

IN MEMORIAM

Gerald E. Bergum

October 19, 1931–January 17, 2021

Mathematics Department, South Dakota State University, 1970–1984

Head, Computer Science Department, South Dakota State University, 1985–2000

CoEditor, *The Fibonacci Quarterly*, 1978–1980

Editor, *The Fibonacci Quarterly*, 1980–1998

Jerry had boundless energy and enthusiasm for mathematics and especially for the Fibonacci numbers. He welcomed chances to learn and meet with other mathematicians. I met Jerry at the West Coast Number Theory Conference in the late '70s and later at every meeting of the Fibonacci Association.

When Verner E. Hoggatt, Jr., the first editor of *The Fibonacci Quarterly*, died suddenly in 1980, Jerry stayed with Frank and me in Santa Clara for two weeks, and I helped him sort through the maze of papers in Vern's office. But, what you really need to know is that Jerry was the glue that held *The Fibonacci Quarterly* and the Fibonacci Association together.

Vern didn't type or make copies. He handwrote volumes of letters and notes on problems that interested him, but mixed them in with the mundane, utility bills and such. He kept everything in his head, including addresses and phone numbers. We couldn't tell which manuscripts had been accepted or rejected or needed revision.

Jerry took home six banker's boxes of manuscripts and letters and wrote to every person who had submitted a paper. Jerry returned to Santa Clara often on Association business: subscriptions went to the University of Santa Clara until 1996. He always brought a dozen roses to the *Quarterly* typist. He always brought his wife Shirley and stayed with Frank and me, and he always got up at 5:30 to run a mile with us.

In 1984, Andreas Philippou, with Alwyn Horadam and Jerry, started the International Conferences on Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications at the University of Patras, Greece. The Fibonacci conferences have been held every two years since, alternately in North America and Europe. Jerry coedited the first seven volumes of the *Proceedings*, 1984–1996.

Jerry always brought his family with him to the conferences. Shirley handled registration for many years. They were married for 69 years and raised 10 children, nine of their own and one adopted. They also gave scholarships to students at South Dakota State, taking them in and providing room and board. Jerry was warm-hearted and generous and fun to be around. We all miss him and his good humor and his guiding spirit.

“Good night, dear prince. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.” – William Shakespeare

Marjorie Johnson