**LAST FRONTIER ECONOMIST**

**GEORGE W. ROGERS**

Longtime Juneau resident and accomplished economist George W. Rogers, 93, died Oct. 3.

He was raised in San Francisco, and started working for Standard Oil Company at the age of 17. His career began in the mailroom, and he quickly rose to a statistician position, allowing him to afford to attend college and support his family through the Depression.

While attending the University of California at Berkeley, he met Jean Clark through their mutual involvement in a housing co-op, and told his roommate that he had met his future wife. The couple was married Nov. 27, 1942.

Rogers came to Juneau in 1945 to work for the Office of Price and Administration, helping to control unregulated raw fish prices. After World War II, he served as an advisor to several territorial governors, including Ernest Gruening and Frank Heintzelman.

Rogers stayed in Alaska for the next 66 years, leaving briefly to complete a masters degree of public administration and a Ph.D. in economics at Harvard University. Rogers received many prestigious awards and honors during his career.

While Rogers was attending Harvard, the couple adopted their first two children, Shelle and Geoffrey. After returning to Juneau, they adopted four more—Sidney, Gavin, Sabrina and Garth.

In 1948, the couple bought a two-room miner’s cabin. As each child was adopted, Rogers designed and built additions until it became a five-bedroom, two-bathroom home. In 2000, the original house burned, and in 2001 Rogers designed the current family home. He also designed the Zach Gordon Youth Center in Juneau.

During the drive for statehood, Rogers was a consultant to the Alaska Constitutional Convention. In 1961, Rogers and two colleagues persuaded the state Legislature to establish an institute at the University of Alaska to undertake research and provide information on Alaska’s economy, business, demography and other topics. This year, the Institute of Social and Economic Research is dedicating the celebration of its 50th anniversary to Rogers.

His professional career covered numerous topics, including fisheries, timber, oil, the Alaska Permanent Fund and circumpolar research. Rogers wrote seven books on Alaska policy and economics, several of which became educational textbooks, including *Alaska in Transition, The Future of Alaska*, and *Change in Alaska*.

Rogers worked with the Arctic Institute of North America, the Sorbonne in France, Cambridge University in England, and the Canadian Privy Council. He was a member of the Juneau Rotary and the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly—before and after statehood. He was also on committees for 25 Alaska programs related to fisheries, timber, statehood, mental health issues and more.

Rogers enjoyed the performing arts, including acting, dramaturgy and choral singing, trains, pen-and-ink sketching, reading and architecture.

Mary Aniska (Edwards) Flood, 76, died Aug. 11. She was born near Holy Cross, and attended Holy Cross Mission. Flood lived with her husband, Tom, at Lake Minchumina, where she worked as a postmistress. They enjoyed gardening, fishing, trapping and dog sledding. During the summer, they went clamming and commercial fishing.

Robson L. “Bob” Bishop, 87, died Oct. 7. He had lived in Ketchikan since 1932. Bishop was a fisherman, trapper, big-game guide and seaman. He enjoyed making jewelry, reading and helping his friends. He owned Bishop’s Experimental Orchard and Gardens.

Arthur James Brandon, 79, died Oct. 26. He was born in Golovin to reindeer herders and lived in various communities on the Seward Peninsula until the family moved to Dillingham in 1936. Brandon commercial fished until 1951, when he joined the U.S. Marines and fought in the Korean War. When he returned home, he married May Blatchford and the couple had four children. Brandon worked as a roofer, airplane fuleler and truck driver on the trans-Alaska pipeline. He retired from Anchorage Refuse in 1992.

Rollo Edward Bray, 85, died Oct. 25. He was born in Ketchikan, where he spent the majority of his life, and attended White Cliff and Old Main schools. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946. Bray was a millwright at the Ketchikan Pulp Co. and a commercial fisherman.

Charlie Burnham, 81, died Oct. 12. He married his high school sweetheart, Joyce Knapp, and they had six sons and one daughter. Burnham worked for Standard Oil, and later in the bar business, and for Tank Farm until he retired in 1994. He was known for his humor and great storytelling.

Betty Harris Fry, 85, died June 10. She was born in Chignik and moved to Washington state in 1944. She returned to Chignik and Kodiak many times before moving to Kodiak in 1972.