



## Martin Benham

November 28, 1926 - August 11, 2008

Marty Benham of Fort Collins, Colorado, died Monday, August 11, 2008 at the age of 81. Martin Noble Benham was born November 28, 1926 in Princeton, N. J.. He attended Princeton Day School and later, the Taft School in Waterbury, Conn. He entered Princeton University in 1944 and entered the U. S. Army Air Corps in 1945. Marty received his basic training at Chanute Field in Illinois. Following his discharge in 1946, Marty enrolled at the University of Illinois at Champagne where he graduated with degrees in geology and political science. He then embarked on a 30 year civil service career serving as a park ranger with the National Park Service and later with the Bureau of Land Management. His time as a park ranger was highlighted with duties at Mt. Ranier, Everglades and Yellowstone. Most notably, Marty was an elite climbing ranger based out of Jenny Lake in Grand Teton National Park where he participated in numerous high mountain rescues and recoveries. He met his future wife, Bertie Howald at Grand Teton in 1954. They were married in April of 1955 and their son Blake was born in Cody, Wyo. Their second son, Jeff, was born in Enumclaw, Washington. Marty completed his career with the Bureau of Land Management, where he spent 15 years based out of the Idaho Falls, Idaho regional district office. He retired to Fort Collins in 1984 where he and Bertie enjoyed several travel adventures to the far northern reaches of Alaska and the Canadian Yukon. Most of all, Marty enjoyed their local friends and family, his friends at Senior Fitness and their summers at the cabin in Jackson Hole. Marty is preceded in death by his parents. Survivors

include Bertie, his wife of 53 years, his sons Blake and Jeff (Bonnie) and grandchildren Andy and Zoey all of Ft. Collins as well as his brother, Robert B. Benham of Auburn, NY. A backyard celebration will be held beginning at 10:30 am Saturday, August 16th at Jeff and Bonnie's home at 1523 Peterson St., Ft. Collins. A reception will follow. Marty's family requests that any memorial donations please be made, in lieu of flowers, to the Wilderness Society c/o Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Dr., Ft. Collins, CO 80524.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Martin Benham*

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October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Dear Bertie, Blake and Jeff*

*We were sorry to hear of the passing of Marty. The notice was in the Post-Register. You were such great neighbors and we have missed you these past years and when someone moves into your house it is always the Benham's house. We remember Marty mowing the lawn with the push mower and always looking so fit and tan.*

*We just offer our thoughts and prayers to you at this time. We thank you for your example while you were on Moonlite Dr.*

*With love, Thayne and Marjorie Lords*

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**Marjorie Lords** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

“ Dear Bertie,

*I was saddened to hear of the passing Marty, a life long friend. We first met in the Nassau Street School in Princeton, New Jersey in the second grade. I switched schools the following year, but we kept up the friendship. In our early teen years, when his Mom and Dad owned the Peacock Inn, we used to cast lead soldiers on the Inn's stove in the afternoons until the cook would kick us out because he wanted to prepare dinner.*

*Sometime, we would go to the McCarter Theatre on the Princeton U. Campus and climb the 5 stoies of dressing rooms and slide down the fire escape, all five stories. Wow, what a ride. Other times we would join Stan Wilson and go to the Princeton Seminary bowling alley for a few games. There was always something to do in Princeton.*

*After we got out of the service, three of us palled around together in Princeton, Marty, better known as Beneeno, Stan Wilson, known as Yelnats, and myself - Teelf. We had good times together.*

*But the Tetons always lured Marty. There was that hunger to climb them. He would often ask me to go mountain climbing with him. That not being my thing, I would decline.*

*We met one time in the Everglades Nations Park when he was a ranger there. My wife and I had trailered to Florida. He had mentioned to me on occasion if we ever got there to look him up. Well, we camped in the Glades and got eaten alive by those monster mosquitoes. The next morning we met.*

*The last time I saw Marty was at his Mother's funeral, again in Princeton. Christmass cards flew back and forth over the years. Marty being a very good photographer alway had a picture attached to his. I could see the physical changes over the years. None came last Christmas and I began to wonder at to Marty's health.*

*The answer came Bertie, in your phone call last night. He will be missed by many, I am sure, and especially by me, a friend of 75 years.*

*Walter*

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**Walter and Shirley Fleet** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *When the grieving is over, the happy memories live on in our hearts. Marty will be missed.*

*Love,  
LaDene and Bob*

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**Bob and LaDene Courval** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RV

“ *Dearest Bertie, Blake, and Jeff....We are so sorry to hear of Marty passing. What a wonderful man he was, and I will always treasure the time I spent with Blake and your family, especially helping paint the cabin up in the Tetons! It was always such a treat to run into you in the Tetons in the years after that! My family wants you to know that our hearts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time. Mom, Donna, and I just drove by the cabin in mid April...but no one was home.*

*Our Love Deepest Symathies go out to you,*

*The Vest Family - Margaret, David, Rebecca & Donna Gaw*

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**Rebecca Vest** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ Dear Bertie,  
We are so sorry to hear of Marty's passing. Scout and I will miss seeing him walking down the street, smiling and making jokes like he did! Please let us know if you ever need anything. Please take care of yourself. Marty was such a wonderful man, a great match for such a wonderful, bright woman as yourself! You have so many years to cherish and in that you are one of the lucky ones in life. You're in our thoughts and prayers.  
Love,  
Susan, Gene & Scout

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Susan Jaworowski - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Dear Bertie,  
  
*I was saddened to learn of Marty's death and John joins me in sending you our sympathy and love. He was a special man and I know you will miss him.*  
  
*I have fond memories of our times together, while not quantity, certainly quality! While hiking one day, your sharp eyes found some arrow heads;I think we were at Craters or in the Tetons. We also tried to change the world in the League of Women Voters!*  
  
*I think of you every time I make Flemish Carrots, your recipe!*  
  
*All our love to you and your family, Michele*

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Michele Hansen - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JL

“*Martin's obituary was sent to me as it appeared in the Fort Collins Now. An attached note read: "This obituary is for someone you may have known. As I read it, there were strong similarities to your background so I felt compelled to send it." I didn't know Martin personally, but I knew about him.*

*I arrived in Grand Teton the summer of 1955, just after Martin and Bertie were married. I replaced him at the Jenny Lake Ranger Station in 1956. A ranger friend of his, Keith Jones, sold me the Park Service uniform that had belonged to Martin. Perhaps Bertie remembers that. I can't claim to have filled Martin's shoes, but I did take the shirt off his back! I also worked at the Everglades for a couple seasons in the late fifties. Whether that was before or after his stay there I don't know. Keith thought a lot of Benham, having climbed the East Ridge of the Grand with him in '54 or '55. My best to Bertie, Blake and Jeff. I'm sure they have been richly blessed with many fine memories of a wonderful husband and father.*

*Jim Langford*

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**Jim Langford** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ Dear Bertie,

*I was so sorry to hear about Marty.  
I looked forward to seeing you both  
each summer at the Senior Center of  
Jackson Hole.*

*He took many pictures of our seniors  
during the years that you visited.*

*I have retired as Director of the Senior Center and now live about  
100  
miles down the road from Jackson Hole  
near Pinedale.*

*Please know how sorry I am for your loss.*

*I would love to hear from you.*

*Connie Owen*

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**Connie Owen** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *I very much enjoyed Marty and his sense of humor. He was a  
wonderful member of the noon group. I miss him very much.*

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**Jack Reid** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Bertie,  
*I learned so much about Marty today that I hadn't known. I did know that he was a terrific fellow, though, and he will be missed very much! Now if I could just figure out how he removed his thumb...tee hee. What a sense of humor he had!*

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**Carol Herold** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *God's speed going home Marty. No more knee pain.*

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**Ronald Sarlo** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ *Dear Bertie,  
It was with sadness that I learned of Marty's death. Though I took the summer off from Adult Fitness at CSU I well remember Marty and his ever cheerful attitude there. He remembered my name most of the time and was so pleased when he got it right. I enjoyed talking to him about his park ranger days and other subjects of mutual interest.  
You have my deepest sympathy for your loss.  
Heather*

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**Heather Bartmann** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ *Dear Bertie and Family:  
We have only known Marty for about 6 years. During this time our meetings were infrequent as you traveled to Jackson in summer, we went to AZ in the winter. We thoroughly enjoyed the times we were with Marty. He had a great sense of humor. We could chat about our mutual great love for Jackson Hole. He enjoyed showing us pictures of his hiking days in the Tetons and Ed enjoyed weekly chats with him at our weekly NPS coffee get together. These were fun times solving the problems of the world.*

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**E and Shirley Christian** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ *Marty was always positive in attitude and jovial in spirit---always a climber.  
I'll miss his humor.*

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**Tom Holmquist** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ *Bertie,  
Best wishes from an old friend. I have though about you more than you would think.  
Russ*

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**russ radford** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *With our mutual friend, Jean Marshall, we continue to pray for you. Marty was one brave soul and we pray now for your strength and courage, knowing that God will comfort you and uphold you, returning joy to your heart after a time. We think of you often, Bertie, and when you come to I.F. please don't hesitate to call.  
With deep sympathy, Don & Georgia Dixon*

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**Don & Georgia Dixon** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Marty always had a great sense of humor and enjoyed people at CSU Adult Fitness. He has already been missed. My sympathy to Bertie and family. Sincerely, Caryl Beaty*

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**Caryl Beaty** - August 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM