

George C. Frey

September 23, 1921 - January 1, 2013

A resident of Manhattan Beach since 1953, George C. Frey passed away peacefully at his home on January 1, 2013, at the age of 91. Named after his uncle, producer George Webb Frey, George was raised in Hermosa Beach before World War II. He grew up to be a brilliant young man who attended Pier Avenue Junior High and Redondo Beach High School, then graduated from Caltech in June of 1943 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

Two days after graduation, George accepted a position at North American Aviation (NAA) at a time when the wings of planes were covered not with paint, but with cloth. At NAA, which was later acquired by Rockwell International and then The Boeing Company, George worked for 67 years until 2010 as a Materials and Processes Engineer/Scientist on aircraft and spacecraft that included the P-51 Mustang Fighter, B-25 Mitchell Bomber, X-15 Experimental Aircraft, Apollo Command & Service Modules that went to the Moon and back, GPS Satellite Navigation System, XB-70 Valkyrie Experimental Bomber, F-86 Sabre, F-100 Super Sabre & FJ-1 Fury Fighters, Space Shuttle Orbiter and Orbital Express Satellite. His many achievements include the development of materials for thermal insulation of jet-engine tailpipes as well as interior aerospace payloads (including human passengers), the development of a number of finish systems for engines and interiors to minimize temperatures and ablation systems used for earth re-entry. In 1950, while still in his 20's, he was awarded a patent for insulating blankets made of glass fiber and the process to manufacture them. In 1994, George was made a NASA Space Flight Awareness Launch Honoree for Space Shuttle Orbiter mission STS-62.



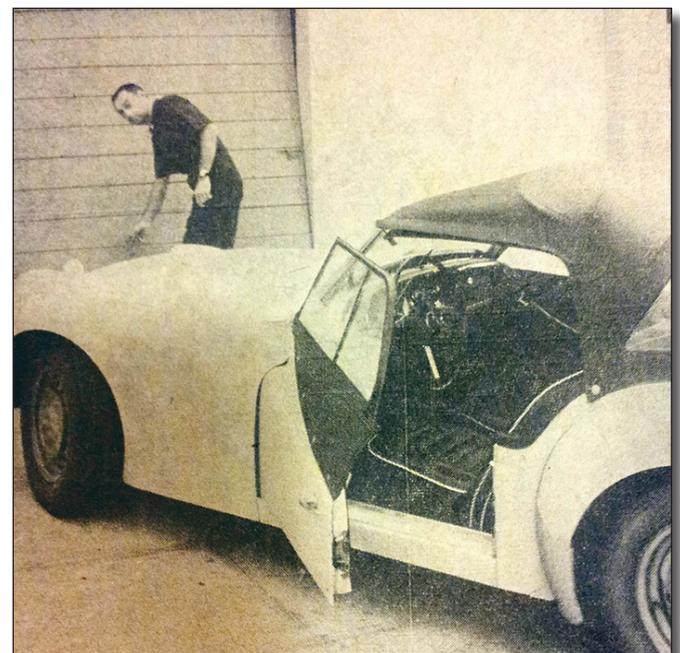
pragmatic, forward-thinking personality. The first thing George did was to eliminate all doors, with the exception of the garage doors, front door and bathroom door. Because the property was right across the street from a city park, George insisted on building a 3-car garage because he foresaw parking becoming a challenge. He painted one each of the garage doors red, yellow and blue, stating that it "helps immeasurably in giving directions on how to reach his place".

It was at Rockwell International in 1966 that George met his life-long soul mate, partner and wife, Madeline Balfour, when she was waiting at a desk next to his after arriving an hour early at work shortly after transferring to George's department from the Microfilm Department. When they first met, George would always cook for Madeline when she visited. They were married in 1993 in a 'surprise'

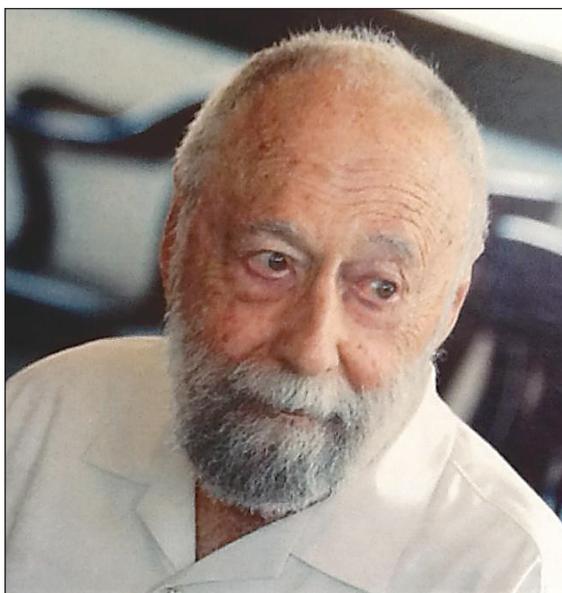
wedding ceremony on her birthday at Hawthorne, California. George and Madeline went on many adventures together, and traveled to Alaska, the Canadian Rockies, Singapore, Bali, Beijing and Hong Kong.

It was also while George was in his late 20's when he forged friendships with 2 men who would have an influence on him throughout his life: a Tibetan Buddhist monk named George Teng (a.k.a. 'Monk') and Jack Parsons, one of the founders of Jet Propulsion Laboratories (JPL). George credited 'Monk' with demonstrating the Buddhist philosophy of not being judgmental of others through their 50-year friendship. Although George's friendship with Parsons was significantly shorter, they were close and when Parsons passed away suddenly in 1952, George was asked to make the burial arrangements.

George was known among his family, friends and colleagues as an indefatigable enthusiast for gathering knowledge and helping those around him. He possessed the ability to remember facts, data, events and people with uncanny accuracy and was fearless in championing tolerance. When a would-be mugger demanded George's wallet, George's immediate response to the mugger was: "How can I help you?" At Boeing, George mentored those around him not only on the properties of aerospace materials, he also shared his deep knowledge of philosophy, religions and medicine.



1953 was the year George purchased a lot on Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach. In an article published in the Daily Breeze on February 27, 1959 titled "Bachelor Haven Result of Owner's Persistence", George handed scale plans he had drawn to an architect for a unique residence that reflected his unconventional,



George is survived by the love of his life, Madeline, son Doug Balfour and wife Kathleen, daughters Katt Khristian, Carolyn McGuire and husband Mike, along with five grandchildren: Tyler, Nathan, Miranda, Michael and Danielle.