

Jack Lynch Obituary

Jack Lynch



1921 - 1998

Jack Lynch Succumbs to Asbestosis

Jack Lynch died on October 16 following six months of illness from the severe respiratory effects of asbestosis. He had been exposed to asbestos in 1942 while in the Coast Guard working on a damaged ship, the USS Sterope. He is survived by his wife, Hazel and three daughters.

Jack taught English for many years at El Cajon High School before coming to Grossmont College in 1964, where he taught in the English department until his retirement in 1982. According to his colleagues, Jack did a marvelous job of introducing college English, and his students were consequently quite fond of him.

He was an avid reader. One of his favorite writers was Ernest Hemingway, so much so that on a sabbatical to Paris, he took the time to visit many of Hemingway's old haunts in that city.

Jack was a frequent contributor of poetry to the local El Cajon Californian (previously Daily Californian) newspaper. He wrote a great deal of poetry, some of which he published in a 1992 book, *A Dream of Condors*. The following poem is from that book, and reveals the naturalist in Jack as well as his inquisitive and gentle soul.

The Call

I meant to do my work today
but a strange bird called from a
distant tree
and the path though choked with
new mown hay
led toward the woods and mystery

And though I did not know the way
nor where the path might carry me,
I did not hesitate to go
for something within me seemed to know
my only error would be to stay

And so I left without a word
to anyone, but what could I say?
that I awoke because I heard
from the furthest woods
a strange bird sing
and an unused path looked promising?
