

# William H. Woodin III

(1925-2018)

Bill passed away on March 14, 2018, after succumbing to pneumonia and heart failure. He is survived by his sister Mary and four sons - Michael, John, Hugh and Peter, all from his first marriage. His second wife, Elizabeth (Beth) Woodin, was his constant companion and unfortunately recently died in January of this year after a long fight with cancer – she was often seen at cartridge shows world-wide and always made visiting the Woodin's a friendly and happy occasion. Beth was well-known for her unique culinary expertise and having a meal there was always a delightful experience.

I first corresponded with Bill in August, 1950 concerning an advertisement he had placed in the *American Rifleman* magazine asking about .60 Machinegun cartridges. We met in early 1952 upon my return from a tour in Korea and that started a close association and friendship which lasted over 65 years.

In 1958, while assigned to the U.S. Naval EOD School as an instructor, I contacted both Bill and Gene Scranton, about the possibility of writing and publishing a series of books on U.S. Military Small Arms Ammunition based on research in the National Archives, both agreed to participate and the first draft for Vol. I was started. Finally, in December of 2015 the series of Vol's I-III by the three of us was more or less completed.



In 1973, Bill founded the Woodin Laboratory for the research, identification and history of military and police small arms ammunition which remains today as an important center for research and information of this subject. The original Board of Directors for the Woodin Laboratory included - Frank Hackley, Gene Scranton and Norm Hower, shortly after Beth Woodin was also added as Treasurer. Beth often referred to Bill as the "Great One" a title which he did not fully appreciate, but when you think about it, he really was the "Great One" as far as amassing the world's largest collection of cartridges in his field and his unsurpassed knowledge of modern military and police ammunition below caliber 35mm. He was also very good about sharing information and always made himself available to answer inquiries.

Bill was too young to serve in the military during W.W. II, so he joined the American Field Service and served with the British Army in Burma as an ambulance driver. After the war he pursued his naturalist's interests and obtained a college degree in Herpetology and an advanced degree in Zoology and went on to help establish the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson and served as the Director until his retirement in 1971. His personal interests were varied and included: Astronomy and space travel; preserving nature; tennis; horse-racing and dining at home or at one of his favorite restaurants.

There is no doubt that his passing leaves a large void in the identification, knowledge and history of military small arms and medium caliber ammunition. Hopefully, his life-long work will be preserved and continued by others at some future time.

... F. W. Hackley