

## **Frank Funk 1915-2012**

Frank was born in L.A. on Sept. 13, 1915. His father, Joseph Funk, was from Germany and his mother Jenny was from Poland. He had two brothers, Joe and Ed, both now deceased. Frank had a lifelong love for machines. At age fourteen he worked in a local garage where he learned to make pistons for the cars of that day. He graduated from Fremont High School with over three thousand hours spent studying machine shop. After graduation, he served an apprenticeship at U.S. Electrical Motors in their machine shop. During World War II he worked at North American aviation, building wind tunnel models to develop the P51 Mustang and the B25 Bomber.

Later he worked at McCulloch Corporation, in charge of the engineering machine shop, with forty machinists doing research and development on helicopters, chain saws, medical devices, etc.

At one time he was employed as maintenance man for a hoist and crane company, climbing out on a boom thirty stories above the street, making repairs.

In December, 1941, he married Marjorie Dakan (Peggy), and they recently celebrated seventy years of marriage. They have four sons: Paul, Rex, Don and Bob. Two of his nieces, Martha and Joan, were a part of the family and are like his own daughters. He has four granddaughters: Amanda, Bonnie, Chelsea and Bianca, and two grandsons, Mike and Will; also two great-grandchildren, Travis and Sadie.

Frank instilled a love of nature in his family, and they have many memories of camping trips to the Mojave Desert, national parks, Mexico, Canada, and other places. They always had Jeeps, motorcycles and boats. He was a family man and a great role model for his sons. When their two older sons were in Scouting, Frank became a scout leader, and accompanied them on long hikes through the mountains. When their Explorer troupe planned a kayak trip down the Sacramento River, he engineered and helped build thirty kayaks, then transported them and the boys to the starting point, and used his boat as a "rescue boat", following them the full ninety miles down the river.

Frank loved to hike, and one of the accomplishments he was proud of was climbing Mt. Whitney twice. In 1976, Frank and Peggy went on a 4500 mile motorcycle trip from L.A. to Canada, camping out all the way.

They raised their family in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. and in 1980 Frank retired and he and Peggy moved to Cottonwood. They became active in ham radio, in the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association and throughout the state with the Daily Arizona Weather Net. They also helped to start a Toastmasters club in Cottonwood and were active in that for several years. The Garden Club was another activity they enjoyed.

For fifteen years they made an annual trek for two months to Baja California in the winter with their travel trailer. They had many adventures there, relating to the people, fishing, and collecting sea shells. Frank constructed a beautiful gazebo on their property near the river, which became the "party place" for family and friends. He was always building something, and created a legacy of projects including

hand-made furniture, a wishing well, a seashell wall around their yard, bird bath, walkways, etc. In later years he made hundreds of craft items from seashells.

Frank had a machine shop at home, and did work for contractors and others throughout the valley until he was ninety years old. In the past year his health has failed, and he went into assisted living at Austin House in Cottonwood as Peggy was unable to care for him at home. They both loved the place and the people there. His sons and grandchildren and other family members were able to visit him recently, and Peggy brought him home frequently to see his giant sunflowers. On July 29, he passed away peacefully, having lived a long, happy and fulfilling life.

There will be no services, but there will be an open house for all his friends on Sept. 15 from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. At a later date, the family will gather for a memorial in his gazebo.