
Cal graduated from Brainerd Senior High School in 1947, Brainerd Junior College in 1949, and St. Cloud State Teachers College in 1951. He taught high school science courses at Motley, Minn., until February 1952, when he was drafted into the Army during the Korean War. After basic training with the 101st Airborne Infantry Division at Camp Breckinridge, Kent., he was assigned to the University of Utah's ecological research unit at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, until his discharge as staff sergeant in February 1954.

He received his master's of science in education from St. Cloud State College in 1955, and taught biology courses at Eveleth Junior College for one school year. He entered the graduate program at Iowa State University of Science and Technology and received his doctorate in zoology in 1959.

He taught more than two dozen different biology courses as a professor of biology at Winona State University from 1959 to 1991, yet remained active in research during that time, authoring or co-authoring 47 publications concerning aquatic ecology, especially that of the Mississippi River.

Cal was an American Tree Farmer, planting and managing 90,000 Norway pines on his and Arlayne's plantations in the Brainerd-Baxter, Minn., area beginning in 1955. The largest plantation, 120 acres, is now part of the Northland Arboretum and is a popular area for cross country skiing and hiking.

He served as consultant to many industrial and governmental organizations, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Public Health Service. He developed novel teaching units for Nasco International of Fort Atkinson, Wis., and was awarded a patent for his development of an industrial process for producing nontoxic biological dissection specimens. He continued his research throughout his retirement. In 1998, with U.S. Geological Survey personnel, he co-authored "Mississippi River" as part of the USGS Status and Trends Report on the Nations' Biological Resources.

Cal received many awards for his teaching and research, but was proudest of Winona awards: Jack Frost XXII in 1977 and Community Achievement Awards in 1974 and 1999 for his efforts in reclaiming Lake Winona as a sportfishery for children, the elderly and the handicapped. He served as a volunteer consultant to the city of Winona regarding Lake Winona for more than 40 years.

His avocations included hunting, fishing, scuba diving, gardening, mushroom hunting, cooking and photography. With regard to scuba, he often remarked that Australia's Great Barrier Reef was a "piece of cake" compared to the tailwaters of Lock and Dam 5A. In 2005, his comprehensive book "Immortal River: The Upper Mississippi in Ancient and Modern Times" was published by The University of Wisconsin Press. During the past year he assisted city officials in developing a new aeration system for Lake Winona to replace the aging system that operated almost continually since 1973.
Cal was an active member of the Wil Dilg Chapter of the Izaac Walton League of America, the city of Winona's Aghaming Park Committee and the John Latsch Memorial Board. Cal recently received the Sigurd F. Olson Conservation Award for lifetime achievement in outstanding conservation efforts.

He was a member of First Congregational Church. He is survived by his loving wife, Arlayne; son, Mark (Cyndy) of Winona; grandchildren Kirsti (Dylan) Hendrickson of Duluth and Christopher of Winona; and brother Alex (Jan) of Sunnyvale, Calif.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 18, at First Congregational Church, Winona. Family will visit with friends one hour before and also afterward in the fireside room. In lieu of flowers, it is suggested that memorials be directed to the Calvin R. Fremling Scholarship Fund at Winona State University or to the Winona County Historical Society.

Fawcett-Junker Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

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