

Remembering Ann Smiley by George Holm

With Ann's passing, April 12, 2018, the club lost a friend and also its longest regularly attending member.

Ann was born December 7, 1933, and joined the club with her mother Winnifred, in 1960, as charter members. They took an active participation, and when Tom Rice gave up the editorship, they became joint editors of the club newsletter, *The Pacific Northwest Shell Club News* (now *The Dredgings*), from 1969 to 1975. Winnifred passed away in 1972 and Ann kept on as editor for two more years. Ann held many offices in the club over the years including membership committee, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer.



George Holm photo

Using contacts she had made as Corresponding Secretary, she once acquired shells for a club auction by writing to "known names" in the shell world, including R. Tucker Abbott and John Dupont, asking them if they would contribute a self-collected shell for our auction. They did and I was the lucky bidder for that lot.

In the 1960's and 70's she travelled to New Zealand and Australia on collecting trips. She easily made friends, and those new friends and contacts came to benefit club members by sending shells to Ann that she would bring to meetings for members to purchase or trade, and often simply gave them away. In this way members acquired especially hard to obtain volutes and cowries from Australia.

Ann was committed to the club, and if at all possible, seldom missed a meeting. Her determination to attend was displayed the day of the Mount St. Helens eruption on May 18, 1980, which coincidentally happened to be the day of a club meeting. She lived in Ridgefield, WA, south of the mountain - its top was visible from her property. The eruption

had begun that morning when she left home to go the meeting. She saw the initial steam, but considered it "no big deal". Little did she know that the road she was to leave on would be devastated by debris from the eruption and her return home would see her having to detour via Oregon.

She met Earl Hoppman in the early 1980's and he participated with her in club activities until his death from a heart attack in 2005. She was also a master quilter and, after Earl's passing, she devoted more time to quilting than to her shells, but still did not miss coming to meetings until her own health failed her a few years ago.

Her shell collection was extensive and included every species of the Xenophoridae family. She also had an extensive shell book collection. Last year she donated these collections to the club for disposal, with the proceeds from their sale to benefit the scholarship fund.

Ann's absence from meetings is noted, and she is missed.