



## ***Natives Of Kodiak, Inc.***

### **Cecil Sholl, Sr. & Cecil Sholl, Jr. Memorial Scholarship**

The Cecil Sholl, Sr. & Cecil Sholl, Jr. Memorial Scholarship is a way for the Natives of Kodiak, Inc., to honor the memories of Cecil Sholl, Sr. & Cecil Sholl, Jr.

**Cecil Sholl, Sr.** was born on December 10, 1931 to Ben and Justine (Chernov) Sholl. His maternal grandparents were Avtonom and Paraskovia Chernov. His father, Ben Sholl, immigrated from Kristiansund, Norway before becoming a U.S. citizen and marrying.

Cecil Sr. grew up in Kodiak with his six siblings: Phyllis, Melvin, Alice, Zoya, Edgar and Jewel, enjoying a childhood spent outdoors in nature. As a young boy, he walked several miles in the snow to Lilly Lake to saw trees for firewood, hauling them home on a toboggan. His family spent summers in Ouzinkie, where his father was the cannery foreman. There, he and his friends would build little wooden model tenders and sail them into their makeshift canneries on the pond, complete with a small dock, and pretend to deliver fish. At the time, he couldn't know that his childhood games were preparing him for an adult career.

His perseverance was evident from a very early age, as well. At twelve years of age, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and his father took him to one of the few treatment centers in Alaska, a sanatorium in Skagway. The day his father had to leave, Cecil, Sr., in his own words, "raised Cain there at the hospital and told them I wasn't going to stay there. They wouldn't let me go. They took all my clothes away and everything, so I told 'em, 'Okay, I'll walk home naked then.'" Despite being warned about his impending death without treatment, he managed to convince his doctors to drive him to the airstrip, where his father's plane was flagged down on the runway. "The airplane stopped and they opened the door and I jumped in and hopped on my dad's lap." His mother's ministrations at home led to his recovery; she kept him indoors all winter and made him a bed by the stove.

Though he ended his formal education shortly thereafter, leaving after the, "the seventh or eighth grade," Cecil Sholl, Jr., recalls, a lifetime of learning and innovation ensued,

evidenced by a long and varied career. Cecil Sr. followed in his father's footsteps, working at Kodiak Fisheries in Port Bailey and later as second in command at Icy Cape (Columbia Ward Fisheries), where he was a machinist and foreman. He worked at Chignik Lagoon for many years, also owned by Columbia Ward Fisheries, and he was a shipwright as well, owning his own boat repair business in the 1960s, *Sholl's Marine Repair*. In an interview preceding his death, Cecil Jr., recalled still having a ledger from that business, dating a week before the 1964 tsunami which leveled much of the city. Cecil Jr. recalled his father being a very frugal and sharp, self-taught business man and mathematician. Harking back to his childhood summers, as a hobby he built wooden skiffs, often for friends, such as Rudy Lorenson and Emil Norton. He invented removable trailer wheels for a boat; a mount would attach to the side of the boat for the wheels and the wheels were removable when the boat was launched, making a separate trailer unnecessary. He held a U.S. patent on his invention.

Cecil, Sr. was also a devoted family man. He married Phyllis Chichenoff and together they raised four boys: Randy, Louis, David and Cecil, Jr. He put his creativity to use and built the boys toys, including a child sized, working jeep. He took his sons along on duck hunting trips and boat rides. In the mid 1970s he purchased a 42-foot wooden boat named the Padilla, renaming it the Phyllis S. after his wife, and within a couple years he purchased a steel boat from Paddy (Patrick) Mullan. He renamed it *The Oceanic*. Partnering with his son, Randy, Cecil, Sr. managed the boat and performed maintenance, while Randy ran it for salmon and king and tanner crab.

Cecil, Sr. was proud of his heritage, sometimes telling the story of a plaque found in the rubble of the Kodiak Russian Orthodox church that burned to the ground 1943. The plaque listed the names of the original builders and his great-great grandfather's name, Ivan Chernov, was on it. He kept his grandfather's certificate of ownership for land near the Kodiak Inn, given to him when the United States purchased Alaska from Russia. He also served his community as a member of the Natives of Kodiak Board of Directors during the 1970s, until his untimely death at age 48 in 1980.

As exemplified by his life, Cecil, Sr. understood the joy in learning and counseled young people to acquire an education and go to college.

**Cecil Roy Sholl, Jr.** was born on October 14, 1967. Cecil was known for his larger than life heart and smile, his generosity and the joy of his life, his dog Missy. Cecil attended Main Elementary, Kodiak Junior High and Kodiak High School, of which he graduated in 1985.

Cecil had a passion for the outdoors. He grew up riding dirt bikes and 4-wheeling the off-road trails of Kodiak with his brothers and his friends from high school. Cecil would often

describe himself to his friends as “Mr. Super Off-Roader” or the “first one to 4-wheel up the bowl in Anton Larson pass or the first one to drive to the top of Pillar Mountain after the winter snowstorms”.

Cecil had a larger than life personality that matched his zest for life. Cecil was very popular with his classmates, local citizens of Kodiak and all across the U.S. He went to Seattle annually to watch the Seahawks. Cecil loved to walk with his dog Missy and you could set your watch and plan on seeing Cecil and Missy walking the streets of Kodiak every morning.

Cecil also had a passion for the commercial fishing industry and he was a fisherman at heart up to the time of his death. Cecil began commercial fishing with his brother Randy Sholl on the F/V Oceanic. Thereafter, Cecil fished with Phil Fogle (F/V Jimington), and Thorvold Olsen (F/V Viking Star). Cecil was one of the hardest working deckhands. If Cecil had his way, he would own Hanson or Marco fishing boats. Cecil would often joke with family and friends; “See that boat over there? They named it after me, the “Royal Viking”.

Cecil was well known for his intimate knowledge and passion of wooden, fiberglass and steel fishing boats. If asked, Cecil could tell you the length of a boat, what year it was built, who built the boat, who ran the boat, and where it fished. Even better, while out at sea or parked on one of many docks in Kodiak, Cecil would ask his friends “See that boat out there, what boat is that?” The irony is, half the time you couldn’t even see the boat on the horizon. Nevertheless, Cecil could tell you the name of the boat by only looking at the shape of the boat, the very top part of the rigging and or the crab lights on the mast.

When Cecil’s mother became ill, he quit fishing, got a “land job” with the motor pool division on the USCG Base to be able to help care for her. He later moved to Horizon Lines in the maintenance department. Cecil always had an immaculate work area and he prided himself in being the first one to work and the last to leave.

Even though Cecil never married, he was a family man. He took great pride in his family and he was always there for all of them. Cecil was also known as being the most reliable friend you could ever have. Kodiak will never be the same without Cecil and for those that met Cecil and were honored to have him as their friend, they will forever have an empty spot in hearts that yearns for just one more day with him on this earth.

Cecil Roy Sholl, Jr. passed away on August 20, 2015 at the age of 47.

NOK is proud to offer the opportunity for our people to pursue their dreams in honor of these two men.

