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Russell "Todd" Jackson - Old Seldovia to the End

by Tamara Blodgett



A fond farewell to a much-loved Seldovian...

Born on April 8, 1941 to Russell and Laverna Jackson of Madison, Wisconsin, young Todd lived for most of his childhood there, finally making the huge transition via the Alcan Highway in the 1950's to eventually land in remote Seldovia in 1957. Entering Susan B. English as a junior, Todd has the distinction of being the last Seldovian from the first basketball team! The boys won the vote for school mascot with the 'Sea Otters' being the boys' choice and the girls' having voted for 'The Vikings.' Todd finished off his high school years here in Seldovia graduating in 1959 as Salutatorian and went on to attend college, greatly encouraged by his parents. Only three credits shy of graduating with a major in Math, Todd ultimately committed his life to the sea.

A true Alaskan at heart...

Todd and his dad were avid hunters. After arriving in Denali and later, living in Anchorage, Todd was indoctrinated into

A proud serviceman for our country...

Todd proudly served our country during the Vietnam War from 1967-68 as a radio operator and later dispatch. There was a lineage of fine soldiers in Todd's family and he carried on the family tradition. In speaking with Todd's sister, Alex (aka Susan Jackson), it was evident that she would miss her eldest brother whom she said was a "brilliant" man with a sharp and analytical mind. Alex emphasized that Todd was highly principled and devoted to his many friends here. Todd could be seen sticking to his routine religiously, visiting the local tavern with a story and a swig! Back in the old days when credit ran rampant, Todd would be one of the first one to pay his tab. Alex mentioned that Todd was an astute judge of character, which was a great advantage in a small community!

Sorely missed, much loved...

Said to have been especially close to a couple of old Seldovian families, a daughter of one of the families said simply, "He was

the art of hunting. Even as a young boy in Wisconsin, Todd thrilled at the opportunity to hunt. This passion did not die when he arrived in Seldovia. Hunting with locals was a way of life for Todd. When his health declined after a terrible stroke in 1998, Todd would travel with Seldovian friends as the “cook” lending watchful eyes to the hunting camp. Versatile and scrappy, Todd built his own house, with a sharp focus on attention to detail and perfection building the structure on the fringes of town in the early ‘70’s. The rough and tough Alaskan lifestyle and isolation of Seldovia appealed to Todd, who lived here for almost forty uninterrupted years.

like a grandfather.” This sentiment rings true of Todd who never had children of his own and was a lifelong bachelor, married to the sea and loving the solitary life of the fisherman. But like most Seldovians, he was a “father” to all the kids. Alex emphasized he was most happy when at sea, doing what he loved. His declining health post-stroke was a hard blow for the hardworking Todd. The eldest of four children, sisters Alex and Myra (now deceased) and Brother Kenneth “Ole” Jackson, there will be a void left by his passing. Alex feels close to Todd here in Seldovia and plans to keep his cabin as a place to come and remember him and enjoy her childhood memories where Todd and her family were an integral part.







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