

## The Passing of OWEN MULHOLLAND

Owen Mulholland, resident of Marin Co for over 50 years, noted cyclist, writer, and cycling historian, passed away peacefully on the morning of 14 January, 2016, after a two-and-a-half-year battle with brain cancer. He had been living successfully by himself until early December when he became paralyzed in his left side. He was moved to the Lucas Valley Lodge, an assisted living facility, in San Rafael, CA. It's a small and intimate facility where he received incredible attention and care. His bedroom picture window looked out on Rocky Ridge, a shoulder of his beloved Mt. Tamalpais. He was visited on a daily basis by family and friends from near and afar. Owen had turned 70 a month and a day before his passing.

Owen, with his twin brother John, became enamored with bicycles from his early youth growing up in San Francisco where he was born. Over the years he progressed to bigger and better bicycles culminating in various cycling exploits. With his brother he crossed the United States in the summer of 1961. Owen became prominent in Northern California racing circles. In the early seventies he moved to Grenoble, France, where he raced with a French team and learned good French. He also made several long bicycle touring trips around Europe.

Parallel to Owen's cycling exploits he initiated a career as a cycling journalist. His first article was on the first Tour of California in 1971 and published by "International Cycle Sport" in England. In 1975 he became the first American journalist to follow the Tour de France from the caravan. His gripping descriptions of the racing earned him quick fame and a large following. He wrote more than 400 articles on all aspects of cycling which were published by *Velo News*, *Competitive Cyclist*, *Cycling*, *International Cycle Sport*, *Winning*, etc. He was also the author of two books, "Uphill Battle," and "Cycling's Golden Age" and contributed to many other books.

Lesser known are Owen's numerous and extensive writings on subjects he was passionate about other than cycling such as history, physics, biology, tectonics, religion, philosophy, exploration, and, above all, music, especially JS Bach.

Owen's career had great success in teaching children, in the Oakland Public Schools, who could not go to school. He taught children who were in the hospital, too sick, or pregnant to attend school.

Owen Mulholland impacted the lives of many, often in life changing ways. He has friends and admirers around the world. There will be a "memorial" held for him at the Marin Museum of Bicycling in San Rafael, CA, at a date yet to be determined.

Owen is survived by his son, Emile, in Ross, California, his twin brother, John, in Alpharetta, Georgia, and his longtime companion, Kathy Jones, in Oakland, California.