

Obituaries

L. Chace Grover

Memorial services will take place Wednesday for L. Chace Grover, the descendant of an influential Santa Cruz County lumbering family, who died Saturday in a Capitola convalescent home. He was 77.

Grover, the retired manager of a San Francisco import-export firm, had been instrumental in the development of Pasatiempo. An avid golfer, he and his wife, Esther, had owned real estate there and maintained a home there for many years while living in San Francisco.

Grover's grandfather was Stephen Frealon Grover, who was one of the early Grover family lumber barons. At the turn of the century, the Grover family was operating mills in the Glen Haven area of Soquel, and at Brookdale and Scotts Valley.

Frealon Grover had laid out the town of Brookdale, but had called it Clear Creek. In 1902, when a post office was established there, the name of Brookdale was chosen.

Frealon Grover's summer residence was the Brookdale Lodge. The Grover family also owned a line of Victorian residences on Walnut Avenue near Santa Cruz High School. Back then, "Grover Row" was the way the townspeople referred to them. Only one of the homes is still standing today.

L. Chace Grover was born in Santa Cruz and attended Santa Cruz High School.

After graduation from the University of California at Berkeley in 1927, he served in the Army Air Corps and worked for American Express in Hong Kong, where he met his wife. They had been married for 48 years.

During World War II, Grover had been on special assignment with the Board of Economic Warfare in the South Pacific.

Before retiring, he had managed the Chaver Trading Company import-export firm in San Francisco.

Besides his wife, who lives in San Francisco, survivors include his son, Stephen of Seiad Valley; a daughter, Sally Bingham of New York and six grandchildren.

The memorial service will take place Wednesday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church, 2325 Union St., San Francisco. Burial will follow at IOOF Cemetery in Santa Cruz.

Charles C. Colyear