



OSTEVIK, Sigurd Torleif (Sig) [UNTD CHIPPAWA '43] (1921 - 2010) Age: 88

The passing of Mr. Sigurd Torleif Ostevik, age 88 years of Saskatoon, SK., occurred on Wednesday, July 21st, 2010 at St. Paul's Hospital, Palliative Care. Sigurd is survived by: daughters Karen (Robert) Ostevik Bone of Saskatoon, SK, Helen (Gary) Read of Winnipeg, MB, Anne (Peter) Babiak of White City, SK; sons Harold (Darlene) of Saskatoon, SK, Arnold (Sally) of Vancouver, BC; grandchildren Mike (Cindy), Chris (Jolene), Signe, Jason (Anita), Clayton, Jody (Jeremy), Barbara (Andrew), Bradley, Amberly, Justin, Kate and Kari; great-grandchildren Casey, Davis, Maya, Kayla, Adan, Colton and Samantha; sister Marion and numerous nieces and nephews. Sigurd is predeceased by his

loving wife Ingeborg, and his sister Agnes. Sigurd's life revolved around being a farmer from Saskatchewan, but he did not find that at all limiting. He was a farmer, but one that stretched the boundaries of this all inclusive profession. He was also a musician, playing the violin as a young boy and the sousaphone in the Eston town band; an instructor at university, a driver, an inventor, an innovator, an explorer, a husband and a father. Raised on the farm on a hill nearest Richlea, Saskatchewan, Sigurd worked to put himself through engineering, starting at the University of Saskatchewan and moving to University of Manitoba where they offered a degree in his interest area of electrical engineering. This was during the war, so Sigurd joined the many attending Canadian Navy officer training exercises three times a week. Graduating with his Bachelors in Engineering, it was back to the farm with his new wife, Ingeborg (Inga) to follow his passions of farming and family. He tried pig farming and turkey farming, but eventually focused on raising mainly cereal crops. Sig believed that Canada was the breadbasket of the world and wanted to do his part. Establishing himself as a successful grain farmer on the homestead, Sigurd moved the now family of five children into Saskatoon for two reasons, first to support the children's efforts towards further education, and to indulge his love of the science of farming. He joined the staff of the Ag-Engineering department at the U of S to improve the technical skills of young farmers in electrical wiring, motors, mechanical systems and other fields. This idea rich environment brought out Sigurd's inventive side. The farm was used as a giant experimental farm with the earliest versions of air seeders, combine loss meters, dual wheeled tractors, self unloading grain wagons among many other modified machinery. Sigurd was a very early adopter of what is now known as Zero Tilling farming methods. He studied the Western Producer as the Canadian prairie farmer's window to the world and was always supported the Canadian Co-operative movement in its many forms. After his carrier in farming, Sig and Inga became snow birds for a while, pulling an ever longer trailer between Saskatoon and Texas. Even before this, Sigurd proved himself as an adventure by taking the whole family on a three week trip to Norway in 1964 to revisit his and Inga's family homes and relatives. Sigurd also made a trip back to Norway in 2007 to visit his cousin Kari and relatives after Inga passed to climb mountains from his childhood and travel so far and fast that he never slept in the same bed for two weeks. When this phase of life came to an end, Sig and Inga refocused on helping the children spread across western Canada. He has never happier than fixing something or tackling a tricky construction job. Even at 82, he was standing on an overturn pail installing breaker in a live electrical panel. He might not have known what day of the week it was, but he still knew what to do with those hot wires. The later stages of his life were focused around the care of his beloved Inga, who experienced many health issues. The one most troubling to her was the gradual loss of her eye sight. This limited her ability to continue her passion for making award winning quilts. Sigurd gradually became Inga's eyes and then hands in quilt production, with Inga always there for design and quality control. Sigurd and Inga raised five strong successful children who have also passed on those traits of strength and curiosity to grandchildren and great grandchildren. Sigurd is being sorely missed. The Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, July 27th, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at Hillcrest Funeral Home (east on 8th Street, turn right before railway crossing), Saskatoon, SK. Interment will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Family and friends may send condolences from the website www.hillcrestmemorial.ca Arrangements have been entrusted to Kenneth Scheirich, HILLCREST FUNERAL HOME, 477-4400.

Sig may well have been a UNTD or possibly a COTC while at U Sask, but he certainly was a UNTD at U Manitoba.

He graduated in the Spring of 1945 as an Electrical Engineer and at that time his plans included the Navy. However, in rapid succession followed VE-Day, VJ-Day, the removal of compulsory service on campus or after Graduation, and massive demobilization, so it appears that if he was Commissioned into the RCNVR, it would have been only briefly at best.

U Manitoba took in 65 UNTD's in the Fall of '43 and 100 more the following year. Yet of those we have only 16 logged in, so a large gap is there waiting to be filled in. Russ Cape's' work will help substantially in that regard.

During the '44/'45 academic year, there were about 1,100 COTCs on parade at U of Manitoba and a goodly number of RCAF types as well. U of Toronto had more than 3,000 in that same time period, all 3 services. The total number across the country then, would have been staggering. This does not include those who abandoned their student status to go on active service.

Bill C.