

Beginning of Sentinel Obit:

Services are pending for Frank C. Child, who died Jan. 25, 2008, in Santa Cruz of congestive heart failure. He was 86.

A native of Utah, Mr. Child was raised in Salt Lake City. He also lived in Pomona, Lansing, Mich., Saigon, Vietnam, Davis and Santa Cruz. He earned his bachelor's and master's at the University of Utah and his Ph.D. at Stanford University.

He was a captain in the Army during World War II. From 1962-1980 he was chairman of the Economics Department at UC Davis. From 1983-1987 he was dean of the School of Social Sciences at UCSC.

His family says he was instrumental in bringing the first bicycle lanes to Davis in the 1960s. He enjoyed the opera.

He is survived by his daughters Tracy Child Phillips of Berkeley and Suzanne Child Dawson of Kentfield; sons Bill Child of Fair Oaks and Matthew Child of Berkeley; sister Loretta Wilhelmsen of Walnut Creek; and seven grandchildren.

His wife of 59 years, Eve Child, and sisters Beth MacIntosh and Florence Chandler died previously.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring.

Arrangements are by Santa Cruz Memorial.

See next page



Dr. Frank C. Child, retired Dean of Social Sciences at UC Santa Cruz, passed away Jan 25th. He was 86.

An early leader of the UC Davis Economics Department, Dr. Child was a visionary civic activist who in the 1960's led efforts to establish the City of Davis' signature bikeway system, the nation's first.

Frank Clayton Child was born in 1921 and raised in Salt Lake City. After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in accounting at age 19 from the University of Utah, He joined the Army as a lieutenant in 1942, and served with the 9th Armored Division in Europe, earning a Bronze Star for bravery. It was during this time that he met a USO performer, Eve Matthews, in Marseilles France.

They dated briefly before going separate ways but agreed to meet a year later under the clock at the famed Astor Bar in New York City if they wanted to pursue a relationship. Although she was 20 minutes late, the couple reunited at the appointed place, married in 1948 and remained together for 59 years until Eve's death last year.

After the war, Mr. Child earned a Master's degree from the University of Utah and a Doctorate in economics from Stanford University. He taught at Williams College, Pomona College and Michigan State University before he was offered a position as an economic adviser to the South Vietnamese government in 1958. He and his wife moved with their four children to Saigon until 1960, when a coup attempt forced them to flee. The family lived in the Netherlands, traveled across Europe in a VW Beetle and returned to California, where he taught at Stanford before joining UC Davis. He was Chairman of the Economics Dept at UCD for over 20 years. He then served as Dean of Social Sciences at UC Santa Cruz from 1983 to 1987.

Mr. Child was an early critic of U.S. military involvement in Vietnam and spoke out in national journals and public forums. In private, he was a modest, unassuming man who enjoyed art, opera, world travel and spending time with his family. A tribute to Frank Child's amazing life will take place this Saturday, March 1st, at 1pm, at the Cultural Center, Merrill College, UCSC, 200 McLaughlin Dr., Santa Cruz, CA.

Published in Santa Cruz Sentinel from Feb. 28 to Mar. 1, 2008