



Theodore W. Allen

April 29, 1922 - May 6, 2014

Theodore William (Cosmo) Allen of Corvallis passed away May 6, 2014.

He was born April 29, 1922, to Harriet Weston Allen and Gerald Allen. They lived in Detroit, Michigan, where Gerald was employed by Henry Ford. Cosmo has a picture of Henry Ford, James Kellogg, Thomas Edison and Gerald. They were all good friends. Gerald moved the family to Kalamazoo, where he founded Allen Electric and Equipment Company, which was listed on the New York Stock Exchange until it was sold.

Cosmo's father had a private landing strip on their property, so Cosmo took flying lessons and got his pilot's license. His older brother, Herb, decided he was ready to solo and all was fine until it began to get dark and he could not find his landing strip, so some neighbors surrounded the field with their headlights on and he landed safely.

Cosmo graduated from Leelanau Private School for Boys in Glen Arbor, Michigan, in 1941. He rode his motorcycle (with his mother's blessing) to Glendale, California, and enrolled in Curtis Wright Technical School, where he graduated in 1942. He then enlisted in the U.S. Marines, where he worked installing the secret electrical equipment to make planes ready for war. He developed an electrical tester for the rocket launcher and received a Letter of Commendation from Charles Lindberg.

Cosmo remained in the Marines and during this time, he met and married Anne Tomich, the mother of his three children, Dana Lou, James Dean and William Gary. The family moved back to Michigan after the war and Cosmo went to work for his father at Allen Electric Company.

During this time, Cosmo and three of his buddies designed and built their own houses. It took more than a year to do this, after work and on weekends. Cosmo's house was still standing and in good condition when he took his second wife to see it in 1998.

The Allen family did not care for the harsh winters of Michigan, so they moved back to California. After a few years, Cosmo and Anne divorced. Cosmo bought a boat and lived on it in San Diego Bay, where he enjoyed many happy years, living the single life.

In the early 1980s, he sold the boat, moved to Corvallis and lived with his sister, Dot Hammer. During this time, he enjoyed many adventures. He spent three months at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont. Then he toured Canada by train, visiting cousins and friends, and continued to Drummond Island in Michigan to visit his brother, Herb.

Back in Corvallis, he rented a trailer on the river, and he enjoyed the peace and quiet of the river and the chance to get to know "self" better. His friends and family remember the corn roasts he had while there.

He bought a house in Corvallis in the early 1980s and got involved in the Corvallis Senior Center, the Tuesday Men's Group at Old World Deli, the Friday Night Dances at the Senior Center and the Men's Unitarian Group. He also joined the Odd Fellows and held several offices there.

In April of 1995, a big change came into Cosmo's life. He went to visit brother Herb in Alabama.

While there, he went to the senior center dance in Foley. He danced with several ladies before asking JoLynn for a dance. He bragged to her that he had been a happy bachelor for 25 years, and she told him that was long enough for any man to be happy. Three months later he stunned his family and friends by bringing his Southern bride to Corvallis.

Cosmo got himself a good buddy pal in his new bride. He would think of fun places to go and she would start packing.

They spent each winter in Surprise, Ariz., with brother Herb until he passed away several years ago. They went to visit Cosmo's alma mater, the Leelanau Boys School, and stayed two weeks as their guests. They visited Indralaya for a work party and stayed 10 days. They took a 30-day Amtrak trip, making four stops: in Kalamazoo; St. Francisville, Louisiana; Surprise; and Greenwood, Mississippi.

They went on a 10-day cruise to Alaska, and a cruise to Hawaii; visited Branson, Missouri, three times; went on camp-outs with the Odd Fellows for the 4th of July; visited Hot Springs, Arkansas, about 10 times to see JoLynn's sisters; and many times went to Yachats as guests of the Andersons.

Cosmo especially enjoyed all of the time that he spent with his great-grandson, Matthew. He and Matthew spent many fun hours playing dominoes, drawing clocks, walking to the park together and sharing their best jokes.

Cosmo also enjoyed the trips he and JoLynn took down south on the Amtrak train to visit with JoLynn's family.

In between all the traveling, JoLynn quietly turned Cosmo's bachelor pad into a Southern home and they lived happily ever after.

Cosmo is survived by his wife of 19 years, JoLynn Allen; two sons, William Allen and Jim Allen; daughter Dana Allen; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Tribute Wall

EP

“ I'm a former girl friend of cosmo . we spent many happy times together and I have recently been going through my letters I received from him. He was a delight. I also framed a drawing he made of his boat in San Diego. If one of his relatives wants it call me at or better text me at (541) 912-0763. happy sailing cosmo always lovers in the spiritual sense ! Ellie

ellie parsons - October 03, 2022 at 12:37 PM

EP

“ Ellie Parsons lit a candle in memory of Theodore W. Allen



ellie parsons - October 03, 2022 at 12:21 PM

NH

“ I enjoyed my time with Cosmo. He brought such warmth and passion to conversations about living life to the fullest. He was such a unique person, and I will always remember him.

Naomi Hirsch - May 18, 2014 at 08:47 AM

NS

“ Natalie Summerlin lit a candle in memory of Theodore W. Allen



Natalie Summerlin - May 16, 2014 at 05:17 PM

NS

“ Jo Lynn,

It's not every day one gets to see a love story play out in real life. I feel lucky to have gotten to see yours and Cosmo's. The two of you loved, supported, and entertained each other for all of the many years I've known you. My thoughts are with you often, along with my hope for healing and peace.

- Natalie Summerlin

Natalie Summerlin - May 16, 2014 at 05:17 PM

EO

“ *Cosmo used to visit me and my daughters when they were small. He would bring them each a toy, but they had to surrender one of their old toys in order to receive the new one. My kids really enjoyed Cosmo and especially his fascination with frogs. The earth was a better place because of all the good Cosmo did. I will miss him very much.- Ellen O'Shea*

Ellen O'Shea - May 14, 2014 at 05:14 PM

CC

“ Jo Lynn,

I wanted to express my sympathy for you and your family during this time. While I didn't get to know Cosmo well, I believe I knew who he was, and he has a place in my heart. He was kind, well loved by many, and a great spirit! I am happy to say that he brought a smile to my face every time I saw him. I wish you well and am sending you peaceful thoughts.

*no worries,
Chelsea Chytka*

Chelsea Chytka - May 09, 2014 at 11:34 AM

CC

“ *Chelsea Chytka lit a candle in memory of Theodore W. Allen*



Chelsea Chytka - May 09, 2014 at 11:31 AM

JL

“ *Jo Lynn,
I read the sad news in today's paper and wanted to express my sincere sympathy to you and your family. When I first started at the Senior Center, I think Cosmo was one of the first people I met and he became one of those 'unforgettable' characters who always seem larger than life. He certainly made an impression on a lot of people and I probably don't even know the half of it since he had his circle of friends at Oddfellows and the Unitarian Church. I hope and pray that you are doing okay and it is good that your daughter is here with you. Hopefully, time will heal the hurt which you are feeling now.*

With deepest sympathy,

John Locker

John Locker - May 08, 2014 at 03:49 PM