



Eric Schoonmaker

November 9, 1922 - August 3, 2012

Eric Schoonmaker was born in New York City on November 19, 1922 and died August 3, 2012. His father was a career Army officer so he traveled the world extensively as a child and into his early adulthood.

He began his adult life in the Merchant Marine Service and left the service as a Chief Engineer. He eventually settled in Yreka in the 1950's. Initially, he worked in the logging industry, then developed and operated Contractors Sand and Gravel until he retired the business in the mid 1990's. From 1972 until his death he also operated a charter fishing boat that shipped out of Ilwaco, Washington. He married Madelyn Grace Schade on January 23, 1960 and for over 44 years the couple raised their 20 foster children. He continued to be a single foster parent after Madelyn's passing until a few months prior to his death. He was 89 years old.

His community involvement included the Rotary Club of Yreka, the Masonic Lodge, and the Elks Lodge. For a number of years in the 60's and 70's he was the adult sponsor for DeMolay. In recent years, he was active on the Advisory Board for Siskiyou County Mental Health Services and served on the Grand Jury. He was the recipient of numerous awards and commendations for his service to others in the community.

He is preceded in death by his father, L.E. Schoonmaker; his mother, Gladys C. Schoonmaker; his brother, Colson Schoonmaker and his wife, Madelyn. Survivors include two sisters, Dorothy Henderson of Gainesville FL and Eleanor Hutcheson of Dallas, TX; his foster children; four nephews and five

nieces. A memorial service will be held at Girdner Funeral Chapel at 2:00 pm on August 15, 2012 with a reception to follow. At the family's request, memorial contributions can be made to the Rotary Club of Yreka, PO Box 942, Yreka, CA 96097.