

November 8, 2015

Hello, I'm Rex's oldest son-in-law. I met Rex back in 1966. Vicki and I were just friends, that is until much later. Rex once showed me his office in the back of the house where he was beginning his new business;\* there was a time when I stayed a night at his house, on my way through California; I was once his dinner guest, but I made the mistake of asking his other guest what was going on in Ireland, it being in the news. That took up the rest of the evening!

Much later on, in '92, I called Rex and mentioned that I would like to talk to Vicki. He was going to give me her phone number, but instead I thought it better that he ask Vicki to call me. Her call led to many long-distance phone calls. She and I realized there was only one way to lower the phone bills between us; a few months later we were married. Rex and Rita sponsored our wedding reception.

Rex threw real nice "beach parties". After managing to find parking in Capitola, I got to know the Gardiners and Rex's friends, some of them since elementary school! Rex impressed me; managing friendships for most of a century!

Back when there were many orchards in the Valley, Rex looked for a place to build his first home, and found the most beautiful environment and best weather spot in hundreds of miles. Purchasing property and choosing a great design, with Eichler's personal help, then consulting an astronomer at Stanford, he orientated the house for the best possible seasonal solar advantage. Then putting copper heating pipe into the foundation slab, he built it on top of solid rock. When the weather was cold outside, his house was warm inside and the Winter sun came in the many windows. Rex was ingenious!

Next, he took the opportunity to found a city around him. He set and mapped the boundaries, knocked on all the doors of the property owners to encourage their willingness. Rex helped get zoning for minimum one acre lots, to provide a "relaxed pace of country living." Rex was the oldest surviving founder of the "Town of Los Altos Hills."

Rex could attribute his long life to "everything in moderation, even moderation", such as in business, taking care of himself, eating carefully and walking. But, surely his family contributed much to Rex's long life and successes. He obviously also experienced good fortune, especially when the Army sent him to the university instead of the "Battle of the Bulge", during his WW-II enlistment. He cultivated good relationships, like getting friends and family together at the beach in Capitola, and Rex had a good humor and was sharp all the way to his end.

Good bye Rex, I'll miss you! Thank you for giving me Vicki.

[\*Rex's "new business" was Foothill Securities, founded in 1962. It was headquartered in Los Altos for over 50 years, and at present (in 2015) is headquartered in Mountain View.]