

February 28, 2005

REMEMBERING VANCE EDWARD MILLER, JR.

September 22, 1929 - November 21, 2004

- Vance Edward Miller, Jr. spent much of 2004 learning about and determining the treatment for multiple myeloma and primary amyloidosis, diseases he was diagnosed with after noticing first symptoms in February. He visited Boston University Medical Center, and Mayo Clinic, in addition to Stanford University Hospital. Despite his 75 years, all three considered him fit to with



stand the rigorous treatment and offered him a Stem Cell Transplant. He chose treatment at Mayo. The family was able to stay with him at the nearby Gift of Life Transplant House. All was proceeding as expected until an infection progressed rapidly into septic shock. He died on November 21, 2004. During these long nine months, Vance was never in pain. He remained positive, clear thinking, and optimistic throughout.

- Vance was born September 22, 1929 in Groton, South Dakota, a small farming community now known as the sunflower capital of the world. He was a descendent of three pioneer families who homesteaded there in the early 1880's. He and his sister helped their parents at Miller Mercantile, a general store established by their grandfather and uncles.

- Following graduation from Groton High School, Vance earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering in 1951 from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City, where he was Student Body President. His first job was with General Electric as a Test Engineer. He later participated in the company's new Manufacturing Training Program.

- Graduating first in his class from Naval Officer Candidate School won him a choice assignment to the San Francisco Naval Shipyard at Hunter's Point in 1955. There, he managed modernization and repair projects on World War II-era aircraft carriers, ships, and submarines. Attending a meeting of the World Affairs Council in San Francisco, Vance met Jacquelyn Harris. The couple exchanged vows at Stanford Memorial Church in 1957. Darrell was born a year later.

- Once out of the Navy, Vance took a job with Ampex, a pioneer in magnetic video and audio recording systems. Kerstin (Kitte') arrived in 1960. Ever a student, Vance soon decided to pursue an MBA at Stanford's Graduate School of Business, graduating in 1963. He was awarded the Standard Oil Scholarship both

years.

- In 1965, Vance joined the Logistics Systems Research group at Stanford Research Institute, working as a consultant all over the world. Vance was the principle architect of the US Postal Service Bulk Mail Center, which sorts and delivers parcel post mail. The scheme centralizes processing of all parcel post mail in a small number of automated, truck-oriented facilities across the country. He also helped design coin and currency processing systems for San Francisco's new Federal Reserve Bank. He was involved in the conception of the "Super Train", a futuristic proposal for a US national railroad network devoted to rapidly moving large volumes of containerized freight over long distances.

- Vance and Jackie built a hexagonal house designed by his cousin, Hobart Wagener, in the planned post-World War II community of Ladera in 1969. With a view across the San Francisco Bay to Mount Diablo, the Millers found a peaceful environment. A year later, daughter Trynne was born.

- In 1978, Vance pursued another career in retirement planning. He devoted countless hours to the modernization of TIAA-CREF, the largest provider of retirement systems serving institutions of higher education. He became both a Certified Financial Planner and IRS Enrolled Agent, assisting clients with investment, tax, and retirement planning.

- Drawing on rich boyhood scouting experiences, Vance helped lead Ladera Troop 163 on hiking and camping trips to the High Sierra and coastal mountains. He and other community activists worked tirelessly to maintain a neighborhood elementary school in the face of declining enrollment. He served as a member of the San Mateo County Committee on School District Organization and was a director of the Ladera Recreation District. He was honored with Outstanding Citizen Service Awards by the Ladera Community Association in 1976 and 1980.

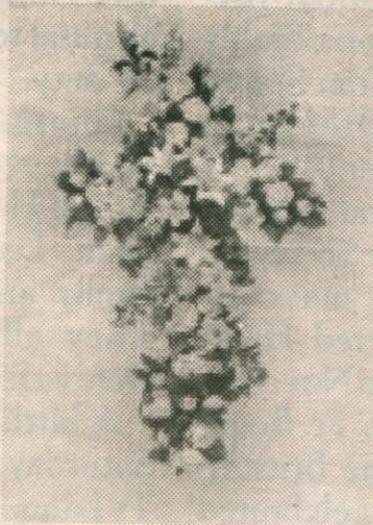
- His deep knowledge of many subjects earned Vance the title of "Walking Encyclopedia." Visits to libraries, county courthouses, historic sites, and natural wonders were priorities on his travel agenda. Vance was a descendant of Thomas and Joseph Rogers, father and son Pilgrims who were first settlers in Plymouth Colony in 1620. He traced thirteen generations on American soil to earn membership in the Mayflower Society in 2004.

- Vance was past President of the Transportation Research Forum in Northern California. He was a member of the Mayflower Society, Stanford Historical Society, Stanford Business School Alumni Association, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology Alumni Association, California Native Plant Society, Committee for Green Foothills, Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, Yellowstone Trail Society, and the Theta Tau engineering fraternity. He regularly attended US Geological Survey public lectures in Menlo Park.

- Vance is survived by his wife of 47 years, Jacquelyn; children Darrell, Kerstin, and Trynne; five grandchildren; and sister Marilyn Schornack. An event remembering Vance will be held April 8th. Contact the family for details.

Vance Miller Jr.

The Groton Independent has received word of the death of Vance Miller, Jr., 75, of California. Miller was a former Groton resident and a graduate of Groton High School. After graduating in Groton Vance had moved to California where he lived most of his life. Vance had recently been undergoing cancer treatment with stem cell therapy at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Miller died on Sun-



day, November 21st in California.

While living away from Groton for most of his life, he continued to have a deep interest in the historic archives of The Groton Independent and their preservation. He had a friendship with former publisher, Morris Spencer. Funeral services for Vance Miller were held in California within the last week.

May God Comfort Those Who Mourn.