

AVALANCHE

NEWSLETTER OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION, MT. RAINIER CHAPTER
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2011

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BOARD MEETS TUES, AUG. 2 AND SEPT. 6, THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY, 11:30 AM TO 2:00 PM
PICNIC TUES., AUG. 9 AT STINGL RESIDENCE AND LUNCHEON SEPT. 13 AT MT. RAINIER, PARADISE INN

AUGUST 9 PICNIC AT THE STINGL'S HOME

Karl and Sunny Stingl have again invited us to their house for an August Picnic. This might be surprising to a number of us, but Sunny never hesitated, even though she couldn't put any weight on her broken leg at the time, and declared the "Picnic will be held"!!! Both Karl and Sunny have made marvelous recoveries. Sunny can now drive, and Karl came home from the recovery facility on Saturday, July 16, which made him very happy. They have both made remarkable progress in the past two weeks. They are going to solicit a work party to help them prepare.

We had our 2009 picnic there on their deck, which has a great view overlooking the sound, and everyone had a great time. We need some influence with the weatherman to give us good weather so we can gather outside. Guests are welcome. There is no charge for the luncheon, but you do need to sign up for the dish you will bring, and for the number of people attending with you. Use the reservation form below at the left, and mail, email or phone in your reservations. The Stingl's will provide iced tea, coffee, beer and wine.

Directions provided by Sunny Stingl to 10301 242nd Place SW, Edmonds:

If you walk on to the Edmonds-Kingston Ferry, we can meet you. We are 5 minutes away from the terminal. Call 206-542-8489 to let us know which ferry you will be taking

If you are driving, from I-5 exit toward the Edmonds Ferry. You will be on N. 205th St., then keep right on to Edmonds Way. Turn



This picture was taken on July 11 at the Park Ridge Skilled Nursing Center, where Karl is recovering from his hip fracture. Both can now put weight on their injured legs, and are happy to be able to do so.

left from Edmonds Way to 100th Ave. W. At the Y take the road up the hill on 100th Ave. W, then right on 241st Pl. SW. At the end of 241st Pl. SW, turn left and follow the road around to 242nd Pl.

SW. We are the first house on the right.

From Aurora Ave N: Turn west on N. 185th, then north on 8th Ave. NW. (8th Ave will change to 100 Ave. W.), and turn west into Ardenwood at 241st Pl. SW, and continue to the end of the street then turn left and follow the street to 242nd Pl. SW. We are the first house on the right.

From the Edmonds Ferry: After you leave Edmonds downtown Follow Edmonds Way to 100th Ave. W. Turn right on 100th until you come to a Y, take 100 Ave W. up the hill and turn west on 241st Pl. SW. At the end of 241st Pl. SW turn left and follow the street to 242nd. We are the first house on the right.

All routes can follow the 10th Mountain Division signs starting at the corner of 100th Ave. W and 241st Pl. SW.

RETURN TO MT. RAINIER ON SEPTEMBER 13

Everyone looks forward to our annual return to Mt. Rainier. In recent years the weather has allowed us spectacular views of this treasure, which is the birthplace of mountain training for the 10th. In addition, the staff has welcomed us warmly, and the luncheons have been excellent. Many take the opportunity to visit the 10th Mountain Monument commemorating this as the training site for the 87th. We recently made a plea to the national office to include the picture of the this monument in monuments section of the National Roster, and received a positive response. We shall see that they get a picture.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT REQUIRED FOR AUGUST 9 AND SEPTEMBER 13 LUNCHEONS. COUPONS BELOW

Karl Stingl, 10301 242nd Pl SW, Edmonds, WA 98020
Phone 206-542-8489, email sunnystingl@msn.com

Please make _____ reservations for me for the Tues., Aug. 9 picnic at the Stingl's home at the above address.
I will bring: Hot Dish _____, Salad _____, Dessert _____, Snacks _____, Rolls or Bread _____, Meat Tray _____, Cheese Tray _____, Fruit Tray _____. There is no charge for the picnic.

Member Name: _____

Guests: _____

Karl Stingl, 10301 242nd Pl SW, Edmonds, WA 98020

Please make _____ reservations for me for the Tues., Sept. 13, 2011 Mt. Rainier Chapter **luncheon** at Paradise Inn.

Enclosed is _____ (\$20.00 per person. Make the check out to Mt. Rainier Chapter, 10th Mountain Division)

Member Name: _____

Guests: _____

Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. We want everyone to be in the annual after lunch group picture. We hope Lou and Ingrid Whittaker will be with us again, and many of us will visit the Whittaker Bunkhouse on the trip home for an ice cream stop. Lou is usually there to entertain us with his vast store of stories about mountain climbing. Warren and Jane Elmer plan to travel on Monday and stay at Whittaker's Bunkhouse on Monday Night, while Liz Bagshaw and some of our friends from the Northwest Chapter have reservations the Paradise Inn. The number for reservations at Paradise Inn is 360-569-2275, and for Whittaker's Bunkhouse it is 360-569-2439. If you have questions about staying overnight, call Liz Bagshaw at 206-325-7291.

FINE PROGRAM BY HANS THOMPSON ON JUNE 14

We finally were able to have Hans Thompson present his program, which was delayed by the March cancellation due to the Norwalk virus at the Seattle Yacht Club. Hans did a great job, both with the Abbie Kealy interview on the DVD, which was shown, and with his supplementary comments. Hans has always been able to speak very well, and this was no exception, in fact several people commented on how well spoken he was. We were fortunate he could be with us for this presentation, because we lost him 12 days later.

On the DVD, Hans described the highlights of his service with the 10th. He was an enthusiastic skier, and when he observed the early ski troops on Mt. Rainier while skiing there, he decided that, since he was due to be drafted, joining the 10th was his goal. His wish came true when he was transferred to Camp Hale after induction. He described his toughest training as the D Series, which was a simulated combat exercise, and which lasted for four weeks at extremely low temperature with no fires or hot food allowed.

Hans believed at that time he was in the best condition of his life, and that their rigorous training was only equaled by airborne units.

In Italy, Hans' battalion was charged with the capture of Mt. Belvedere, and he described reaching the top. They only had shallow foxholes, and he had to leave his rifle outside it, where it was hit by shrapnel and destroyed, so Hans had to use a rifle of an injured comrade. General Hays had assured them that if they lost their weapon, they could easily find one on the battlefield. After advancing beyond Belvedere, Hans encountered what he described as the two worst days of his life, the April 14 and 15, 1945 assault on Hill 913. After the hill was captured, Hans led his squad across 200 yards of plowed field, where they ended up in a position where both flanks were exposed, and where they experienced heavy fire while trapped in a defilade. They were finally able to withdraw at night and rejoin the battalion, but at assembly, only seven of their 40 man platoon were there. Some were separated, but there were many wounded and killed.

Those attending the June 14 meeting at the Seattle Yacht Club were: Joanna Allen; Paul and Michelle Bagshaw; Gordon and Irene Dick; Warren Elmer; Jim Erickson; Ed Gibson; Mary Ann Hendron; Chris Kappler; Lynn Phillips and Warren Bakken; Dave Rankine, daughter Arriba Stature; Dale Smith, and William Fenton; Dick Strand; Hans and Adele Thompson, with Hans Jr., David, Douglas, Kirstin, Patty and Susan; Royce Ward, daughter Ann Bray; Richard Whittemore; Hal and Jean Willits.



Everyone was pleased to have so many of the Thompson family in attendance. They had every reason to be proud of their husband and father. Left to right, Hans Jr., Hans, Kristin, Adele, David, Susan, and Douglas Thompson. Patty attended, but left before the picture was taken.

After that, he described the rapid advance to the Po River and its crossing, where they encountered the airbursts of anti-aircraft fire. They moved a couple of hundred yards away to get away from the place where the Germans had zeroed in their fire, then crossed without incident, and proceeded rapidly to the Lake Garda region. His company was among the units that crossed the lake to Gargnano on the East side in an attempt to capture Mussolini, but he had already left his villa, only to be captured and killed by partisans. That villa is now a luxury hotel named Villa Feltrinelli. On a return trip to Italy, Hans stayed at this hotel, and was treated royally.

Lastly, Hans described his service on the Italian-Yugoslavian border. There he was promoted to first sergeant just before his 21st birthday. His fellow soldiers engaged a restaurant and had a combination promotion and birthday party for him, where he had his first taste of champagne from the cache captured from the Wehrmacht. Hans thought it just tasted like wine, but it was a fitting end to his story.

JIM ERICKSON SHARED HIS KNOWLEDGE OF MT. VERNON ON JULY 12

We were very fortunate to experience Jim Erickson's presentation on Mt. Vernon, George Washington's historic home. When Jim was stationed at the Pentagon he lived only a few blocks from it, and he soon developed a keen interest in it. Jim's knowledge and memory of the details about the home and its farms, buildings and gardens are great, even though he told us he would celebrate his 95th birthday the day after the meeting. Happy Birthday Jim!

Our meeting was boosted by the attendance of some special guests, new and returning. Liz Bagshaw brought her sister Margaret Miller and her niece Sammi White and Sammi's husband Galen. It was wonderful to see Mary Barnett again, who brought her daughter Libby to the luncheon. And of course it was great to see Sunny's smile again! She is walking without aid and is back to her job of welcoming us to the luncheons.

Through Jim's presentation we learned about how George Washington came to be known as the distinguished man he is thought of today. George Washington spent a lot of time with his

half brother, Lawrence, who taught the young George about gentleman farming. This, plus George's first job as a surveyor was for his neighbor, Lord Fairfax, brought him from being a "country bumpkin" to becoming a true gentleman of his times. Jim related the humorous story of how George Washington was and still is thought to have married an older woman for her money, but that in reality it was a true love match between him and Martha Custis, who was all of three months older than he.



Jim Erickson's commentary was a valuable addition to the DVD on Mt. Vernon. Photo by Lynn Butzberger

Little known is the fact that we would know nothing of Mount Vernon or little of George Washington's decades of life at his home were it not for one woman, Louisa Bird Dalton Cunningham. In fact, she started the preservation movement in this country when she saw that Mt. Vernon was in ruins and sent her concern about it in a letter to her daughter, Ann Cunningham. Ann made it her life's work to raise the money needed to restore the historic home. To accomplish this immense task she chose a woman from every state (there were then thirty states) to be Vice-Regent

to raise money from her state's citizens, which led many of these officers to create preservation movements for their states' historical sites. Until this point there was no sense of the importance of such integral parts of American history.

Research at the Mt. Vernon is on-going. It was discovered that the walls of the home had been originally painted in what modern eyes see as quite garish colors, such as the very bright Kelly green walls of the dining room, which original restorers questioned as being attractive to visitors. Fortunately, it was decided that historical accuracy was paramount, so today we see the home the way the Washington family lived in it. George Washington's papers are providing information on just what furnishings were in the home and where they were placed. Archeologists are studying the grounds, discovering where gardens were placed and even where the composting was located. The location of the distillery, which was for a short time the largest one in the U. S., has been found as well.

All of this work has always been completed with private funds—that is, not one dollar of tax money has gone towards the monument. The site is still in the private hands of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, which has done an exceptional job of restoring and preserving this fundamental part of our history. *Lynn Butzberger*

2011 DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE

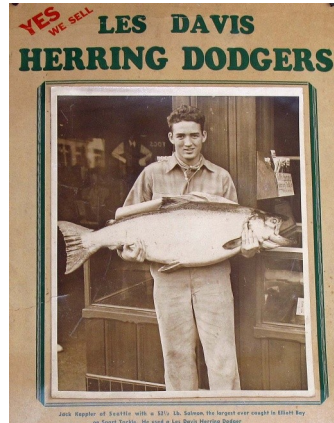
After many revisions and trial emails, the new 2011 Mount Rainier Chapter directory have been printed. We have passed them out at the July meeting, and have sent copies to those members who have working email addresses. To conserve funds, we are only going to send them to those who request them, and to those who attend meetings. If you desire one to be mailed to you, call me, Dale Smith, at 206-364-4363, email me at daleesmith@msn.com or mail a request to 3820 N. E. 145 St., Lake Forest Park, WA 98155-7820.

* * *

After numerous tries, I was able to talk to Jim Nussbaum. He seemed happy to hear from us, and is now living at Aljoia Retirement Home at 2430 - 76th Ave. SE, #609, Mercer Island, 98040-2807, Phone 206-232-2796. He might come to a future meeting.

JACK T. KAPPLER (10-RCN)

Jack, who died peacefully on May 24, 2011, was born in West Seattle in 1916 to Margaret and Walter Kappler. He attended O'Dea



High School and graduated from Franklin High School. After attending Seattle University for a short time during The Great Depression, he joined the work force, where he taught first aid and safety for the Boeing Company before enlisting in the Army during WWII.

Jack had an early interest in fishing and would spend days fishing at the Fauntleroy Ferry Dock when he was five years old. On the morning of September 13, 1938 Jack was fishing in Elliot Bay and caught what is believed to be the largest

salmon ever caught in the bay on sporting tackle. The 52 and half pound fish being held by Jack was pictured (*above*) on Les Davis tackle for decades. As proud as he was of his record catch he was always hoping for the return of the salmon fishery and to have his record repeatedly broken. Jack was an early member of the International Sportsmen's Club that allowed his Japanese-American friends to be members, when other fishing clubs would not allow them to join.

He started skiing when riding the train to Hyak was a popular way to get to the slopes. Jack was in the first group of skiers in the state to be trained and admitted to the National Ski Patrol. Because of his work and training with ski patrol and his job at Boeing, he was selected to join the 10th Mountain Division after completing basic training at Fort Lewis. He trained troops in the US to ski, climb, function in winter conditions and the one skill he never wished to use after the war—to pack mules. He was part of a training and reconnaissance group that trained Allied troops in Italy and provided technical guidance on the best routes for the troops heading into the Italian Alps.

It was on the ski slopes that Jack met his future wife, Evelyn, who worked for the Boeing Company during the war. They were married in 1946 and became parents of three sons. They first lived in Seattle, later Bellevue and then retired to the Magnolia neighborhood of Lawton Wood. Jack was a life member of the Granite Curling Club and helped build the Penguin Ski Club lodge at Stevens Pass.

He is survived by sons Chris (Laura Newcomb) of Seattle and David (Ann Fletcher) of Issaquah, granddaughters Elizabeth McNally of Seattle and Sarah Kappler of Brooklyn, NY. He was preceded in death by son Dennis of San Juan Island, sisters Margaret Shanahan and Helen Adams. His brother, best friend, and decades-long business partner at Mount Baker Cleaners, Walt Kappler, also preceded Jack in death. The family is especially thankful for the years of loving care provided to both Evelyn and Jack by Suad Abdella of Club 24.

A celebration of Jack's life was held on Saturday, July 9 at the family home in Lawton Wood. Exhibits of Jack's life were arranged by the family, including his mountain climbing equipment, his curling activities, his 10th Mountain Division service and his many skiing medals and skiing equipment. It was a beautiful setting with fine food and wine, and great fellowship. *Chris Kappler*

Those attending the July 12 meeting at the Seattle Yacht Club were: Liz Bagshaw, sister Margaret Miller, niece Sammi White with husband Galen; Mary Burnett and daughter Libby; Lynn and Rick Butzberger and daughter Julie; Gordon Dick; Warren Elmer; Jim Erickson; Ed Gibson; Olivia Galles; Mary Ann Hendron, daughter Sue Potts and son-in-law Greg Potts; Sandy Huntley; Lao Kham Levitan; Dave Rankine, daughter Arriba Stature; Gloria Senner; Dale Smith, daughter Laurie and William Fenton; Sunny Stingl; Dick Strand; Royce Ward, daughter Ann Bray.

HERMAN (HANK) SIRLIN (86-G, 85-K)

Born in New York City in 1924. Hank Sirlin passed away peacefully on Dec. 13, 2010, in the home he designed and built on Gabriola Island. Hank served in the U.S. Ski Troops in Italy during WWII, received a B.Sc. in Forestry and Soils from Michigan State University and a Masters in Regional Planning from the University of Chicago. He came to Canada in 1975 to work as a planner in Sudbury, Ontario, where he met Alison Fitzgerald, his wife of 34 years. Subsequently, he worked in Prince Albert, Dawson Creek and Fredericton, and travelled with his wife in Europe before moving to Gabriola in 1987, where he pursued his interests in sustainable practices, gardening and cooking, as well as hiking and camping in the wilderness. Hank also loved classical music, and in recent years, he fell in love with the Bahamas, where he spent part of each winter building another house.

Hank will be remembered as a passionate speaker at community meetings and an inveterate writer of letters to the editor, who held strong opinions about the necessity to preserve the earth and ensure social justice.

Hank is survived by his wife, Alison Fitzgerald, his son Sam of Altadena, California and many family members in the United States, including niece Kay Slonim of Seattle. Gratitude and appreciation beyond words to our friends and family, Dr. Bosman, Dr. Smith and Janice and Anita for their many, many kindnesses this past year.

Provided by Alison Fitzgerald.

* * *

We apologize for not giving a final report on the Mt. Mangart Ski Race. We ran out of space, and will catch up with the next issue.

HANS A. THOMPSON SR. (85-K)

Hans was born June 28, 1924, the son of Hans N. Thompson and Helga Houen Thompson, and passed away in his sleep on June 24, 2011. He graduated from Highline High School in 1942 and from the University of Washington in 1949 with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. His lifelong ambition was to be a ski bum, but World War II intervened and he became a decorated WWII veteran, serving with the 10th Mountain Division in Northern Italy. As long as the Mt. Rainier Chapter has existed, Hans has been an indispensable member, and no one has contributed more than he did. When he spoke in our board or chapter meetings, people listened to his well reasoned and well spoken opinions.



He was a loving husband, a devoted father of eight and a caring uncle, grandfather and friend to countless others. His passion for nature and his commitment to the conservation movement led him to a career in Parks and Recreation, serving for six years as a civilian recreation specialist for the Air Force in Europe and culminating in a stint as Superintendent of Parks and Recreation for the City of Seattle.

He was an avid skier until the age of 80, and in his retirement to Vashon Island, he became a leader in the solar energy movement, building one of the first solar envelope homes and adding 10 solar panels to his and his wife Adele's home at the age of 84. His kindness, generosity and enthusiasm live on in his family and friends.

All of us feel privileged to have known him and had the benefit of his friendship. He will be missed very much. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday Aug. 13 at his daughter Patty's home at 203 - 30th Ave. in Seattle from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. We are invited, and hope to see you there.

AVALANCHE

Newsletter of the Mount Rainier Chapter
10th Mountain Division Association

DALE E. SMITH, EDITOR

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MT. RAINIER

First training site of the 10th Mountain
Division WWII Ski Troops

