

### **Stockton Gordon Barnett III**

Died: October 3, 1992

Skip, as he was known, died of cancer on Saturday, October 3, 1992, at the age of 53, in Meridian Hospital in Tualatin, Oregon. He was diagnosed three years earlier, in October 1989. “The end moved quickly for Skip,” someone, presumably a member of his family, wrote at the time, in a beautifully written two-page unattributed eulogy found archived in Dartmouth alumni records. He was “buried at Skyline Memorial Gardens overlooking the valley he bicycled so often. We will miss him,” the eulogy concludes.

Skip came to Dartmouth from West Orange, New Jersey. He attended the Pingry School, where he was on the yearbook and on the track team. At Dartmouth he majored in geology, was a member of Zeta Psi, and — perhaps signaling the environmental concerns and love for the outdoors that characterized his later career — was a member of the geological society for his last two years, and for all four years of the Outing Club and the Ledyard Canoe Club.

He was also on the Dartmouth track team for four years, “throwing the javelin for Ellie Noyes,” as Tom Conger recalls. Tom’s recollections also contain the memory that “Skip was another really good guy, who ended up rooming in chaotic hilarity with Bill Adamson and Frederic ‘Flat’ Schwab.”

Skip went on after Dartmouth to earn a Masters in geology at the University of Iowa in 1963 and a doctorate in geology at Ohio State University in 1966. He married Lucy Estelle Gockel in 1966, and the couple — after a sailing honeymoon on Long Island Sound — moved to Plattsburg, New York, on the shores of Lake Champlain.

In the years following, says the eulogy, Skip taught geology and earth sciences at the State University of New York in Plattsburg. With Lucy he sailed on the lake, capturing many first place trophies in sailboat races. Their daughter Betsy was born on December 23, 1973, and thereafter the whole family (records the eulogy) shared in sailing, hiking, and bicycle trips.

Professionally, Skip conducted environmental research, much of it with his students. He received an award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a research project, which identified causes of flooding in Lake Champlain. He also developed a flood-forecasting model for the lake, which was adopted for use by the National Weather Service.

In 1981 Skip took a position as Director of Research and Development at Condar Company in Hiram, Ohio. While there he developed a catalytic woodstove that was designated by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality as the “best

available technology” and was used to establish Oregon’s woodstove emission standards. He holds two patents related to woodstove design.

A Google search for Stockton G. Barnett reveals an abundant literature about such matters as wood stove emissions from the use of densified logs, wood pelletization, biometric analysis of rock formations, micropaleontology, and — in a popular science magazine — the proper installation of a wood stove thermostat.

In 1989 he and his family moved to Beaverton, Oregon, outside Portland, where Skip took a position as a senior research scientist with Omni Environmental Services. That was the same year he was diagnosed with cancer.

The eulogy continues. Skip “chose to follow an experimental nutrition program rather than chemotherapy, and was very fortunate to beat the prognosis for advanced cancer, surviving and working for three years. The love and support of his family, friends and doctor made this the most personally enriching period of his life.” He hiked, biked, sailed, and kayaked “through the immense natural beauty of Oregon and Washington State.”

And, writes the anonymous author of the eulogy, “he took great pleasure and pride in watching his daughter, Betsy, blossom both in academics and sports, rowing especially.”