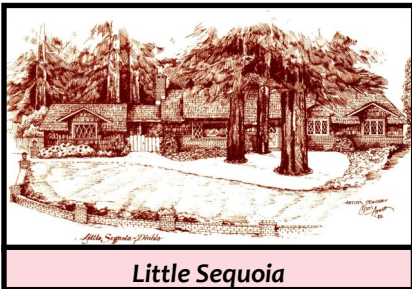


Diablo Honors.....

Charlotte Garner

By Marilee Headen

“I love to look out of my living room window at Woody.” Even if you have not had the distinct pleasure of meeting Charlotte Garner, you can sense her spirit of adventure and love of Diablo when you drive past her home, Little Sequoia, and spot Woody, the carved squirrel in front of her home—usually decorated for the holiday or season. It was her gift to Diablo.



Little Sequoia

Charlotte has lived in Diablo for 60 years, moving in on the day after Christmas in 1961 with her husband and two children—Rick, then 7 and Cheryl, then 13. Born in southern Idaho in a small town named Buhl, she met her first husband, Dick, while working in Portland. Dick had just returned from service in the Navy. After moving first to Berkeley and then Pleasant Hill, they bought a home in Diablo and aptly named it Little Sequoia as it is surrounded by 12 redwood trees. Her children were raised in Diablo and have given Charlotte four grandchildren and eight grandchildren. Rick and Cheryl were both married at Little Sequoia—Cheryl in front of the living room fireplace and Rick on the backyard deck.



Cheryl & Rick

She remembers a quieter Diablo in 1961, more like country. Lots of horses and the school bus would drive by. When Cheryl and Rick were children, Dick built them a small corral in the backyard for a brown and white Shetland pony named Irish. However, the corral wasn't that well-built and Irish most often was at their back door window wishing to enter.

Charlotte and Dick were active members of Diablo Country Club but most famous for their competitive dancing, winning many competitions. She enjoyed all

dance forms, from Samba to the Rumba to the Waltz. Dick was fun to be with, very active in sports and loved surprising people. They were both competitive water skiers. Dick passed away after the Gold Putter tournament while on the dance floor with Charlotte. They were married for 37 years.



Charlotte & Woody in June



Charlotte & Dick In 1963



Charlotte & Bob in 2000

Charlotte met her second husband, Bob, on a blind date at Diablo CC Country Club attending a ‘Smoker’ 9 hole golf evening. Both were widowed. They married and lived in Little Sequoia for 30 years before Bob passed away. Bob had one son. Bob was a gentleman with great sense of humor and loved entertaining with Charlotte. He loved Charlotte and her children say he spoiled her with love and attention. Charlotte enjoyed the love of two wonderful husbands.

In addition to dancing and water skiing, Charlotte stayed busy with golf and travel. After golfing with other couples, they would drive their golf carts right onto her property for drinks and appetizers, as there were no fences on the golf course in those days. As she says “What a fun time!”. Some of her favorite memories are of the New Year’s Eve parties at the club. She is also a fabulous seamstress.



Charlotte & Cheryl in 1958

Why has Charlotte stayed in Diablo for 60 years? “It is so very peaceful and quiet here in Diablo. It is just lovely”. She also has great friends and neighbors that she has known for many years. She particularly wants to thank Margi and Jerry Slavonia for being great friends and “the best neighbors in the world”. She also wants to thank the “Diablo Angels”, the Diablo women her brought her groceries and dinners for several months during the early days of Covid.



And we thank and honor Charlotte Garner for Woody and for gracing us with her presence in Diablo for 60 of her 96 years.