

I could go on and on in telling stories of my dear friend, David Ecker. So nearly I can remember, we met in 1958 or 1959. He was a bright and energetic art educator whose interests ranged far and wide: teaching art, philosophy, aesthetics, and people!! I will prepare a listing of his articles. As soon as I could do so, I invited him to teach at Ohio State University in 1960. David's interests and energy knew no bounds. He lifted weights, drank beer, and joyed in the telling of stories - exploits in the Korean War, adventures in hitchhiking across the United States, working in the mining industry and trying out for a part (for a Hollywood movie: "Joe Palooka". He and his first wife, Gloria were good friends for my wife, Flora and myself. Gloria's death was tragic, a victim of cancer in her mid thirties. Later, David met Willavene. They jointly owned an airplane. Oh, the stories I can tell of their wonderful courtship, David's moving to New York (he and I joined the Faculty at New York University in 1968), and his marriage to Willavene. How wonderful for both of them!

I am so glad that the Ecker boys: Greg and J. J. refer to me as "Uncle Jerry". For years and years, there was a closely knit grouping of professional friends: Manny Barkan, Elliot Eisner, Irving Kaufman, Ed Feldman, David, and myself. My wife Flora referred to us as "Art Education's Mafia". As time went on, we each went our own separate ways. David stayed on at New York University, focusing on his students, cooking, flying, knife making, and the development of the Institute for the Advancement of Living Traditions in Art. Of our "closely knit grouping", Manny, Elliot, Irving, and now David are gone.

Oh how fortunate I am to have known him!

JERRY HAUSMAN