

Diablo Honors.....

Mary Lynn Peck

By Marilee Headen

Mary Lynn's first visits to Diablo were many years before she became a resident. Although she was born in Berkeley, she grew up in San Leandro and would skip school to come to Diablo with friends to swim in the lake at the end of Alameda Diablo. While a student at San Jose State, she attended a 1950 Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity party at Diablo Country Club with her future husband, Bill.

Mary Lynn and Bill moved to "Fern Banks", their home at 1884 Alameda Diablo in 1962 with their two young children. Luckily, Bill was a contractor as the house needed a lot of work.



*Sigma Alpha Epsilon dance at Diablo Country Club ~1950.
Mary Lynn is 2nd from right, Bill is 3rd from right.*

She remembers a much quieter Diablo back then. "There were not as many homes and not as many big houses. Bigger is not better! It seemed like there were more trees and slower traffic. There were horses, including one living just down the street." Mary Lynn would sit on her front deck then and watch horses go by. Now she sits on the deck and watches bicyclists go by. She loves her big front porch and the arched railings of the entry bridge that she designed and her husband built.



Fern Banks

She also remembers a LOT of parties! Her favorites were New Year's Eve parties at the club. "Lots of drinking, dancing and general fun with all my friends. We brought our friends from college to the parties, too."

Mary Lynn was an avid golfer and formed many lasting friendships through her involvement in both the 9-hole and 18-hole ladies golf leagues. She remembers telling a group of awed male golfers that she shot a 69 that day. She waited until later to add that that was for 9 holes ;-). “They were pretty gullible guys!”



Mary Lynn and Bill with Pat and Dick Hamilton following a round of golf — early 1990s.

Her favorite stroll in Diablo was up Alameda Diablo to the end (before homes were built on Upper Alameda Diablo). “There was a bench at the end of the street and I would sit and chat with the old guy that lived there.”

Mary Lynn and Bill raised their son John and daughter Leslie in Diablo. John was a very good golfer and “met more people than I did here through golf”. He later played for UCLA. “Leslie had a more colorful childhood and adolescence. There were always lots of kids at my house. It was the party house in Diablo. (The parents didn’t know.)” In addition to her two children, she has four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mary Lynn and Bill were married for 57 years.



Mary Lynn and Bill receiving an award

Mary Lynn’s favorite memory of Diablo is her dear friend, Betty Rossi, sprinkling her husband’s ashes under the big oak tree on the 17th hole. A funny memory is being told by the ladies of Diablo when she first moved here that she was moving into “a den of iniquity—what a bunch of HOOEY!”.

Why has she remained in Diablo for 59 years? “Because Diablo is different. You cannot find another place like it. If you have something good, why move? I’ve had lots of friends here.” Among those she would particularly like to thank for a wonderful 59 years in Diablo:

Betty Van Vorhees – They followed us here from Lafayette in 1964.

Vivian Farrell – I took my first trip to Europe with Vivian! Drinks at 5:00!

Al Krueger (golf pro at Roundhill). He lived in our back unit for a while.

Ann Smith – Neighbor who would visit (just recently left Diablo).

And speaking of travel, Mary Lynn loves to travel! “My favorite trips were to Indonesia, Singapore and the Vatican. I was very impressed with the Vatican.”

We honor Mary Lynn Peck and celebrate her 92nd birthday last April. May she have many more happy years in Diablo!