



Kenneth S. Klarquist

August 17, 1921 - September 26, 2009

In Memoriam

Kenneth S. Klarquist was born in Minneapolis to Rudolph Stevens and Jennie Klarquist, children of Swedish immigrants. Kenneth graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1943 with a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering. He served in the U.S. Army beginning in 1943, where he was assigned to the Special Engineering Detachment, Manhattan Project, Oak Ridge, Tenn. In 1946, Kenneth began working in the patent department of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission in Washington, D.C. In a stroke of luck for Kenneth, Lois Boening, a charming Navy WAVE, was also working in Washington at that time, and just happened to pass through Ken's office with her friend. When Kenneth first laid eyes on her, he knew she would become the love of his life. He wasted no time in asking her if she would marry him, and fortunately for the Klarquist children, she said, "Yes!" Two weeks later, on Sept. 13, 1947, they were married and spent nearly 62 years together raising their four children, Kenneth S. "Skip" Jr. (Linda), Karen (Jon) Rossi, Stephen (Susan) and Thomas. Ken enjoyed special relationships with his six grandchildren, Josef, Nicolai, Peter, Anna-Lisa (Adam), Jared (Lori) and Kristina. Lois preceded Kenneth in death on June 20, 2009.

While in Washington, Kenneth attended Georgetown University Law School, graduating in 1950. In a very strategic move to be close to skiing, fishing, hunting and the beauty of the Pacific Northwest, Kenneth accepted an offer to join the Portland law firm of Buckhorn and Cheatham in 1951, now known as Klarquist Sparkman, LLP. In the ensuing 56 years, he built an extensive patent and trademark practice, including litigation and prosecution of patent applications in both mechanical and chemical engineering fields. He took special pride in the establishment of a thriving plant patent practice, which carried over to his love of gardening and his own rose garden. As recently as 2006, Kenneth was recognized by his peers as an Oregon Super Lawyer. Kenneth retired from the Klarquist Sparkman firm in 2007, and was instrumental in making the firm what it is today.

Kenneth was also an active member of the Portland community. He served as a member of the Portland City Club, with tenure as president from 1970 to 1971. Kenneth spent many memorable years leading Boy Scout Troop 48 as scoutmaster. He served as a member and chair of Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Commission, and most recently, on the board of directors of the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation. He was also a member of the Izaak Walton League, Flyfisher's Club of Oregon and the Deschutes Club. Kenneth and his wife, Lois, generously supported many charitable foundations throughout their marriage.

Kenneth's greatest passion was fly-fishing with his family and friends on the Deschutes River and the Dean River in British Columbia, and in doing so, became the family patriarch to three generations of serious fly-fishermen.