



The American Association for Nude Recreation – Western Region

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The Pioneers:

Biographies of Nudists Leaders Who Made a Difference



Harold “HAP” Hathaway, 1928 - 2014

By Beverly B. Price

Harold A. Hathaway, better known to his many friends in AANR as just plain “Hap,” died of liver cancer on January 19, 2014. Born on February 24, 1928, in rural southern Los Angeles county, he grew up taking off his clothes to eat stolen watermelons and skinny dipping with the other boys in the irrigation canals.

At age seven, when his parents separated, his mother expected him to learn to do things around the house. Kay, his older half sister, and Ione, his younger sister, were also expected to do their share, but Hap was not willing to be domesticated. Instead, at age 13, he missed the bus to Jr. High school, hid his books, and skipped school for two years. He went to work with livestock, learning the trade as he went, and ended up on a dude ranch near Palm Springs. He claims he bathed – naked, of course -- in the stock tanks on the ranch.

When it was discovered that he was underage and truant, he was sent back to Hollywood High where he managed to finish his freshman year before he enlisted in the Merchant Marine. He

was big (and mature) for his age, and he never revealed that he was only 15 at the time. He served for a few months more than three years, enjoying especially being dry docked in Hawaii where he frequented every secluded beach he could find. He was always a strong swimmer and he enjoyed challenging the surf, which he usually did nude and completely alone. Following his stint in the Merchant Marine, he enlisted with the Navy where he served an additional 2 years, ending his service at age 21.

Hap discovered nudist magazines after a lobster dive where he met a man who mentioned the ASA (former name of AANR) and the several magazines that they published. It still took quite awhile before he joined a group. His wife Carmel and children Harold (now deceased), Adele and Tara shared his nude experiences in a backyard pool in the mid '50s. They even invited many of the neighbors to join in the fun. But his wife was reluctant to go beyond that point, so he complied with her wishes and kept his penchant for nakedness confined – for awhile.

When he separated from his wife and moved to Seal Beach, he joined the famous, but not nudist, Pacific Coast Club. There he met a girl in the bar who agreed to go to McConville with him. The two of them also enjoyed outings at Olive Dell Ranch in the mid '60s. His first card in a nudist organization was issued by the AHA (American Health Alliance), a competitor of ASA. Over the ensuing years he was a member of Lazy K Travel Club, the Pacificans, the Golden Bares (now defunct) and Olive Dell Ranch, where he took up residence in 1991 upon his retirement from Rockwell International where he helped build the B1B military aircraft.

Membership in several clubs helped Hap become well known in the nudist community and set the stage for his future involvement in both ASA and its Western Region (WSA). He gave countless hours as Director, Trustee, President and Vice President and serving as the chair of many committees. His proudest accomplishment was implementing the purchase of the current AANR office, which occurred in 1983 – 84 when he was President of ASA. Until then, ASA rented a small office in Orlando. He also set up the fund to help pay for it, for which ASA members were asked for loans. Many members simply donated to what they perceived as a worthy cause.

During his years of service, Hap was awarded Man of the Year several times at both the WSA and the ASA levels. He was also presented the Jim Cossins Award in 1986 by then-president, Julie Erlenmeyer. He was selected by ASA to serve as a delegate to the INF (International Naturist Federation) where he was elected to the position of Vice President.

Of course, his other achievements stood him in line for the well-deserved honor of being inducted into the AANR Hall of Fame. He proudly wore his medal of recognition on a wide red, white and blue ribbon during many nudist conventions in the past fifteen years. He also donated both bottles and bucks to the Single Malt Scotch Society, which has donated thousands of dollars to AANR's Government Affairs Program.

In May 2013 Hap was interviewed as one of the first AANR pioneers to be immortalized on DVD. Each of the Nudist Research Libraries was given a copy which you may watch when you are in the vicinity – ANRL at Cypress Cove, WNRL at Glen Eden, the Northwest library at the Willamettans, or the Canadian library at Sunny Chinooks.

Hap's body – yes, nude – has been donated to science and the remains will be cremated. No contact information is available for his living children, his five grandchildren and his two great grandchildren. He would be very happy just to have you remember him with a contribution to your favorite charity.