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# Directory



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## Friends: Warrenton women sustain friendship for decades

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bought whistles and had whistle signals that meant "meet me at the Tarzan tree" and other codes.

"I lived there a couple of years a long time ago," Charlotte said. "It was a nice time."

In July, local developer Antoine Simmons unveiled a plan to build a 37-unit apartment complex on the site where the two women grew up just north of Trina and Ron's Place. That meant removing their homes and two others. Simmons offered them to the Warrenton Fire Department as training opportunities.

In February, Fire Capt. John Shepherd allowed the women to tour the old homes one last time.



Courtesy Diane Collier

The row of houses that burned, with Diane Collier's house in the foreground. Trina and Ron's Place is at far left and the motel Collier's mother built is at far right.

"It was fun going down memory lane, but sad also," Diane said.

Her parents owned the tavern that's now Trina and Ron's Place and, for a while, ran a charter business in addition to a restaurant there. Diane's mother, Ethyl, built the small motel behind the

homes in the 1960s. After marrying Sonny Collier in 1958, the couple lived in an apartment building across the street, where the storage units are.

Charlotte moved from the neighborhood when her mother married a man in the Air Force. They moved to Naselle, where there was a small base at the site of the Naselle Youth Camp. She returned to Warrenton as a high school freshman.

Both women graduated from Warrenton High School. Both became Warrenton historians, Charlotte through articles and her book and Diane as coordinator of the local historical society and museum and chair of the Clatsop Indian Tribe.

The four houses that were removed through four separate training burns were taken out in February, March and April.

When the women lived there, the other homes were occupied by Bill Knoll and Cora and Elmer Downing.

Shepherd, the fire department's training officer, was given praise at Tuesday night's City Commission meeting.

"I give him much credit just for the communication and coordination," City Manager Linda Engbretson said. "We had no complaints and there were four separate burns. He coordinated with the mill, the restaurant, and there was a road closure. To do all that with no complaints is an excellent job."



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