



## Edward Taylor

December 27, 1933 - November 15, 2024

Edward Morgan Taylor, 90, died on November 15, 2024, in Benton County. He was born as Edward Burton Morgan at Rapid City South Dakota on December 27, 1933. After his parents separated in 1934, he was adopted by his Aunt Estelle and uncle Edward Taylor, living in Salem, Oregon until moving to Corvallis in 1939. Edward Attended grades one through twelve in the Corvallis School system, became very active in the Boy Scouts of America, and in outdoor living in the adjacent Coast Range and Cascade Mountains. He enrolled as a 1953 freshman at OSC, with many friends from High School and Boy scout days. He climbed many of the snowclad peaks of Oregon, where he developed a strong interest in learning about the geologic development of Cascade volcanoes. In 1956 he worked at Boeing Aircraft Company to earn funds for Additional OSC enrollment. He was then offered a chance to teach the OSC Geology Summer Field Course near Mitchell in Central Oregon. Upon return to Corvallis, he met another OSC student Beverly A Gibbons (the light-of-his- life) and they were married in 1958 at her home in Hood River after they both earned BS degrees from OSU. Their honeymoon was unusual as they paid lengthy visits to Crater Lake, climbing to high points on the rim, completely circumnavigated Mount Jefferson on foot, and investigated geology of John Day River area near Clarno Bridge in Central Oregon. In preparations for their new family, he took a job as an assistant to the Benton County Surveyor. In 1960 their son Eric Richard was born, and Edward completed his master's degree in Geology of the Clarno Basin. While

Grandparents cared for Eric in Hood River, Ed and Bev drove their Model-A to Wyoming climbed several peaks in the Tetons. They then moved to Pullman, Washington and enrolled at WSU to earn a PhD in Geology. While a graduate student, Ed was employed to teach a first semester course of introductory geology and a second semester of graduate-level optical mineralogy. He was then invited to OSU to teach for a year of several different geology courses. Upon returning to WSU, he studied graduate-level courses in geology, mathematics and chemistry. He then devoted summers to thesis research in the central high Cascades. His PhD was granted in 1967, and he returned to Corvallis as a member of the OSU Geology faculty. Son Craig Matthew was born that summer.

Ed's career at OSU lasted for 32 years during which time he taught many different subjects including mineralogy, crystallography, petrology, volcanology, optical mineralogy, field geology, and Geology of Oregon. He designed and directed construction of a building containing a kitchen, study hall, and bathrooms for students in the OSU summer Field Geology Program for which he had been an instructor for 39 years at Mitchell in Central Oregon. During this time, he generated interaction with several hundred geology alumni who contributed museum quality mineral specimens from many parts of the world. He became curator of the well-known OSU Mineral and Crystal Collection that was displayed on campus, and he produced a website on the internet for all contributors to examine. In the last decade of his career, he turned his attention from mapping the volcanic rocks that covered many quadrangles of the High Cascades to application of X-Ray Fluorescence techniques for chemical analysis of those rocks, and much-improved understanding of how they were formed. He proposed and substantiated the concept of a Pliocene Cascade Range that produced volcanic rocks spreading broadly eastward over the Deschutes Basin and was then followed by subsidence of a large graben that has been buried by the modern Pleistocene High Cascade Range. He published detailed evidence of where and when these events took place as well as speculations about the responsible plate

tectonic processes.

He worked with one of his favorite colleagues, Professor Keith Oles, in demonstrating to their students that geologic observations lead to correct interpretations. Those students have established a well-endowed and much appreciated Oles-Taylor scholarship. He maintains close friendships with many former students even as they approach and enter retirement. In his closing years, his favorite memories were of his family and when he with Beverly, Eric and Craig hiked and camped in the woods, traveled to places like Hawaii, New Zealand and many trips to Alaska. In 2021 with the help of his son he connected with a close friend from his childhood, Colombe Leinau, whom he had only seen twice since high school. They spoke every evening at length about their shared childhood experiences in Corvallis. These calls gave him great enjoyment in he last few years.

During the last few years of his life, he lived with Craig and his family. Valarie and Leah took wonderful care of him in those last years and helped immensely with his care and wellbeing. A celebration of his 90th birthday was held last February in Seaside OR with his family and nearly 50 former students, friends and colleagues. He spoke frequently in the last year of what a joyous and wonderful experience this was for him.

He was preceded in death by his wife Beverly and is survived by both his sons, Eric and Craig, Daughter in law Valarie, two grandkids Leah and Jennifer, and great grandkids Brayden, Lily and Aubrey.

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Ed & I have been brother & sister for 79 years but we never met each other until 2006 in a phone call. Thank goodness we got together several times since then. I only regret that we didn't get to spend much time together. We have lived SO far apart. I believe we knew each other in our hearts & will see ech other again on the other side. Love you bro..... FLY HIGH & FREE !*

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**MARY L. MORGAN** - November 22, 2024 at 01:14 AM

RC

“ *1 file added to the album Edward Taylor*



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**Richard Conrey** - November 21, 2024 at 05:53 PM

KS

“ *I've known Ed since I was 5 years old when my family moved a few houses away from him in Corvallis. Our families have remained friends to this day. I have such wonderful memories of our families camping, cross country skiing and hiking together. He was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed*



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**Kade Schuldt** - November 21, 2024 at 12:09 PM

MC

*I have fond memories of Oregon State University Geology Ed Taylor. Although I only received a bachelor's degree in geology from OSU, Professor Taylor was a man who required high academic standards in his mineralogy, petrology and crystallography classes. These were at times very challenging to say the least. However I learned more about those subjects together with Professor Keith Olds in his Stratigraphy and Sedimentation classes. These men spent many hours helping me outside of regular classes and labs. I have great admiration for both these men who had a real rapport with students, both undergraduate and graduate. I always felt a little intimidated by Professor Taylor when I'd knock on his door for help for crystallography class in particular. He would challenge you and make you think for the answer you were asking. My only regret is I never went to field camp with him. Professor Ed's field camp. Later, I became a high school geology, chemistry, physics and mathematics teacher and a junior college geology instructor, and co-president of the Pacific Northwest Section of the NAGT. I learned and applied so much from Professor Taylor that carried me through many years of educating thousands of students and other geoscience professionals along with what I had learned from Professor Keith Olds. Truly a great man, a great teacher and one that many many graduates and undergraduates at Oregon State University will always remember. My heart goes out to his family in the loss of a truly dedicated and influential man, educator, and researcher. Thank you Professor Taylor. You would be greatly missed. In Christ, Michael Collins, Class of 87.*

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**Michael P Collins** - December 21, 2024 at 12:21 PM