

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: MOSELLE KARLL

Strolling down a high fashion runway



in a designer gown, spending leisure time in Nassau, Palm Springs, Mexico City or Cuernavaca, attending parties with heads of state, movie stars and

ambassadors, giving Ernest Hemingway a ride to Mexico City in your own private plane—to most of us these would be the stuff of fantasy, but to Moselle Karll (Treemont A-2) all those things were just a part of everyday life.

Moselle Lane was born and raised in the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex. From childhood she enjoyed what she attributes to amazing luck, but a glance at her early photos gives at least an idea as to why she was so sought after as a dinner or vacation guest: Though she denies any awareness of the fact, Moselle was, in a few words, a knockout, drop-dead gorgeous woman.

Her family lived as neighbors with the Guiberson family, and Moselle and Marian

Guiberson at a young age became best friends for life. An extremely wealthy industrialist, Mr. Guiberson had vacation properties all over the world, including a mansion in Mexico City, another in Palm Springs, and a permanently reserved suite at the Waldorf Astoria in New York, all of which became available for Moselle's use as an "almost member" of the family.

Educated in private schools in the Dallas area, Moselle was visiting in a friend's home when she caught the discerning eye of Stanley Marcus, who immediately invited her to come to work as a fashion model in his famous Neiman-Marcus store. Only 17 at the time, she advanced rapidly and by age twenty she was well launched into a career of modeling for famous photographers as well as high fashion designers. When Bootsie Cassini followed her designer husband Oleg to New York, the Washington Post invited Moselle to replace her as star of a series of feature stories about D.C.'s landmark homes with a stunning photo of her at each one. From there she went on



Moselle at polo

to a Park Avenue apartment in New York which she shared with another model while commuting to Paris, Philadelphia, or wherever her next important “shoot” was to be.

Eventually Mr. Marcus called on her to “come back to where she belonged” to take charge of the training of his models and she



Moselle and Bob, 1947

found herself ready to return to Texas. On a visit at about this time with the Guiberson at their palatial home in Mexico City she met Major Robert

Paul Karll, an Air Corps hero of World War II. He was Air Attaché at the American embassy and was escorting the Ambassador’s daughter to a formal dinner party honoring the British Ambassador and hosted by the Guiberson. Moselle found Robert the most attractive man she had ever met, and obviously the attraction was mutual. Returning to Dallas she continued working for Neiman’s, and in 1948 she and Bob were married in the Presidential Suite of the Hotel Reforma in Mexico City.

The marriage lasted over fifty years, spent largely in a storybook kind of lifestyle played out

among the rich and famous, with homes in Beverly Hills, Highland



50th Anniversary, and still smiling

and Acapulco.

After leaving the military, Bob went into the oil business and the couple moved from Mexico City to California. They lived in an apartment while awaiting completion of the house they were re-doing in Beverly Hills, and one day a new friend in the neighboring apartment invited them to join her for dinner the next night—no big deal, she said, just a casual, come-as-you-are type thing.. Her sister Kay was coming, she explained, and she’d like them to meet her and her husband. They went expecting a quiet, ordinary evening till the sister, Kay Spreckels, showed up with her husband-- Clark Gable.

Over the years the Karlls’ marriage produced two beautiful daughters. Tragically, their older daughter, Susan, was killed at age 19 in an automobile accident. The surviving daughter, Christina Karll (McWhorter) a noted artist, lives with her husband in Houston’s Museum District. Her photos show a marked resemblance to her mother’s pictures at that age.

Moselle moved to Treemont after Bob’s death to be near her family. The glamour of youth has now given way to the elegance of maturity, but the high cheekbones, long slender legs and regal carriage bear evidence of the kind of beauty that, in the poet’s words, is “a joy forever.” Package that with quiet dignity, a pleasant, unpretentious demeanor, and a great sense of humor, and you have Moselle Karll.



Moselle at Treemont

