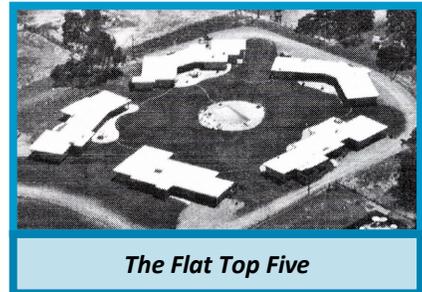


Diablo Honors.....

Jack & Sue Bell

By Marilee Headen

Jack and Sue Bell have been Diablo fixtures since 1971. They live in one of the five, flat top homes that make up “No Tree Ranch”. These homes were built by Flat Top Smith, a builder in the valley at the time. He built the homes for his employees in the 1950s. The five homes now circle a community pool, owned by the five properties. Jack and Sue’s home is the only one to retain the original flat top look.



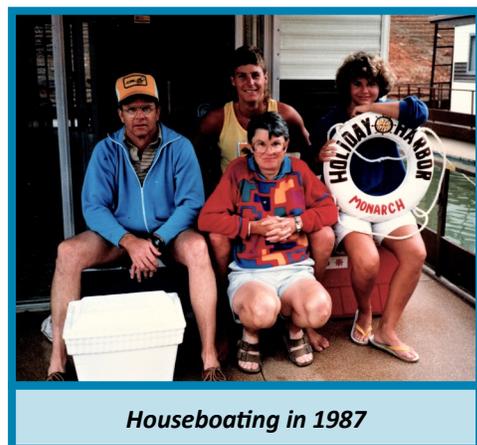
Jack & Sue & family

Jack was born in Oklahoma City and graduated from OSU (Oklahoma State University) with a mechanical engineering degree. His first job took him to Los Angeles where he worked in anti-submarine warfare. After a 10-year stint in the Army reserve, he left as a Captain.

Sue was born in Oakland and raised in Piedmont. She attended Lewis and Clark College in Portland. She recalls the first time she crossed the California border was when she went away to college.

Jack and Sue have been married for 50 years. They raised four beautiful children in Diablo—Eric, Peter, Josh and Beth. Josh was a Junior Golf Club Champion while in high school. They now have seven grandchildren ranging in age from 18 to 28 who live all over from the Bay Area to Switzerland.

From 1963 to 2020, Jack and Sue owned a business in Benicia. Their company, SUBA MFG, Inc manufactured formica counter tops. While Jack spent his days at the company office in the former Benicia Arsenal building, Sue was raising the four kids, working at the family business a couple of days a week and playing golf. A Nine Holer member since 1974, she moved up to the Eighteen Hole group in 1983 for 37 years and was the 1986 Ladies Club Champion. She also captained both groups. Now Sue is back to the 9 hole group. Jack retired at age 82 and has been making up for lost time by golfing six days a week.



As a family, they enjoyed house boating on Lake Shasta and waterskiing in the delta. They made their annual Shasta house boat trip for 20 years with their family. They also like to vacation on the family ranch in Eagle Nest, New Mexico. The land, purchased in 1930, is at 9000' elevation with stunning scenery and old mountain cabins. Lots of hiking, hunting and fishing with the cousins!



The Bells in 1974

The Bells were introduced to Diablo through Sue's parents. Sue's parents joined Diablo Country Club in 1951 and built a home on the lot opposite the Bell's current home. Jack and Sue visited often, joined the club in 1966 and eventually bought the home across the street from Sue's parents in 1971. When asked what the neighborhood was like, Sue described it as quiet with lots of open spaces. Jack recalls the country club did not have a sprinkler system and they did all the watering by hand. Eventually, one of his neighbors installed the sprinkler system for the golf course.

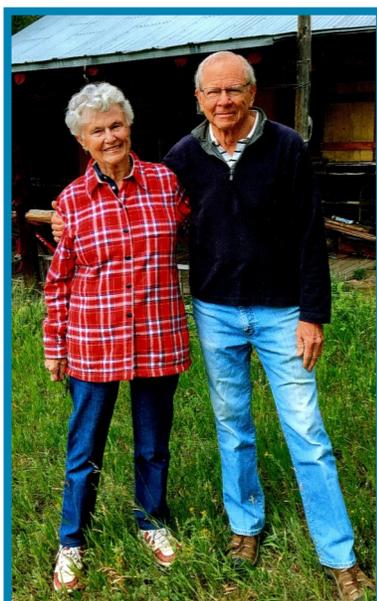
Their children led a charmed life growing up in Diablo. They rode their bikes everywhere! Cut throughs and very few fences made it easy to get around. They rode bikes to school and to downtown Danville. Jack had a bike with a seat in back for his daughter and one in front for the dog. What a sight that was!

They fondly remember the Diablo Country Club Christmas parties where all the children would dress up. After one party, their granddaughter said "only Diablo has the real Santa".

Diablo is very special for them because it is quiet and is a safe place to live. They love their home and their neighbors. Jack could be seen for years riding his bike with his golf clubs on his back to the course to play a round. No golf cart for the Bells! They enjoyed walking to the club, up Mt. Diablo to Rock City and to the snack shack for lunch.



Jack, Beth and dog on the Golden Gate Bridge



Jack & Sue in New Mexico

They love their home, it's location and that it is a single story. And Diablo loves the Bells.