



Jack James Park

July 7, 1926 - March 2, 2019

Jack James Park, born July 7th 1926 at the age of 92, and longtime resident of Ephrata (1950-present), peacefully passed away Saturday, March 2, 2019. Born in Tulsa, OK to John & Helen Park, he was the second youngest of 7 siblings, Ethel, Ernie, Marie, Nan, Doris and Margorie. In 1933, during the tough Great Depression, the family loaded up and moved to Washington in hopes that President Roosevelt would successfully end the depression and get most people back working again. Jack likened their journey to the movie "The Grapes of Wrath". The family first lived and worked on a small farm near Maltby, WA not far from Woodinville and later moved to Snohomish. In school, he learned and developed interests in drawing, drafting, and reading blueprints. In 1943, when he was 17 and only 115 pounds, he enlisted in the Navy. He expressed his passion for guns and airplanes to the recruiting officers and was assigned as an aviation ordinance man. At the end of WW II he was honorably discharged from the Navy and returned home to his family in Washington. He soon found work at Columbia Basin Irrigation District working for the Bureau of Reclamation in Ephrata then later at Grant County PUD (1953-1980). His job titles over the years included Surveyor, Engineering Drafting Supervisor, and Public Affairs Officer. Jack loved art & archeology and was instrumental in preserving the wonderful history of the area during the construction of Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams. He enjoyed a great working relationship with the Wanapum Tribe. He was given responsibility to head-up exhibits at the first Wanapum Heritage Center. He was instrumental in starting Granco Federal Credit Union. Jack, being the entrepreneur he was, and dear wife Lillian began several businesses in the Ephrata area including Hobby House, Western Collectors Gun Shows, Western Collectors Gun and Pawn Shop, J&L Art Source/Frame Shop, and Jack Park Appraisal Services for firearms, military and western paraphernalia, coins, western art and Indian artifacts. Jack met the love of his life, Lillian Hope, in Quincy and was married December 16th, 1951 in the ERC Building. They began raising a family with the birth of their twin boys, Clayton and Clinton, daughter Debbie, and son Evan. Jack was a dedicated husband and exceptional father. He and Lillian were wonderful, loving, diplomatic parents to their children and grandchildren. They were both dedicated members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and held several positions within it. Jack served in the Bishopric, Sunday School presidency, and was a

Scoutmaster during his membership. Jack loved history, enjoyed traveling and truly loved his community. He did public speaking about various topics, served in the Historical Society and many other community groups. He loved people and enjoyed sharing his many interesting stories with them. Jack was preceded in death by his wife Lillian, his parents, and all siblings except sister Marie (97) who currently resides in Tacoma. Jack is survived by sons Clayton Park of Ephrata, Clint Park of Wenatchee, daughter Debbie (Dan) Harper of Ephrata, and son Evan (Alicia) of Chula Vista, CA, seven grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services: Saturday, March 16th, 10:00am with viewing 9:30–9:55am. Address: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1301 East Division Ave, Ephrata. Burial: Ephrata Cemetery to follow. Please express your thoughts and memories while visiting the online guestbook at nicolesfuneralhome.com. Arrangements are under the direction of Nicoles Funeral Home of Ephrata.

Cemetery

Ephrata City Cemetery

333 E St. S.W.

Ephrata, WA,

Events

MAR **Visitation** 09:30AM - 09:55AM

16

Church of Jesus Christ of Lds

1301 E Division, Ephrata, WA, US, 98823

MAR **Service** 10:00AM

16

Church of Jesus Christ of Lds

1301 E Division, Ephrata, WA, US, 98823

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Nicoles Funeral Home and Valley View Memorial Park - March 15, 2019 at 11:54 AM



“ Dear Debbie, Clinton, Clayton, Evan, Marie, Family and Friends,

We are saddened to hear that Uncle Jack has passed. We know he will be joining Aunt Lillian in heaven. Our thoughts and love are with you. Please accept our condolences. We will miss him greatly.

Jack was such a knowledgeable historian and storyteller. We spent many summer afternoons sitting in the shade at Bud and Marie's listening to tales of his experiences and adventures. And of course hearing details about the guns and artifacts in our and his collection.

Once Jack and Lillian gave us a few handmade pottery items possibly made by the Wanapum Tribe Jack was working with in his job. One was a small round pot-type pipe with several stems into which hollow grasses were inserted. Someone took the pipe from Marie's display case and gave it a try. It did not work well probably due the lack of experience of the user. I suppose Jack could have supplied instructions. We still have the pipe with no instructions.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to attend the services on Saturday as planned. The wild one of us had a mishap a couple of days ago while snowmobiling and it would not be prudent to make the drive. Please accept our apology. We will try to stop and visit while traveling through in the summer.

If there is an audio or video record of the service we would appreciate being directed as to how we could obtain one.

Again, deepest sympathies for your loss. We will keep you in our thoughts and hearts.

Sincerely,
David and Mary Lou Parke

David R Parke - March 15, 2019 at 01:45 PM



“ I first met Jack when he owned a hobby shop that was in the current theater building, I was in middle school and was very into models. One day he said to a bunch of us that hung around there if we thought it should be a bigger store. The next thing you knew was that we were down at the Danial's building across from the post office painting the inside of it. Lillian would bring us a cold six pack of Pepsi (and I think also to check on us) every few hours. I ended up getting hired by jack, because I was the only one in the group that did not have some kind of job. One of the greatest events in my life. Jack picked up the Schwinn Bicycle dealer ship. At the time I did not know that Jack was building up our confidence, He just acted as if we could do anything from assembling bikes to repairing them. That confidence he instilled in all of us that hung around the Hobby Shop followed everyone of us the rest of our lives, in careers and hobbies. I may have been the only paid employee most of the time, but every one that hung around there helped customers and ran the cash register. Pepsi was the coin of the realm, by that I mean if a kid came in to the shop and wanted a Pepsi, which were a dime at the time, Jack would have him sweep the floors or the sidewalk or some other little task for a Pepsi.

As we got older and into cars, he trusted us enough to paint is 1929 Model A Ford pickup.

Wednesdays were a very important day at the hobby shop, were were to take money out of the till and send someone to Abelson's Bakery and get a dozen chocolate eclairs and there had better be two left when Jack got there after work. If there were not two left there was a lot of finger pointing as to who ate them.

I am not sure who Lillian thought were the kids working in the store. I know that there were times she thought Jack was the biggest kid in the store. He was like a kid at Christmas when a new order came in, even when he filled out the order form.

When he started to sell Go Karts he had to take one up to the airport and run it on all of the old streets. I know Lillian was not impressed with all of up up there trying out the merchandise. Jack was having a blast I do not think his grin could get any bigger.

I would never have accomplished all of the things in my life if it were not for Jack who taught us to have have confidence in our selves.

Roger Catlow

Roger Catlow - March 13, 2019 at 03:32 PM



“ We felt very close to Jack & Lillian. They were such great examples of service to Jay and me. Jack was Jay’s scout leader in church while he was growing up. He has so many fond memories of him.

When I was a Visiting teacher for Lillian -we would sometimes have Jack tell us stories of the past. He had so many great stories to tell and they were true! I believe he led quite an exciting life. He did a lot for others and was very active in the community and church. Our lives are much better for knowing him. Love you Jack!

Marie Adams - March 10, 2019 at 05:29 PM



“ Excerpt from Grant County PUD's internal newsletter:

Jack Park was CSR Debbie Harper's father. His career at Grant reads like the public power history lesson he helped build and preserve. Thanks to Debbie for sharing information for this write-up. Prepare to be amazed.

Park started at Grant PUD as a surveyor, then supervisor of the engineering drafting department, field engineer, director of public information, and later public affairs officer. He created “PUD Pete” and the slogan “Power for Progress.”

He walked every part of the land between the Priest Rapids Dam area and Spanish Castle before the area was filled up with water. He helped negotiate some of the land purchases before the land was inundated by the construction of the dams.

He enjoyed a working relationship with the Wanapums. He knew Puck Hyah Toot (Johnny Buck) and enjoyed working with Frank and Rex Buck Sr and later Rex Buck Jr. He was a good friend with Click Relander who was also a cherished friend to the Wanapums.

He helped in recovering petroglyphs on Whale Island before the river flooded the island between Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams. He was instrumental in starting the first Wanapum Visitors Center at Wanapum Dam. He commissioned Ed Quigley to do the mural that was in the Wanapum Dam tour center, which was later moved to the new Wanapum Heritage Center.

He was instrumental in recovering the canoe that the Wanapums held in high regard and had it reconditioned for display at the Wanapum Dam Heritage Center. He and Bob Bluhm worked together on many of the displays and dioramas in the heritage center.

He built the two 3D models of the two dams with Dave Darcy and Tom Wendt in the back room of Jack's Hobby House store in Ephrata. Those models were only recently moth balled from each dam.

He was instrumental in bringing together the authority required to get Granco Federal Credit Union started for the benefit of all PUD employees. And he was the first President of the PUD Employee Association.

He did a lot of public speaking and helped to create a fondness and respect for Grant PUD among the people of Grant County. He also compiled the annual reports for the PUD and one year won an award and trip back east to a National Conference for best layout of the Annual Report.

Park and his wife, Lillian, were married by Bob Ries, PUD engineering manager in Dec of 1951. He's on their marriage certificate. Jack also did Bob's obituary and eulogy when Bob passed away.

Park also started the following companies here in Ephrata;

- Hobby House
- Western Collectors Gun Shows
- Western Collectors Gun and Pawn Shop
- J & L Art Source and Frame Shop
- Jack Park Appraisal Services for firearms, military and western paraphernalia, coins, western art and Indian artifacts.

Debbie - March 09, 2019 at 05:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Debbie - March 09, 2019 at 04:13 PM



“ Loved working with Jack at GPUD. We 'wrangled' and grinned. May your family remember all the good things you brought to life. Wanda

Wanda Holloway - March 09, 2019 at 10:27 AM



“ What a very nice obituary for a very nice man. So very sorry for your loss. I worked with Jack when I first started at the PUD he was a great mentor and helped me through some PUD growing pains. Such a nice and caring man. I have so many fond memories of him. Condolences to your entire family at this time of loss. He so loved your Mom and his family, hoping all your memories will comfort you.

Linda Lambe - March 09, 2019 at 12:19 AM



“ I met Jack through working at the PUD. He was a wonderful man and im sure a wonderful husband and father. I loved talking to him and learning from him. Jack was so well liked by everyone. He will be missed, but now share s eternity with his lovely wife. Condolences to all of the family. I was just asking about him the other day.



Patty Beal-Langfitt - March 08, 2019 at 04:02 PM



“ Linda Lambe lit a candle in memory of Jack James Park



Linda Lambe - March 07, 2019 at 10:37 PM



“ to My Dad. I love you to the depths of my soul.
I'm glad that you are now with mom.
You were such a talented and amazing man with so many interests it was fun to grow up with you being my dad.
You were a good man and lots of people loved you and loved your example.
You were a very loving diplomatic father and I'm so proud to call you mine.
God be with you till we meet again

Debbie - March 07, 2019 at 06:02 PM