

In Loving Memory
Of
Alf Andreas Skaflestad



Sunrise: July 23, 1908, Naustdal, Norway

Sunset: December 20, 2007, Hoonah, AK

Welcome to the Celebration of Life Honoring
Alf Andreas Skaflestad

Friday, January 18, 2008

5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Hoonah A.N.B. Hall
Hoonah, Alaska

“To Those I Love And Those Who Love Me”

~ Anonymous

*I'm gone, release me for there are many things to see and do.
You mustn't shed tears of sadness, let's be thankful for our many
wonderful years. I gave to you my love and thank you for the
love you each have shown. But now it's time I traveled alone.
So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must, then let your grief
be comforted by trust. It's only for a time that we must part. So
bless the memories with your heart. I won't be far away, for life
goes on. So if you need me, call and I'll come through. You
can't see or touch me but I'll be near and if you listen with your
heart, you'll hear all my love around you soft and clear. Then
when you must come this way alone; I'll greet you with a smile
a handshake and hello.*

Bless you all, until we meet again.

ALF ANDREAS SKAFLESTAD

Sunrise July 23, 1908 ~ Sunset December 20, 2007

A celebration of life will be held at 5:30 p.m. Friday, January 18, 2008 at the Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall in Hoonah, Alaska. A dinner, with lefse for dessert, will follow. There will also be carrot cake, pumpkin pie and oatmeal cookies. At the end of his life, Papa believed you should eat dessert first!

Hoonah resident Alf A. Skaflestad, age 99, died peacefully, of natural causes, at the home of his son Windy Skaflestad on December 20, 2007. Alf was better known to friends and family as "Daddy Al" or "Papa".

Alf was born on July 23, 1908 at the Skaflestad farm in Naustdal, Norway. He was the second son born to Andreas and Karolina (Mjelle) Skaflestad.

Alf married Matilda Bertha "Tillie" Greenewald on August 22, 1933 in Hoonah, Alaska. They honeymooned at the top of Shugwau Mt. (Neka Mt.) in Port Frederick then made their home in Hoonah.

Alf worked as a logger and high-climber in the Tacoma, Washington area before venturing to Alaska, not by the lure of gold, but with fishing fever. However, after an unsuccessful fishing season at Cape Omni with his cousin Ingoff, he went to work as a fish-trap watchman for the PAF Cannery of Excursion Inlet. It was during his tenure on the fish traps that he met his future wife Tillie, the daughter of Robert and Elsie Greenewald, at their farm in Spasski Bay.

Prior to the birth of his first child Erling, Alf worked as a foreman with the Alaska Railroad pioneering the railroad right-of-way and helping to lay the original track between Moose Pass and Anchorage. Upon his return to Hoonah, he started Skaflestad Logging which he owned and operated until the 1960's. After retiring from logging, Alf built a 6-unit apartment building which he and Tillie operated and then he was able to go commercial fishing, his real passion.

With his love of fishing and being out on the water it's not surprising that he was in the right spot at the right time and was able to rescue two men clinging to a capsized skiff, all this at

the age of 93. He later, modestly, received a U.S. Coast Guard Medal of Commendation for his life-saving effort.

Alf's 70 foot boat the "Thomas E. Wilson" was originally purchased to tow his log rafts and float-house but in his later years he licensed it as a tender/packer so he could live aboard it while he was fishing his 24 foot skiff the "Kli-ana". At over 95 years of age his family was incredulous when he untied the Thomas E and steered it out of the Hoonah harbor with the Kli-ana in tow. He was going fishing and he was going to be comfortable.

Alf was a naturalized citizen and he loved his adopted country and especially the community of Hoonah. He always told his children to: "Never think you are better than the next person, don't tell them you're better, just better yourself." Prior to his death he would tell us that "I know I was born in Norway, but Hoonah and Port Frederick are my home and my life."

Alf was a modest man, never seeking praise or recognition for his contributions to the people and community of Hoonah. His family, though, is proud of his efforts to donate wood logs to the people of Hoonah and for plowing snow with his equipment during 1940's & 50's, he also salvaged and moved houses to Hoonah from the PAF Cannery and the Hoonah Cannery after the big 1944 fire which destroyed most of the town. Alf put up capital and was one of the organizers of Hoonah Liquor Inc. a non-profit liquor store whose mission was to use all the net-profits for the benefit of the school and city. Proudly, the organization still operates in much the same way it was intended, with profits benefiting the youth center, the headstart learning center, the elders and other worthwhile community endeavors.

Alf was preceded in death by the love of his life, his wife Matilda "Tillie" Skaflestad who passed August 6, 1993, (he missed her terribly, as we all did), by his parents, Andreas and Karolina Skaflestad; grandsons Al Peterson and Terry Skaflestad, and numerous siblings and relatives in the United States and Norway.

Alf is survived by his **children**: Erling Skaflestad, Alf "Windy" Skaflestad, Caroline Peterson, Kolbjorn "Faggen" Skaflestad and Wendell "Goobin" Skaflestad; **daughters-in-law**: Bonnie Skaflestad (wife of Erling), Joyce Skaflestad (wife of Windy), Vera Skaflestad (ex-wife of Windy), Janis Skaflestad (wife of Faggen), Nancy Van Weiringer (friend of Goobin); **favorite son-in-law**: Gerald "Jerry" Peterson; **grandchildren**: children of Erling - Jeffrey Skaflestad (and friend Lisa Andersson), Chris (and husband Scott) Hollingsworth, Ray (and wife Kenya) Skaflestad; children of Windy - Kenneth (and ex-wife Cheryl) Skaflestad, Alf "Gus" (and wife Kris) Skaflestad, Wendelyn Skaflestad (and friend Aldwin Harder), Arlen (and wife Megan) Skaflestad; children of Caroline - Carrie (and husband Michael) Dittman, Gerald A. "Audie" (and wife Mary) Peterson; children of Faggen - Melissa "Missy" (and husband Steve) Bingham, Gwendolyn (and husband Scott) Ashcraft, Keith (and wife Edna) Skaflestad; children of Goobin - William (and wife Sally) Skaflestad, Dr. Shawn (and wife Suzanne) Skaflestad, Andrea (and husband Phil) Varughese, and Kristel Skaflestad; **great-grandchildren**: Rena, Stacey, Andrea and Colby Skaflestad (children of Jeff); Dawson and Lauren Hollingsworth (children of Chris); Krage, Alaska "Ali", Leticia "Ticia" Skaflestad (children of Ray); Daylon Skaflestad (son of Ken); Joshua Keith (and wife Coral), Branda, Kristi, Jessica Skaflestad (children of Gus); Tushyne and Twylla Eyre

(daughters of Terry); Mallory, Madison, Marchelle Ashcraft (daughters of Gwendolyn), Killian, Kole, Torsten Skaflestad (sons of Keith); Auspen Dittman (son of Carrie); Charlotte Bingham (daughter of Missy), Tyler Skaflestad (son of Shawn), Amanda Skaflestad (daughter of Bill); **great-great-granddaughter**: Aspen Skaflestad (daughter of Stacey). There are other relatives too numerous to mention but we wish to include, **nephews**: Carl Oliver of Hoonah and Chris Oliver of Tacoma, WA (sons of Alf's brother Ottar), **step-grandchildren**: Gwynne Short of Petersburg (step-daughter of Windy), Lori Larsen of Wyoming (step-daughter of Windy), Sherry Mills of Washington, D.C. (step-daughter of Windy), Karen Ann Mills of Hoonah (step-daughter of Windy), Gus Mills of Norfolk, VA (step-son of Windy), Lea Kaze-Aronoff (step-daughter of Audie), and Robert Leuband (step-son of Audie).

Pallbearers are Erling Skaflestad, Windy Skaflestad, Caroline Peterson, Faggen Skaflestad, and Goobin Skaflestad.

Honorary Pallbearers are Adam Greenwald, Cliff Johnson, Gerald "Jerry" Peterson, Karl Greenwald, Carl Oliver, Chris Oliver, Ken Schoonover, Kenneth Skaflestad, Jeffery Skaflestad, Keith Skaflestad, Ray Skaflestad, Gus Skaflestad, Arlen Skaflestad, Billy Skaflestad, Dr. Shawn Skaflestad, Audie Peterson, John Hinchman, Sr., Dr. Bill Pfeifer, Jim Underwood, John Thein, Jacob White, Sr. and Gordon Greenwald.

Honorary Women Pallbearers are Hilda See, Esther Greenwald, Cecelia Greenwald, Pauline Hinchman, Marlene Johnson, Vera Skaflestad, Freda Borchick, Judy Oliver, Lolly Underwood and Carol "the little lady" Parker.

A 100-Year Birthday Tribute will also be held near to the time of Papa's birthday, July 23, 2008 in the garden of his son Erling and daughter-in-law Bonnie of Hoonah. Papa's birthday party has been an annual event where Papa looked forward to visiting with family from Norway, the U.S. and other parts of Alaska and to eating Harvey Hildre's smoked black-cod.



Brothers, sisters and father of Alf. Mother Karoline was dead when the photo was taken.

Front left: Aslaug, Helga, Father Andreas, Målfrid, Gunhild
Back: Ottar, Kolbjørn, Erling, Audun