

EDWARD REED KAYNOR

NOVEMBER 8, 1923 --

-- MARCH 19, 2010



Long-time stalwart TPF member---intelligent, multi-talented, dancer, pianist, music lover, punster, an engaged citizen and all-around good guy--- Ed Kaynor of Amherst MA died after a short period of declining health. Nonetheless, he remained always spirited and always in good spirits.

Ed and his late wife, Fay (also a devoted TPF member), were loyal participants in TPF activities, especially with the Amherst contingent. They helped hugely with the newsletter, making edits and suggestions. They attended all of the Thomas Paine birthday celebrations, and contributed birthday cakes and music and cheerily greeted newcomers. A meek request to Ed to play the piano was all needed for him to "fool around," as he said, on the whites and blacks. He would try any odd bit of music we asked for, and he picked it out with style. (A man who said he had no training.)

A graveside remembrance was held in Springfield MA by family and friends on April 3, 2010. Information here comes from the memorial keepsake prepared by the Kaynor family.

Edward 'Plug' Reed Kaynor was of a Springfield family of reform political leaders, innovators in progressive education and religion, and women who owned and managed businesses. His love of music and his musical aptitude probably came from his mother who was a church organist. (Ed did not receive any other formal music training.)

During World War II Ed Kaynor served in the Army Air Force. Afterwards he earned degrees in sociology and political science from Yale and the University of Massachusetts.

His wide-ranging career included city planning in New Haven CT, and in the Massachusetts cities of Chicopee, Springfield and Worcester. In the Environmental Institute at UMass, Amherst, he wrote several seminal works on water resources that included the effects of human activity on the Connecticut River. He carried out valuable work on acid rain in New England ecosystems. He worked with the Carter administration on the water portion of the Environmental Bill. He was active in Amherst governmental affairs and was a member of Town Meeting. (He wouldn't vote to call the question when anyone still waited to have a say.)

Ed and Fay were avid English country and contra dancers. Ed was a member of a number of dance teams. He toured the U.S. with several dance and music groups, making recordings with some of them. Among Ed's life-long passions were running marathons, climbing mountains, splitting firewood, gardening, playing Bach piano repertoire everyday, and playing touch football with the younger set. He continued running into his 84th year. Many in this community will remember that Ed was an expert bowler and continued with his weekly bowling group into his 87th year. (Into his early 80's, Ed still bowled with teams *twice a week*.)

Ed and Fay spent 60 active years together, restoring a good old home, camping, dancing, gardening, and contributing to events large and small with family and community. They were among the "salt of the earth."

*Here lies the body of ERK
Everyone said it would end that way
No one at 86 regardless of style
Should try to be breaking the four-minute mile!*

[Kaynor Family Notes of April 3, 2010]

A few personal recollections. Ed Kaynor was the man who came to the party and *made* the party. Year after year Ed and Fay were part of the Thomas Paine birthday observance. They helped with the exhibits, setting out chairs, refreshments, all of that, and music of course. They were keen contributors to the events.

Ed and Fay were happy to join various little festivities in the Amherst community. We were among those elated to have their presence at a few of our little open houses. Ed was the life of the party--he lit up any room. His quick humor was matchless, punning limericks being his forte. And with a piano nearby he readily entertained with his variations on themes, especially his beloved Bach. He deprecated his musical ability, but clearly he had a gift.

Ed's remarkable hat collection in itself merits a museum---huge stovepipes, replicas of animals, fuzzy hairdos were just a very few that nested upon his head when he showed up at one occasion or another. We all looked forward to seeing what novelty would adorn him. Maybe Ed himself would have said, *bald and bold*. (He commented something to the effect that shining, smooth head-skin was the original plan and the disordered hairy head was a late and not progressive addition to human evolution.)

Well, it's hard to say it, but Ed is not here now---*missing, believed immortal*.

-- Martha and Irwin Spiegelman

.....no person ought to be in a worse condition when born under what is called a state of civilization, than he would have been had he been born in a state of nature, and that civilization ought to have made, and ought still to make, provision for that purpose, it can only be done by subtracting from property a portion equal in value to the natural inheritance it has absorbed.

....Thomas Paine, AGRARIAN JUSTICE 1795