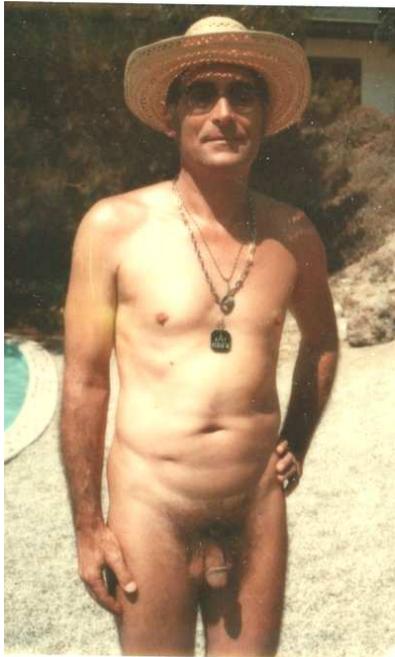


SCNA MEMBER PROFILE

About Our Longtime Friend, “Robin” Martin, 1927-2007

by Gary Mussell
President, SCNA



Culbertson Martin was born January 5, 1927 into a pioneer family with deep roots in Soda Springs, Idaho. His parents died young so he was raised by his grandmother. She gave him the nickname “Robin,” which he preferred to use throughout his life.

Robin served in the Navy during World War II, and worked as a schoolteacher in Idaho for several years. He was also an avid collector of ancient coins, and he published several magazine articles on the subject.

In the late 1950’s, he decided to seek new employment opportunities and moved to Southern California. He joined Jesson Travel in downtown Los Angeles and stayed there until he retired. While there he was able to travel the world. In his diary he wrote that he had always wanted to try nudism, after seeing it practiced around the world, but he had never taken the opportunity to try it.

In April 1962, he got his chance when he answered an ad in *Sun and Health Magazine*. Calling the number in the ad, he was introduced to Alicia Lloyd, later a member of the AANR Hall of Fame. She was recruiting new members for her Air-a-Tans travel club. After passing a screening interview, Robin was given a pass to visit Rock Springs Ranch, 100 miles east of Los Angeles, which Robin described as a “completely rustic property where there were

practically no facilities, and only eight people.” Robin wrote he was very unimpressed and almost quit nudism then and there. Alicia gave him a second pass to visit Olive Dell in Colton the following weekend, and here, Robin, wrote, he found “the nudism portrayed in the magazines.” He described his first weekend there, May 13, 1962, as a “Pow Wow” for the Western Sunbathing Association Spring Festival. “There were Indian ceremonials, nudist beauty contests with Indian-themed accessories, swimming in a big pool, all enjoyed by both sexes of all ages and families with children. This was it! I was hooked.”

Over the next 45 years, Robin was an active nudist, observing and participating in many of the key historical moments of the nudist movement during that formative era.

In July 1962, he attended the opening of Ray Connett’s newly-purchased Glen Eden south of Corona, California. He attended his first WSA convention as a delegate in 1964 at the Lazy K Ranch in San Bernardino, and attended those meetings representing different clubs for nearly twenty years. Along the way, he enjoyed visiting many of the local clubs and parks that dotted the Southern California landscape. In 1972, someone gave Robin a map of beaches where nudity was acceptable. The next day he visited his first nude beach and, as he wrote, “I was hooked again.”

During the turmoil of the 1970 “Free Beach” Movement, Robin is frequently in photos at the numerous rallies in support of legalized beaches. Although few ever knew his name, his big grin and round straw hat made him instantly recognizable at events from Black’s Beach and San Onofre to Venice Beach and Pirate’s Cove. In 1978 he became a Director of Beachfront USA, whose president was Cec Cinder. In October 1980 he was one of the founding members (#39) of The Nudist Society and appears in that famous organizational photo taken at Elysium Fields.

After the beach efforts failed, Robin adopted two local clubs for his nudist activities, The Olympian Club, where he was a member for 15 years, and Elysium Fields, which was having its own legal difficulties. Forever a generous

soul, Robin donated his collection of ancient coins to the Elysium Legal Fund, helping raise thousands of dollars for that cause. After the Elysium property was sold in 2000, Robin joined the Southern California Naturist Association, organized by the former Elysium members. He remained an active member of that club until his death seven years later. He attended the opening of the Western Nudist Library and joined its foundation a week before his death. He had a strong sense of history and wanted nudists of the future to know of the struggles from the past.

Robin passed away from a heart attack on June 5, 2007 at his home in Burbank, California, at age 80. Despite his accomplishments he considered himself quite shy and a little socially awkward. Robin never married and had no children. He had outlived all of his relatives, so he bequeathed most of his life insurance benefits to AANR. His personal papers and photo collection from his more than 40 years as a nudist were given to Gary Mussell of the Southern California Naturist Association for organizing and eventual donation to the Western Nudist Library at Glen Eden (this was done May 11, 2008 in a ceremony at GE.) Robin's generous donation to AANR has been deposited into the Connett Memorial Fund to create a lasting endowment for the Association's future. The SCNA club has created an annual Volunteer Service Award in his honor.

