

Former YC administrator dies

By Leticia Gutierrez/Appeal-Democrat | Posted: Saturday, August 2, 2008 12:00 am

Dudley Igo enjoyed talking — with his teenage students while a teacher at Yuba City High School, with fellow travelers on cruise ships and with friends and strangers at Starbucks in Yuba City.

"He really enjoyed the teenagers," said his wife of 55 years, Margery Igo of Yuba City. "He was interested in things they thought and would get great discussions going."

Milburn Dudley Igo, 79, of Yuba City died July 19 after a brief illness.

Born in Stockton and a graduate of the College of the Pacific, he began his career in 1952 at Yuba City High School, teaching English and history.

"He loved teaching," Margery said. "He loved being with the young people."

He moved from teaching to administration because "of money," said eldest daughter Barbara Alves of Yuba City. Administrators earned more than teachers and he had a wife and two daughters, Barbara and Beverley, to support.

He retired as assistant superintendent in the Yuba City Unified School District several years ago.

The move into administration was a loss for Yuba City High School, said Ron Petersen of Yuba City, one of several friends Dudley met most mornings at Starbucks at Gray and Colusa avenues. "He felt his only contribution to the district was in the classroom." As an administrator he felt the best thing he did was hire great teachers, Ron added.

A voracious reader — he subscribed to the New Yorker, Forbes, Newsweek and National Geographic magazines and the Sunday New York Times — Dudley always had a book with him at Starbucks but never had time to read, said Andrea Harvey, manager of the coffee house. He was always "holding court," she said with a laugh.

He was always curious about everyone's opinion, Andrea said. "He would continually draw people into his orbit."

One of the friends he met at the coffee house was Lana Rebecca March of Yuba City, a native of



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Dudley Igo and his wife, Margery, paused for a photo in 2005 during one of their several cruises to Alaska.

Paris, his favorite city.

Since his retirement Dudley had traveled to Paris with his wife and friends, as well as taking groups of former students, more than 15 times.

He didn't speak French but he got to know the city and loved its architecture, its history and its exotic feeling, Margery said.

"He always said he knew Paris better than I did," Lana said with a laugh. "I told him 'I'm going to get you a bicycle and a beret' for the streets of Yuba City."

Dudley and Margery's extensive travels also includes several cruises to Alaska and Mexico.

Dudley always arrived at the coffee house before his friends, Ron said. "I would come in and see him with a book in his hand and could see he was reflecting" on life, on the world, on something he'd read.

The friends talked about social issues, poverty, crime, politics and, especially, education.

"It was invigorating to me to share opinions and ideas," Ron said. "(Other) people ... would hear our discussions and say, 'mind if I sit with you?' and then add their own discussions. Dudley was in his element" at those times.