

OBITUARIES

Edwin Lagergren

When Edwin (Red) Lagergren died, Osterville took another step away from insularity and, at the same time, moved a step closer to suburbanism. No matter how good a man his replacement is, there's little chance he'll bring to the job the life-time intimacy with the village and its people that was second nature to Red.

Born in the village, living and working here most of his life, Red was of it as well as in it. During WWII, he wore proudly the uniform of the United States Marines; after the war, he returned home to wear, with equal pride, the uniform of the Barnstable Police.

Knowing the comings and goings of village people was a matter of duty and personal concern to Red; he cared about us who live here whether native-born, like himself, or newer residents as many are today. Red was friend to all, always ready with a wave, a grin, a quick comment, a bit of news, and still, was all business when it came to policework. He took seriously his role as public protector and his duties as law-enforcement officer.

As Badge No. 1 is retired, perhaps forever in his memory, those who knew him well and called him friend will miss more than his wave. We'll miss the deep and sincere personal interest that Red brought to his daily tasks and, although his assignments will be carried out by another uniformed officer, his place will be difficult to fill in the hearts of the people who live in the village he called home.