



Quick Homer Carlson

September 2, 1927 - March 31, 2025

Quick Homer Carlson, September 2, 1927-March 31, 2025

Quick Carlson was a Renaissance Man if there ever was one. Born in St. Joseph, Michigan to Wesley and Alice (Janecky) Carlson, and raised on the shores of Lake Michigan, Quick came to Washington DC, after marrying Dorothy Andrews on his graduation day from the University of Michigan in 1949. He worked as an oceanographer for the Naval Oceanographic office his whole career, which took him on sea voyages all across the northern hemisphere. Quick pioneered living in the then-distant suburbs of Charles County and commuting into Washington for his government job.

At his country home, built in 1957, he and Dottie raised five children in the most idyllic conditions possible, with zip lines, Tarzan swings, a hand-dug swimming pool, and a quarter size steam locomotive with track on the grounds. His children all benefitted from family adventures in spelunking, whitewater canoeing, primitive camping, and cross-country road trips. His older children remember him showing them Sputnik when it passed by in the sky and Quick is credited with taking one of only two pictures of the satellite's rocket, which graced the cover of Science News.

When he retired early from the government, he studied art at the College of Southern Maryland in the 1970's and acquired expertise in oil painting and

watercolors. He also loved being involved with the Port Tobacco Players and played roles like Teddy in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, John Hancock in *1776*, and the Judge in *Trial by Jury*; as well as executing innovative set designs for them, and directing plays such as *Bus Stop* and *Mousetrap*. He painted the mural that exists now in the theater's lobby.

Quick believed in cottage industries and acquired antique print shop equipment so that his kids could earn money by printing posters and raffle tickets. For a while he published a journal that was distributed through the Virginia Amateur Press Association, usually illustrated with his woodcuts. Quick spent many years designing and building a workshop bigger than his house. He hand carved the cornerstone using skills he learned in stone carving class and filled it with all kinds of machines.

In retirement, Quick was also able to realize a long-time dream of being a railroad engineer and worked his way up from brakeman to engineer on the Walkersville Southern Railroad. He built his own steam launch, *The Wind in the Willows*, and became a regular attendee at Great International Steamboat Flotilla meets in the US and Canada. He always had some of his grandchildren as boat crew; steering, stoking the fire, or blowing the steam whistle. Always an engine enthusiast, Quick acquired a 1923 Model T that he drove around Southern Maryland, and was active in the local Model T club. Whoever designed the "He who dies with the most toys wins," certainly had Quick in mind.

In his nineties, when physical challenges were slowing him down, he restyled himself as a poet of the pandemic and wrote numerous poems to the delight of quarantined family members.

Preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Dottie (Andrews) Carlson, and by his loyal dog, Foxx, who was a longtime faithful companion, but survived by

his two sisters, Dawn Ankli and Wesley Ledyard, his five children: Lona Powell, Dorn Carlson, Tara Carlson, Innes Borstel, and Roal Carlson; 11 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Quick was the last surviving member of a secret brotherhood club established in high school in 1941, the SLS. By tradition, when a member dies, a ceramic frog is thrown into Lake Michigan, as will be done with proper pomp later this year.

Memorial contributions in Quick's name may be made to Community Support Systems, Inc., Brandywine (P.O. Box 206, 14070 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, MD 20613 or <http://communitysupportsystems.org/contact-us/#donations>)

Tribute Wall

PC

“ Quick and Dottie were good friends for many years when I lived in Malcolm, Quick once took me for a ride in his "Model T" and when I learned he would be shutting down his railroad, I went over to the house and got a ride on the railroad as well. Dottie came to the Body of Christ Farm where I lived to pick blackberries for her jam. They also participated in the National Night Out festivities at Malcolm Elem School and Quick sometimes brought the Model T to that event, although when he did, he had to leave before dark. Quick's life was a long one, well-lived.

Pat Coyle - April 16, 2025 at 12:17 PM

CT

“ Quick and Dottie sent the most creative and interesting Christmas cards and I always looked forward to receiving the new one each year. I was honored to be on their Christmas card mailing list! He was charming, fun, talented, loving and so well loved. What a good long life he had and shared with us all!

Christine Terry - April 04, 2025 at 08:12 AM

SB

“ I met Quick at PTP in 1985. My first experience with Quick was playing Mrs. Fezziwig and he was Mr. Fezziwig in Scrooge. I did the set for that show, with lots of help and some advice from Quick. The set I remember the best that he helped us with- me, Ann Maggi, and some others, was the set for Gigi. We had a black background, and we used sponges for brushes and did a larger pointilism rendition of La Grande Jate'- A Picnic in the Park- by Georges Surat. It was a lot of fun and was a beautiful background! Loved working with Quick! He will be missed! Sue Belmore

Susan Belmore - April 04, 2025 at 12:43 AM

AV

“ Lona, My condolences on the loss of your Dad. I can see where you inherited many of his artistic talents. I see your resemblance to him as well. May his memory be a blessing.
Anne Brooke Bowling

Anne Brooke Vachalek - April 03, 2025 at 06:55 PM

SH

“ Dottie and Quick were wonderful people and friends. They are remembered fondly but missed. With out deepest sympathy. Ken and Sandy

Sandra Hastings - April 03, 2025 at 08:12 AM

LS

“ My condolences to the family of Quick Carlson.
I didn't know him for very long. I was always amazed by his many talents, his accomplishments, his charm and his wonderful sense of humor. He will truly be missed.
Nora Straus

Lenore Straus - April 02, 2025 at 04:42 PM

HL

“ Lona — I am sorry to see that you've lost your father. Your/his family was so lucky to have him in their lives. He must have been very proud of all of you.
With my deepest sympathy, Holly

Holly Laffoon - April 01, 2025 at 07:04 PM

AP

“ Quick was such a wonderful auxiliary grandfather, and childhood memories of pool parties at Pop's and Gang-Gang's will always be among my most cherished. Reading his obituary made me realize that he must have learned all those amazing skills somewhere; to me, it seemed that he and Dottie had just always been and had always been brilliant.

Annie Powell - April 01, 2025 at 04:30 PM