



Identifier: uaa-hmc-0991-b4-f47-30

Collection Name: Bill Bacon photograph files, 1945-2004. UAA-HMC-0991

Title: Downtown Fairbanks.

Description: View of street in downtown Fairbanks. Lacey St Theater is seen at the end of the road. Other signs above stores include Chena Bar on left side of street and **Tommy's Elbow Room on right side of street**. Cars are parked on both sides of the street. Photo taken 1955-1977.



Archives, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Collection Name: Russell Knapp Papers

Identifier: UAF-2015-126-293

Title: Second Avenue, Fairbanks.

Description: The finding aid indicates photos were taken from 1966-1969.

Obituary

Thomas J. "Tommy" Paskvan

Thomas Joseph Paskvan, 83, died on September 11, 2003, in Fairbanks.

Born to Thomas and Catherine Toldo Santini Paskvan on November 21, 1919, in Aurora, Minnesota, Tommy was an only son with three loving sisters. His favorite pastime was ice skating. He always said, "I could skate before I could walk."

Tommy played hockey and basketball for Aurora High School and was a National Honor Society member. At Eveleth Junior College, Tommy joined both Sigma Phi Alpha—an honorary men's club for scholarship, sportsmanship and fellowship—and the Catholic service group Knights of Columbus.

In Fairbanks, Tommy became head Knight, president of the Catholic school association and a Toastmaster. At the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Tommy studied mining engineering. As a Nanook, he was a hockey forward and lead scorer as well as a basketball center/forward.

Tommy served in Alaska from 1942 to 1946 in the Army. **With dreams, ambition, hard work and a \$10,000 veterans loan, he built Tommy's Elbow Room with concrete and steel.**

Tommy's was a popular sports bar, meeting place for students, reporters, businesspeople, politicians and featured in Time magazine for Alaska statehood. In the early 70's, he expanded his business to prepare for the oil boom by adding office space and a restaurant that became the Cabaret discotheque. Tommy's operated in six decades and was sold in 1993. Tommy was the longest single liquor license holder in Alaska.

Tommy's sponsored many sports teams, believing that sports build character and make the world a better place. His basketball and softball teams proudly earned many state championships.

As a founding member and president of Yukon Power for America, "Mr. Rampart Dam" envisioned inexpensive electricity and fresh water export to the Lower 48 states.

In July 1950 at Paxson Lodge, Tommy met Joyce Potter who was visiting from Michigan. Joyce was a hospital dietician and sister of Rose and Catherine Ringstad. Tommy proposed September 25, 1950. They married January 27, 1951, in Stephenson, Michigan. Ice fog hindered his airplane's approach to Fairbanks but when the pilot heard Tommy needed to take this plane to his wedding a successful landing occurred!

Tommy was 1965 Father of the Year in Fairbanks while they were expecting their ninth child. Tommy supported family, church, education, community and team sports. Respected in the community, cherished by family, he will be dearly missed.

Tommy and Joyce were blessed with nine children: Joe (Barb), Steve (Susan), Margie, George (Cynthia), Charlie, Gloria (Mike), Bonnie (Ron), Frank (Betsy), and Ted (Katie); 19 grandchildren Nicole, Chelsea, Tommy, Ryan, Jason, Adam, David, Laura, Tammy, Pamela, Georgina, Michael, Michelle, Mark, William, Savannah, Danika, Kendra and Samantha; and two great-grandchildren: Kalynn and Malieh. All reside in Alaska.

A memorial service will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 5:15 p.m., Monday, September 15. A reception will follow at River's Edge Resort.

Though Parkinson's is a progressive, degenerative and fatal disease, Tommy lived in hope of research and a cure. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the National Parkinson's Foundation, 1-800-327-4525.

Arrangements were by Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home.

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<http://thomas.paskvan.net/uaf/obituary.html>