

## Marvin Creamer

Marvin Creamer was my colleague in the 1970's at Glassboro State College (now Rowan University). He is known for being the first person to have sailed around the earth in his 36 foot sailboat Globe Star without the aid of navigational instruments (compass, sextant, timepiece, etc.) Instead, he navigated using the sun, stars, ocean waves and even bird flight.

Creamer was humorous, quick-witted and with an impressive memory for everything, even the smallest detail. Along with my wife Joanne, who was also a professor at the college, we became acquainted with him when we audited his class in navigation. During that class, I vividly remember his patience instructing us on how to use a sextant. Subsequently, we got to know him quite well personally, and he invited us to take short trips on his sailboat. There was even discussion of accompanying him on his first transatlantic trip.

Marvin Creamer was an incredible intuitive navigator. I remember driving with him in my car one day. In those days, there were no cellphones, no internet and of course no programmed navigation of any sort. In order to reach our destination we came to a choice of two roads. Marvin looked up at the position of the sun and instantly came up with the correct choice.

After leaving the college to take a position at IBM, I continued to keep in contact with him through the years. After my wife Joanne died, and I married my present wife Penny, we attended his 100th birthday get-together. It was a chance to renew a 50-year-old friendship. Even at 100, he was still his old self -- quick-witted and with an impressive memory for everything, even the smallest detail.

In March of 2018, Penny and I went to New Zealand to visit friends. We knew that Globe Star had stopped there. While in Auckland, we made an internet phone call to Marvin to let him know we were there and learned that his friend Ian Sage, with whom he had been to graduate school at the University of Wisconsin in 1958, lived in Auckland. They had lost track of each other. With a few phone calls, I was able to find Sage and give him Marvin's contact info. In an email of March 2018, which I still have, Marvin said "Sage drove all the way from Auckland to Whangaroa to see me and Globe Star." Continuing, Marvin said "Recently, I tried to find out if Ian Sage is still living but struck out. It was a very pleasant surprise to hear from you and from so very far away!" Subsequently, the two of them renewed their friendship by exchanging emails. So, after some 35 years, I had put them in touch. In early January, I sent a email to Sage's old address and was surprised to hear from him. This week I phoned him in Auckland and we spoke about Marvin who he said was "very bright, determined, and in spite of being older than the rest of us, very involved in the class work."

Penny and I continued to maintain contact with Marvin through Christmas cards and by calling him on the phone, especially on his birthday. We also monitored his humorous Facebook limerick posts. The last one, dated August 6, 2020, we saved:

"Donald Trump chips away,  
At GOP grandeur,  
When out of his moue  
.Comes nothing but slander!"

Marvin Creamer died in the year 2020 at the age of 104. The last time we talked was January 24, 2020. It was a privilege to have known this remarkable man as a colleague and friend.