

Carolyn Eddy

Carolyn Eddy? Since we have had fairly rapid growth in the last few years, there may be some that might reply that way. For the newcomers, I have to say that, 'Carolyn was NAPgA' and one of the primary reasons that NAPgA exists as it is today. Carolyn, along with George Bogdan and Mike Silverman, apparently were the visionary founders of NAPgA, with Terri Summerfield, Steve Semasko and others that actually came together and put together the foundational documents of the NAPgA organization.

The need for an organization such as NAPgA was the same then as it is now, threats to the goatpacking community. This was true even then, as small as the numbers of goatpackers were at that time. The 756,000-acre Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA), was reacting to a media scare story about a feral goat that was running with Bighorn Sheep (BHS) in Hells Canyon, and as a result BHS were dying of pneumonia.... pneumonia ostensibly spread by this goat. We now know that the strain of pneumonia that the goat was carrying was not the same as the one that the BHS were dying of, but it made good press at the time, and the land managers were running scared.

So Carolyn and the two others got together and put NAPgA together more or less as it exists today, and responded to the SNRA ban as the 'NAPgA' Organization. The SNRA then quickly rescinded their ban, possibly at least in part due to the fact that there are no BHS in the Sawtooths to be threatened by our goats or anything else. The closest Bighorns being many miles away in one small part of the White Clouds.

But who *was* Carolyn?

That will have to remain a bit murky, as Carolyn was a very private person and was not wont to share the details of her early life with others. In chatting with Alice Beberness, her companion and trail buddy for many years, it appears that the home in which she shared her early years was significantly dysfunctional, and as a result, she largely was called upon to raise her three brothers herself.

Carolyn came into being on the 9th of September, 1953. After her somewhat turbulent home years, she entered adult years having developed a strong sense of survival and getting things done under her own power. At some point she established a significant other relationship with Stan Venable that lasted approximately 30 years, until sometime around 2010 (an approximate date), when Stan had a stroke while Carolyn & Alice were out on a trip. He fell and remained in the front yard overnight, barely survived, and as a result ended up in a nursing facility. At some point George Trager came into her life as a helper with her home and animals, and eventually they married shortly before she passed away in 2018.

Carolyn began her animal husbandry efforts with horses, which she raised and trained for many years, apparently living in the area of Bend, Oregon. Alice noted that she even trained folks to ride, with some of her trainees going on to make a significant impact on the equine world. It is not clear when or why she made the transition to goats, but change was pretty much absolute, and she bred and used goats for many years.

Carolyn, upon her passing, left a vacancy in the goatpacking world that you could fit a 747 into. Carolyn wrote 3 books, the first of which was *Practical Goatpacking*, which is still the definitive book on the 'How-to-Do-It' nuts and bolts of goatpacking. She went on to write *Diet for Wethers*, and *Goat First Aid*, a book that she jointly penned with Alice Beberness. All of Carolyn's books were aimed at serving the burgeoning population of folks interested in using goats as pack animals.

Carolyn and Alice never missed a Rendezvous, and Carolyn was a frequent seminar instructor at many of those events. Carolyn was a commanding presence, doing things, and getting things done. She is sorely missed.