



Keith Edward Whipple

February 14, 1922 - August 3, 2018

How do you measure one man's life? Is it by how many grandchildren he has sired? How much money he has made? What have been his contributions to present society? In the case of Keith Whipple, born February 14, 1922, it would be what he contributed not just to present society, but to future generations. His last contribution was to plant over 2000 trees on his ranch, inventing a way to water them to insure their survival for the first three years, and fabricating a specialized auger to plant them. This was all done in his early nineties. He also put his ranch into a conservation easement in his late eighties to preserve open spaces for future generations of all species. In his fifties, he was one of the key players in developing the Scott Valley Plan to keep the valley floor open for agriculture and scenic beauty. He also helped to get the first health clinic started in the valley and served for a number of years on the Etna Elementary School board.

An innovator all of his life, he used scrap metal and ironing boards to invent a cucumber picker in his early thirties. He fabricated much of the equipment he used ranching. In 1957, when the land taxes and influx of population grew too high to stay on the family farm on Whipple Road in the Bay Area, he moved the ranching operation to Scott Valley. Keith always had some project going. An avid tennis player, outdoorsman, world traveler, and vegetable connoisseur, his love of the mountains and open spaces was evident in everything he did.

Keith and his wife, Harrie, just celebrated 70 wonderful years together on June 27th, 2018. He is also survived by his children Jennifer Whipple, Millie Whipplesmith Plank, and Keith W. (Kip) Whipple: his grandchildren Amanda Schmalenberger, Ian Smith, Emilie Smith, Elizabeth Whipple, and Abigail Whipple and great grandchildren Liam and Greta Schmalenberger.

Adored by his family, he passed away on August 3, 2018 and will be much missed. Keith's life will be celebrated with an Open House on Saturday, September 15, 2018 from 1-3:30PM at Keith and Harrie's home, 1700 Eastside Road in Etna. Hope to see you there! Contributions in his name may be made to Siskiyou Land Trust or Madrone Hospice.

Previous Events

Open House Celebration

SEP **15**. 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM (PT)

Keith and Harrie Whipple house
1700 Eastside Road
Etna, CA 96027

Tribute Wall

RO

“ Keith was extraordinary and kind to me back in 1976-77. A wise man and teacher to me that gave me an opportunity when I was very young. It was a great stepping stone in my career. I could not have grown more at the time and later if I have not had those working experiences with Keith. He always had a plan and made good decisions!

My condolences and heart goes out to the family. Even though i know he must have prepared them well.- Best Wishes- Randy Oliver

Randy Oliver - September 26, 2018 at 09:53 PM

LB

“ Mr. Whipple was an inspiring man, a leader in his foresight to conserve agriculture and the land that he and his family loved. I will always cherish my visits to the ranch.

Larelle Burkham-Greydanus

Larelle Burkham-Greydanus - September 14, 2018 at 11:07 AM

DM

“ *What an extraordinary man. Keith was not only an exemplary citizen and revolutionary rancher, he was a good friend. One of the things that both Keith and I enjoyed was playing tennis together. Win or lose we always appreciated each other's company and he was an enjoyable person to have around -- in any circumstance. Martha's and my love and prayers of gratitude for his life go out to you, Harrie, and to the rest of your wonderful family. Scott Valley became a much better place in which to live and work because of people like Keith Whipple.*

Doug & Martha Monroe

Doug Monroe - August 15, 2018 at 11:00 AM

SR

“ *My Deepest Condolences to the Whipple family. Keith was a great man who has left a wonderful legacy behind. Now that he has gone may all the beautiful memories be a blessing to you all. Please accept my sympathies or your loss of a great man.*

Scott and Stephanie Reynolds

Stephanie R Reynolds - August 14, 2018 at 05:30 PM