
Lee Duran(1941 - 2014)

Lyme - Lee Duran of Lyme died Aug. 30, 2014, of injuries suffered after his 1934 MG PA Special crashed during the Lime Rock Park Historic Festival which features vintage car races. His wife of nearly 52 years, Judith Haskins Duran, was at his side when he died en route to the hospital.

Lee was born Feb. 2, 1941, to Albert and Rosemary (Trendler) Duran in Evergreen Park, Ill.

Lee and Judith were married while both were attending the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. After Lee received his degree in architecture and did graduate work at Princeton University, he accepted a position at Sherwood, Mills & Smith Architects in Stamford, where he quickly became a junior partner. The couple then made their home in Westport.

In 1970, Lee and Judith moved to Wellfleet, Mass., where Lee opened a private architecture practice designing carefully constructed homes and commercial properties that made creative use of space and views of the surrounding landscape. In 1983, Lee and Judith settled in Lyme, building their home overlooking the Eight Mile River.

Lee was creative, funny, and smart. He had a style of his own, known for wearing pressed Levi's to formal events but always with an impeccable shirt and proper jacket. His sculptures were represented by galleries in New York. He adored the company of the family cat, most recently, Lola.

Lee had raced for more than 50 years. His love of motor sports started as a teenager with a hydroplane. He participated in big sailboat racing on Lake Michigan and moved on to motorcycles. Sprint cars then attracted his attention, and he tried dirt track racing in the Midwest, racing cars he had personally restored, including a 1935 Indianapolis 500 car. For the last 20 years, he focused on restoring, showing, and racing vintage vehicles. His most recent project was a 1936 Lagonda LG45 for which he was building an aluminum body. He planned to race it. He was a member of many automobile and racing clubs and associations.

The couple were also avid sailboat racers, campaigning and winning silver in many regional regattas. Lee also participated in frostbiting at the Essex Yacht Club where they are members.

After over 15 years as an architect in Lyme, Lee became an inventor and small business owner. The holder of six patents in the field of waste water management, he and Judith owned and ran RELINER/Duran Inc. and were partners in Best Management Products.

Lee is also survived by his sisters, Carol Allen of Lincoln City, Oregon, and Sandra Klimke of Cannon Beach, Oregon, and their families.

A private memorial will be held at a later date at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his name may be sent to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust at www.lymelandtrust.org.

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