IN MEMORIUM

WILFRED “WIL” HUSTED
1928-2015

Wilfred M. Husted passed away peacefully at Riverstone Hospice Home in Billings, Montana on August 11, 2015. He had battled coronary problems since a heart attack in January 1981 and cancer since 2011. Wil was born October 27, 1928 to Wilfred B. and Irene McAllister Husted in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

He grew-up among the fields, woods, marshes and seashores of southern New Jersey and especially “down back,” the land around the upper end of East Lake in Bridgeton. He graduated from Bridgeton High School in June 1947. As a young boy Wil enjoyed fishing in East Lake and Delaware Bay and surf fishing down at the shore.

Wilfred was proud of his more than seven years of military service in the United States Air Force from September 1947 until February 1955. Following basic training in Texas, he was trained as an airport traffic controller at Scott AFB, Illinois. Subsequent assignments took him to Puerto Rico, the Canal Zone, Texas, and the University of Colorado-Boulder where he began a love affair with the Rocky Mountains. An early summer cruise via troopship to Japan in 1953 and a few hours flight soon thereafter found Wil at K-14 Airbase (Kimpo) northwest of Seoul, Korea. It was here he witnessed the unannounced arrival of No Kum-Sok in his MiG-15 from Andong, Manchuria on September 23, 1953. Following the obligatory one-year tour in Frozen Chosen, Wil received his first choice for reassignment and reported to Lowry AFB in Denver, Colorado where he was honorably discharged in early February 1955.

Wil entered the University of Colorado-Boulder in September 1955. He briefly studied pre-medicine but gradually maneuvered himself into anthropology, concentrating in archaeology. While at CU, Wilfred met his lifetime partner Beth Watson. They were married in Santa Fe on September 7, 1957. Two of their sons, Kenneth Gordon and Gary David were born in Boulder. Wil graduated with an M.A. in anthropology in 1962 and garnered a position with the Smithsonian Institution, River Basin Surveys in Lincoln, Nebraska in April 1962. Beth’s and Wil’s third son, Bruce Alan, was born in Lincoln in 1965.

His first project was excavating prehistoric archaeological sites in the upstream or southern portion of Bighorn Canyon on the Bighorn River in Montana and Wyoming.

Wilfred was preceded in death by his parents Wilfred Blew and Irene (McAllister) Husted and son Gary David Husted. He is survived by his wife Beth, son Kenneth Gordon and grandchildren Ross and Hannah of Lincoln, Nebraska and son Bruce Alan of Winder, Georgia.

Cremation has taken place and Wilfred’s ashes will be placed by the family at a time and location yet to be determined. Memorials may be made to the National Museum of the United States Air Force, the Wyoming Archaeological Society or the charity of your choice.