



CHARLES TRIBBY

# PROFILES

Our series of profiles of our Friends continues.

Charles Tribby was born in January, 1911 in Meadville, PA to Pearl Lindemann, a southerner from Maryland and Fred N. Tribby, a "damn Yankee," a civil engineer and surveyor. Charles' grandfather, who was a builder and dealt in real estate in Ohio and Pennsylvania, had a brother who was a Texas Ranger, an exciting association in the small boy's life. He showed his guns to Charles and taught him about them, an interest that remains with Charles today.

Charles grew up in Meadville, went to school there and got his letters in basketball and track. Summers he worked with his grandfather helping him build houses, including digging an entire cellar by hand. This training, which has been so useful throughout his life, gave him the idea of being an architect. However, when he went on to Antioch College in Ohio he flunked math and decided to major in biology instead. His family had a summer home at Chautauqua, New York, where Charles spent many happy summers as a counselor at a boys' camp.

While at Antioch he did more than study. He took a course in sculpture, for which he did some modeling as well. He ventured into oil painting, and acted in a Greek play, where he had to wear a tunic and was teased for showing his knees. He also learned fencing with a White Russian as his coach. He earned letters in sabre and epee, and coached the girls' fencing team, which won all its matches.

He went on to the University of Chicago doing research in the human reproductive system, and received his Master's Degree in human anatomy. While there, he and Kerstin, who had also attended Antioch College, were married.

After a stint in the Army Charles and Kerstin found themselves in Norwalk, Connecticut. It was at this time that they and their two small daughters began attending the Quaker Meeting in Westport. Charles

renewed his interest in archery, becoming active in the state archery program. He shot in the Nationals in Watkins Glen where he got a perfect 40 yard target. He and his brother-in-law and a good friend went bow-hunting often during these years. But he has never shot a deer!

Charles worked at St. Vincent Hospital in Bridgeport, where he held the position of biochemist. He published a paper on the clinical effects of ACTH on carbohydrate metabolism. After working in a private laboratory, he took a position as director of the Yale Laboratory of Clinical Pathology at Fairfield Hills Hospital, a 3000 bed institution, in Newtown, CT. The family lived there for 20 odd years. He participated in research on the effects of Vitamin C on alcoholics, and thorazine on schizophrenics.

During these years he and Kerstin were leaders of a large and lively 4-H club. Friends Meeting was an important part of their lives. Along with a few other Quaker families they started a new meeting which has now become Housatonic Meeting.

Unfortunately there were problems at the Fairfield Hills Hospital after many good years. Charles became more and more disillusioned, and finally took early retirement. Powell House in Old Chatham, New York had come into their lives. They attended programs there, including an encounter weekend that gave them new directions. It so happened that at this time Powell House needed a cook and maintenance man. They applied and met "new directions" head-on. They did everything. Charles helped Kerstin cook, they both cleaned, made beds, scrubbed toilets. Charles did wiring, plumbing, carpentry, painting, etc. As part of the staff they took leadership roles many weekends. The staff of eight were a marvelous blend of seeking, loving, helping people. One summer their daughter JoAnn and her husband Tom had jobs at the Youth Center in the Main House. This was a special time in all of their lives. But this idyllic situation did not last, and when the director and his wife left, most of the staff left, too, as well as the Tribbys. It was a painful time in their lives.

On the strength of their summer together JoAnn and Tom urged them to come to their farm in Maine, where they worked the land and Tom taught at UMA. The Tribbys came, bought the cottage at Clary Lake, summered there and spent their winters in Ithaca, New York to be near Kerstin's mother. After her death they lived in Erica Welter's apartment while Charles remodeled their little house in Newcastle. They had found Midcoast Meeting their first summer in Maine, and during the ten years following they were active in Midcoast as well as in the Ithaca Meeting.

Charles has enjoyed working on the cottage as well as their home in Newcastle. He has done much carpentry and redesigning in both places. His interest in guns is still keen and he makes all his own ammunition, and builds and repairs old firearms. They share an interest in growing things, and Charles says their small place is just right for them at this stage of their lives. An additional joy is the fact that their daughter Linda owns the house next door where she spends part of each year.

Just to enter the Tribby's house is to know that here lives a man who not only loves to work with his hands, but who does skilled and careful work, lovingly thought out and executed.

