'e' should have been in Frances' name Sorry about that. The message is sincere and what was said is from our hearts. Jack

Jack & Frances Miller - December 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Dear Mrs. Keck, I ironically learned of Ardy's passing when I read the Decatur paper the afternoon following my mother's Eyvon "Jo" Kurek's funeral. She died Dec 3, also at the age of 89. She remembered you and Ardy fondly and greatly enjoyed his delightful Christmas letters for many years. I, too, remember your family and our warm welcome when my folks and I visited your home in Ft. Collins many years ago. Please accept my sincere sympathy on Ardy's passing. God Bless You Always. Steve Kurek

Steve Kurek - December 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Alice and Bo, Paul, Marcia, Elizabeth, Mary Kate and Tom all send our deepest sympathies and condolences. We will forever miss our annual christmas letters from Ardy that were so full of wonder, cheer and happiness. I'm so thankful I was able to get both of my daughters to visit before his passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both. Much Love, The Whitley Family Paul, Marcia, Elizabeth, Mary Kate and Tom.

Paul Whitley - December 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM