

# Stan Fagerstrom

June 4, 1923 - June 11, 2019

Stanley Earl Fagerstrom, of Sun Lakes, AZ, died peacefully at home, surrounded by loved ones, on June 11, 2019, a few days after his 96th birthday.

A former resident of the Longview, WA, area, Stan was born June 4, 1923, in McKenzie County, ND. He graduated from R. A. Long High School in 1942. He attended Lower Columbia College prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army on Dec. 7, 1942, exactly one year after Pearl Harbor was attacked. He served in the Army for 3 and a half years.

Stan married Anita Lolcoma, his high school sweetheart, in October of 1943. They were married in an Army chapel at Fort Ord, CA, in 1943. The couple observed their 75th wedding anniversary in October 2018.

Shortly after the wedding, Stan was sent to the South Pacific, serving with the 167th Infantry Regiment of the 31st Infantry Division. He attained the rank of sergeant and saw combat in New Guinea, Indonesia, the Mapia Islands and Mindanao in the Philippines. He was awarded two Bronze Stars for heroism in combat. The Army division to which he belonged was one of four selected to invade the Tokyo Bay area of Japan on or about March 1, 1946. The dropping of the atomic bomb and subsequent surrender of the Japanese made the invasion unnecessary.

Stan was hired by The Daily News in Longview, WA, in 1946, shortly after his discharge from the army. His first job was as manager of the Kelso branch office of the newspaper. He later became a reporter, then classified advertising manager and eventually the newspaper's advertising director.

Freshwater fishing was one of his first loves. Throughout his employment, he also wrote an outdoor column and features for the newspaper. He worked full time for The Daily News for 36 years and continued as an outdoor columnist and feature writer for the newspaper for 10 years following his resignation as a full-time employee.

Stan was well-known nationally as an outdoor writer. At one time or another during his career, his stories appeared in most of the nation's major outdoor magazines. For a number of years, he also wrote an outdoor column for the Vancouver, WA, Columbian newspaper under the pen name "Stanley Scott."

Stan won numerous awards for his writing in Pacific Northwest newspaper circles. He was the author of three major books on fishing: "Catch More Bass," "Catch More Crappie" and "Catch More Steelhead." His last book, "Me'n Cousin Art," was the story of his childhood in North Dakota during the Great Depression.

After leaving The Daily News in 1982, Stan devoted himself full time to freelance writing and giving casting exhibitions and lectures about fishing. He was well-known internationally for his trick and accuracy casting presentations. His appearances were featured at outdoor shows throughout the United States for many years. He also made appearances in foreign countries, including Brazil, Japan, New Zealand and Mexico.

On one occasion, he gave a private casting demonstration for Japan's Princess Nobuko in Tokyo. He was also featured on the Jo Soares show out of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Soares, often called the "David Letterman of South America," is watched by millions.

Stan was a featured performer with the International Sportsmen's Exposition outdoor shows in the western United States for 25 years in succession. For many years, he was also the featured caster at the Bass Masters Classic Outdoor Show, an event known as the "World Series of Bass Fishing."

Besides his writing, Stan loved country music, children and pets. He played the clarinet, guitar and keyboard. He was an active member of the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ in Longview and Florence, OR. After moving to Sun Lakes, he served a three-year term on the board of trustees at the Sun Lakes United Church of Christ.

Stan was one of the few outdoor writers named to membership in the Braniff Airlines Outdoor Council. He was also a charter member of the Berkley Outdoor Council and the Red Ball Outdoor Council. He travelled extensively both in the United States and abroad as a member of these councils. He was a longtime member of the Outdoor Writers of America and a charter member of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association.

Stan was voted into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in 2000. In 2001, he was named winner of the National Professional Anglers Association lifetime achievement award. He was voted into the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame in 2007. He was also a lifetime honorary member of the Oregon Bass & Panfish Club.

No services are planned at this time. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent in the name of Stanley Earl Fagerstrom to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK, 73123.

In addition to his wife, Stan is survived by two sons, Daniel, of Chandler, AZ, and Stanley Scott, of St. Paul, MN.