

In Memoriam:

Les Avery

By Christopher J. Avery



Leslie Hart Avery (*Silver Circle Class of 1988*) passed away early morning on August 4, 2010 in Berkeley, California. He was 93 years old.

He was the son of **Elizabeth Rebecca Hart** and **Leslie Charles Avery**, the brother of **Elizabeth Ingram** and **Helen Miller**, and grew up on the road from Visalia to Farmersville in central California.

At an early age he discovered and was completely entranced by classical music when a phonograph entered the home. He recalled climbing on stacks of books as a child to reach for records to play. In the age before digital electronics, the photograph was a window for him onto the wide cultural world beyond.

He attended the University of California in Berkeley, majored in music, dreamed of singing opera, and there met his wife-to-be, **Constance Lola Hannah**. He became a classical music broadcaster at radio station KRE in Berkeley where his minor in electrical engineering combined well with his vocal training and his deep knowledge of music. He later became a broadcast engineer for public television station KQED in San Francisco.

Known as "Sonny" in his youth he grew up as a Visalia farm boy with a special passion for his visits to Mineral King. He camped early in life with his family on the banks of the Kaweah River, then in later years stayed in cabins that family members built or bought.

With boyhood friends, he made the trek to Mineral King on horseback at a time when the water troughs along the road were essential for horses. He later recounted stories of a family automobile "backing up the old road" in order to have a gear low enough to make the grade. In the 1950s his mother purchased a cabin for her family. It is now

referred to as the "Avery Cabin" in Faculty Flat. He visited it over many years, as to this day do her descendants.

Leslie was an avid photographer and has had photographs of Mineral King on display at Silver City. He also photographed collectable bottles (for example Jim Bean, Garnier, and Bischoff) for several books he and his wife wrote and co-authored with friend **Al Cembura**. He and Connie also spend many hundreds of hours researching the history of Mineral King and uncovered many key documents and maps, some of which are displayed today at the Mineral King Ranger Station. Late in life he avidly followed new scientific discoveries with particular interest in solar power.

He is survived by his wife, Constance, two children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Apart from his family and classical music, his great love was that small paradise in the high Sierras known as Mineral King, where surely he has walked every trail in the valley, fished or swam in every lake, explored every canyon, and deeply enjoyed his time with his many friends and neighbors there.

Joe Winters



Longtime KGO photographer **Joe Winters**, suffered a recent fall and passed away at San Francisco General on October 28. Joe worked primarily in the programming department; he had an extensive career in film before coming to Channel 7. He contributed to countless shows here ranging from *Dudley's Diner* and *Good*

Times Café to *Good Morning Bay Area* and *Marketplace*, in addition to myriad programming specials. He was a good hearted curmudgeon with a passion for photography; in his retirement he spent countless hours on his computer.

Joe's good friend **Patsy Duffin** (another long time KGO-er) watched over him in recent years. Joe requested no service be held. He was 81 years old.



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