Obituaries

Ed Karpoff, 1918-2012



Ed Karpoff was born in 1918 to Russian immigrant parents living in Berkeley California. His father was a railroad machinist while his mother raised chickens and dabbled in real estate. At the age of seven Ed moved with his parents back to New York to join up with the growing number of family members coming in from Europe. The family disliked New York City and with the assistance from the Jewish Agricultural Society, set up in poultry farming near Flemington NJ. Ed attended the local one-room school and completed the available curriculum in rather short time. He enrolled early in the Lambertville (NJ) High School and graduated first in his Class at age 16. The next stop was Rutgers University for a program in the then-new field of 'scientific agriculture' and graduated with the Class of 1938. His Rutgers adviser noted the obvious, that jobs were scarce, but also that Ed was young, and a good student, so therefore, he should enrol in graduate school.

At the University of Connecticut he earned a MS degree in Agricultural Economics, but more importantly met Bella Warhaft. Ed and Bella married in 1942. The couple raised two sons, Peter and Julian, with whom they shared their lifelong sense for adventure. During the early years, the family travelled to Wyoming, North Carolina, Maine, Quebec, Chicago and Florida, in addition to routine trips to New York and Connecticut to visit family.

Ed worked in food security at the US Department of Agriculture during the war years, and served in additional roles there until his retirement in 1980. Ed worked as an economist and statistician, writing numerous food supply reports, attended international poultry events, including extensive farm visits to the Soviet Union and Iran, negotiated several tariff agreements, and served as Agricultural Attaché in Iran, prior to the Embassy takeover there. He participated in numerous of civic activities, including the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department, and serving as field trip chairman for the Washington Gem , Lapidary, and Mineral Society. He was also a member of the Foreign Agricultural Service Retirees Club, and attended their monthly meetings as long as he was able.

Following retirement, Ed worked for several years at the University of Vermont helping to design and optimise routes and procedures for the collection of raw milk from New England farms. Following his second retirement, Ed and Bella travelled widely, visiting much of the US and Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. By 1999, Bella's declining health curtailed further travel and the focus turned to grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Despite devoted care from Ed, Bella died in 2001. Their marriage was a 59-year love story, the first 50 years of which was celebrated at a 1992 party hosted by their sons.

Late in 2001, despite 63 years without contact, Ed inquired of a college classmate about the whereabouts of Belle, a woman he had dated just once, in 1938, while a student at Rutgers. Lo and behold, Belle was reported to be a recent widow. Discrete inquiries

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through the friend revealed that she would welcome correspondence from Ed. Correspondence led to a series of visits, then to shared vacations, and then to a wonderful 10-year relationship of daily correspondence and reciprocal visits in Washington and New York. Each of them became well-known at both senior communities where they lived and exchanged visits. Ed and Belle visited as recently as February 2012, on the occasion of Ed's 94th birthday. Ed counted himself extraordinarily lucky to have lived two love stories in one lifetime.

Ed suffered a fall on March 17 while returning from CVS. After a brief hospital stay he entered the Hebrew Home for rehabilitation, but after one week the challenge of recovery proved too great. He moved to hospice care and declined in vigor until his death on April 3, 2012.

Ed's last expressed wishes included appreciation to Fran Brooks and Mary Taylor for the care they generously provided, to Ms. Siskine of the Ring House play reading group, to Scott for his wonderful Ring House bus trips over the years, and to all the Ring House community, both residents and staff, for 8 enjoyable years in the caring and supportive community that he called home.

Ed is survived by two sons, Peter (Silver Spring) and Julian (Lewes DE), and two daughters-in-law, Cecelia and MaryJo. He is survived also by three grandchildren (Lynette Mattke, Andrea Daney, and Tim Karpoff), five great-grandchildren, two grand-sons-in-law, step-grand, Lauren Clark, and his dear friend (of 10, or 74 years, depending on how one counts them!), Belle Siskind of Commack, NY.

Prof. Dr. sc. Winfried Bonitz

May 29, 1938 – June 2, 2012



Winfried Bonitz grew up in the Eastern part of Germany, where he attended grade school in Zwönitz/Saxonia (1944-52), high school in Aue (1952-55) and the Agricultural University of Halle (1955-56) for his senior high school year. This qualified him for studying Agriculture at the University of Leningrad (1956-61), where he majored in zootechnology to learn as much as possible about animal and poultry breeding and management in theory and practice. At the same time, he perfected his knowledge of the Russian language, took a special interest in Russian culture, and established lasting friendships.

After completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Leningrad, he returned to Germany. He found employment in agricultural cooperatives and research stations, with increasing responsibility: as assistant manager in charge of animal production at the agricultural cooperative (LPG) in Poseritz/ Rügen (1961-62), assistant director at the Poultry Research Center in Rottenau (1962-72), director of the LPG in Poseritz (1972-75), assistant at the Cattle Research Station in Iden-Rohrbeck (1975-77), and finally associate manager at the Poultry Research Station in Merbitz (1977-1991), where he was responsible for all poultry research activities in the German Democratic Republic (GDR), including the layer breeding program in Deersheim, which had been established to supply parent stock for the COMECON countries.

While working full-time in the animal and poultry industry, he continued his advanced education and earned his doctorate degree from the German Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Berlin with a thesis on the development of live weight gain and feathering of

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broilers to eight weeks of age (1967) and a second doctorate degree, comparable to the habilitation in West Germany (Dr. sc. agr.), from the Karl-Marx-University Leipzig (1985) on feed efficiency in laying hens. In 1988, the Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) appointed him as Professor in animal and poultry science. In this position, he was not only in regular contact with colleagues in the USSR and countries in Eastern Europe, but also enjoyed the privilege to meet colleagues from the Western world at WPSA events like the European Poultry Conference 1986 in Paris and the World Poultry Congress 1988 in Nagoya.

After German reunification (1989), Prof. Bonitz soon recognized positive sides of the change from a planned national economy to a competitive global market and accepted an offer by Lohmann Tierzucht GmbH to coordinate sales and service for its laying strains in Russia and the CIS countries (1992). In this new position, he earned respect for his unique skill to combine his extensive practical experience with a scientific approach to analyse current projects and market potential with focus on improving the efficiency of egg production under local conditions.

German reunification led to the merger of the two WPSA branches in East and West Germany, and Prof. Bonitz was elected as board member. He resigned from the board when he officially retired from Lohmann Tierzucht (2002), but retained an active interest in world-wide scientific developments and trends, with focus on issues he considered relevant for his contacts in Russia. After a decade of full-time employment by Lohmann Tierzucht, he concentrated on special projects in Russia and countries of the former USSR to establish networks to disseminate scientific and technical knowledge. This includes the 'Lohmann Club of Excellence' to promote good management practices for parent farms and egg production.

Informed of his death, colleagues in Russia wrote to his family and friends in Germany: "We have lost a highly qualified scientist who was respected for his broad knowledge and experience. We loved him as a wonderful friend with a good heart, sympathetic and always trustworthy. He will remain in our hearts, and the goals for which he fought all his life will continue to be pursued in our work."

German colleagues who worked with him before and after German reunification feel similarly and appreciate his contribution to even better relations between Germany and Russia today than previously existed between the USSR and the German Democratic Republic.

Pierre Stals of Marel Stork passes away



Pierre Stals of Marel Stork passed away unexpectedly on Saturday 21 April.

Pierre started working for Stork Poultry Processing as a technologist in 1973. Afterwards he established and managed the marketing and publicity department for many years. From 2004 he was responsible for PR and active as a product manager for the GP supply and Controlled Atmosphere Systems (CAS) of Marel Stork. He participated in international poultry conferences like the annual meeting of Avec, the association of European poultry processors.

Pierre was very involved with the World's Poultry Science Association. He was a member of the Board of the Dutch Branch from 1993-1999. He was also a member of the Working Group that organized the 50th anniversary of the Dutch Branch in April 2000 in Artis, Amsterdam. He took part in many WPSA Congresses. Pierre was 64 years old.

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