

Each year it is with both sadness and warm memories that I reflect upon some of the special members we have lost since our last annual message. This year is no exception. Some details about each of the individuals clearly represent simply a snapshot of my recollections and fall vastly short of any kind of summary of their individual contributions. In this reflection I often find meaning in the work we do, primarily because life is all about the legacy we leave for future generations.



Janice Burcham

Janice Burcham – Janice and her identical twin sister, Jeannette, are truly river legends. To those of us who frequent the river these extraordinary women have simply been known as “the girls... the Burcham Girls.” Their Century Award-winning farm is where both were born. They personified hospitality and have opened their homes to dignitaries and artists on many a CU journey. Their identical smiles, crew caps, jeans, Carhart jackets, and Navy boots are an image that is vivid in our minds. It is nearly impossible to think of one without the other, right down to the red socks. Janice was a registered nurse and held a BS from the University of Oregon and an MA in counseling from Columbia University. Commander Burcham served in the US Navy Nurse Corp from 1948-1975; one highlight was acting as chief nurse aboard the hospital ship USS Sanctuary in Vietnam. The Army/Navy game in Philadelphia was just as important an annual event for her as sheep shearing. And when Janice held a newborn lamb her smile lit up the entire Burcham Point. My stories and memories of “the girls” are too numerous and ornery for these pages. But each of our members who has been to “the Burcham Point/ Farm” has equally dear recollections. When I think of Janice now, I think of turning a tour boat around in front of their house and seeing her and Jeannette coming characteristically out of the house for a big wave “hello” – and although I saw her a number of times after that, that wave will be forever etched in my mind as Janice’s final farewell. Jeannette, our thoughts are with you.