



DINNISON, Dean
(Age 85)

Revered Boy Scout leader, principled businessman, Marine, caring father and husband, Dean passed away peacefully at his home on October 12, 2008.

Born in 1923 in the timber town of Pierce, ID, he got his first job with the US Forest Service, running a mule train to supply lookouts and fire crews. Dean attended the University of Idaho where he majored in mechanical engineering, economics and business administration. He joined the US Marine Corps where he achieved the rank of 1st Lieutenant, served six years including two in the Korean War. In the 1950's he helped start the liquid farm fertilizer industry in the Inland Northwest, designing and building fertilizer plants and patenting a wheat fertilization system. In the 1960's he was promoted to general manager of Palouse Ammonia and McCall Farm Chemicals, the region's largest fertilizer dealer. When Shell Chemical bought the business, he turned down an opportunity to move to San Francisco to live near the airport and supervise a five state region because he said that wasn't "my idea of how to live."

He and his wife Leslei remodeled and built several homes on the South Hill and in the Rimrock region of West Spokane. In 1968 he launched a successful career as an investment advisor, first with Richards, Merrill & Peterson and then co-founded Quantum Financial Planning and Investment Group of Spokane, selling his interest and entering retirement in 1990. He was drawn out of retirement by former colleagues in 1998 to serve as management consultant to the Wilson Financial Consulting Group of Spokane, predecessor to Northern Capital Management, Inc. He served as Senior Chair of the Northern Capital Management, Inc. Investment Committee beginning in 2003 until his death, attending his last meeting on October 7, 2008. He served for 25 years as president of Designs for Independent Living, an information and referral non-profit for elderly and handicapped. Dean built a 21-unit handicapped accessible apartment building close to Sacred Heart Medical Center.

Dean served for 36 years as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 325, working with more than 250 boys, 54 of whom he coached to become Eagle Scouts, Scouting's highest rank. Weekly meetings and monthly overnight outings into deep snow, steep terrain, pouring rain and whitewater were the proving grounds; Dean set high standards and used every moment as an opportunity to teach leadership and outdoor skills. He insisted that the older boys readily demonstrate they were doing the same for the younger ones before they could "soar with the eagles." His troop logs 120 events a year including boy-led meetings, 50-mile backpacking trips, 100-mile bike trips and service projects.

Dean's hobbies included woodworking and raising Arabian horses. Dean was preceded in death by his wife Leslei. He is survived by nine children and stepchildren including Deborah Copenhaver-Fellows of Sonoita, AZ; Aaron Dinnison of Coeur d' Alene, ID; Jay Dinnison of Seattle, WA; Darcy Bodnar of Goodyear, AZ; Lisa Courchaine of Veradale, WA; Laurie Thayer of Seattle, WA; Jeff Copenhaver of Texas; Walter Laird of San Francisco; and Dennis Laird of Seattle.

Donations are being taken in Dean's memory by the Western Empire Foundation, a foundation for under-privileged children:

Western Empire Foundation
C/O Northern Capital Management, Inc.
2700 S. Southeast Blvd. Suite 205
Spokane, WA 99223

Time, date and place of service...

Friday, October 17, 2008 at 4:00 PM
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
316 E. 24th
Spokane, WA

Hazen & Jaeger

The Uncommon Man Award

Was presented to Dean Dinnison in 1990 by the Troop 325 Committee and by Leslei Dinnison for his having been the Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 325 in Spokane, Washington since 1970

This is Stanford University's highest Award.

I DO NOT CHOOSE
TO BE A COMMON MAN.

It is my right to be uncommon
...if I can. I seek opportunity ...
not security. I do not wish to be a kept
citizen, humbled and dulled by having
the state look after me. I want to take the
calculated risk; to dream and to build, to
fail and to succeed. I refuse to barter incen-
tive for a dole. I prefer the challenges of life
to the guaranteed existence; the thrill of ful-
fillment to the stale calm of utopia. I will
not trade freedom for beneficence nor my
dignity for a handout. I will never cower
before any master nor bend to any threat.

It is my heritage to stand erect, proud
and unafraid; to think and act for my-
self; enjoy the benefits of my creations
and to face the world boldly and say,
this I have done. All this
is what it means to be
an American.