

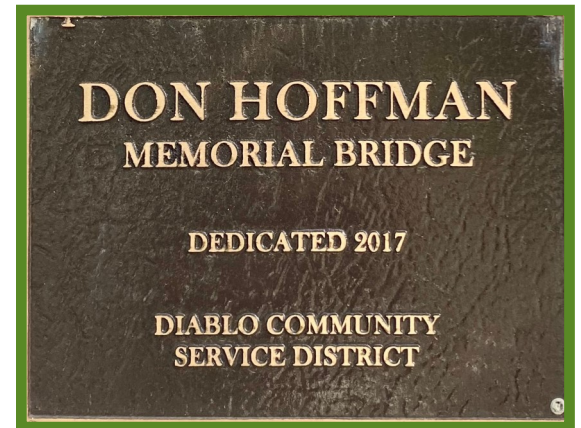
Diablo Honors.....

Sandy Hoffman

By Dee and Tony Geisler

The Diablo community is celebrating Sandy Hoffman who, along with her late husband Don, has resided at her lovely home on La Cadena for fifty years. You may have wondered about the name Don Hoffman, which is inscribed on a plaque on Alameda Diablo near the corner of Caballo Ranchero. We had the privilege of interviewing Sandy, Don's widow, and learning more about the award that distinguished his work with the Diablo Community Services District.

Don was President of the Diablo Property Owners' Association, Director of the Diablo Municipal Advisory Council and Road Commissioner of the Diablo Community Service District. The award he received states that "he saved thousands of dollars for this district by applying his unique skills as a licensed California Civil Engineer to the design, repair and continued maintenance of Diablo Roads." He was considered "a friend by all who knew him" who made "many and substantial contributions" to Diablo, and the Board and County determined that he deserved a permanent place, the plaque on the bridge, to "commemorate and remember his work for the community." Thus, the East Alameda Diablo Bridge was renamed the Don Hoffman Bridge.



Sandy stated that Don was very proud of his relationship with the Diablo Community Service District and was delighted that they named a bridge after him. He "enjoyed every minute" of his work with the District and never complained about it. He made himself available when the DCSD needed his help.



Don in the Air Force

Sandy was born Mavis Sanderson on April 8th, 1929 in New Hampton, Iowa on a family farm where she said she walked a mile back and forth to school. At age 14, she moved to Oakland and graduated from Oakland Tech High School and received her Bachelors in Education from San Francisco State in 1951. She acquired her Masters in Education from the University of California at Berkeley followed by teaching elementary school in Kensington. Friends and family called Mavis "Sandy" as a shortened form of her maiden name Sanderson.

Don was born in 1931 in Burlingame. He liked mechanics and studied Civil Engineering at Stanford eventually joining the United States Air Force and was sent to Germany. Sandy relocated to Erlangen, Germany, to teach the children of United States military parents in the primary grades and lived for a number of years in Europe. She met Don Hoffman while he was stationed in Germany, and both eventually returned home to the United States.

After returning to the United States, Don continued to work as an inspector for the Air Force and completed his academic work at Stanford with a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering. Because of the location of their jobs, Sandy lived with a girlfriend and taught in San Leandro. Sandy and Don were married on December 30th, 1960, in Oakland.



Don & Sandy

Don and Sandy lived in Castro Valley and San Ramon before finding the best place—Diablo—in 1972. Why Diablo? They wanted to wake up to see Mount Diablo every day and soon found a house that interested them. Though it didn't have the view they hoped for, the house was a "good buy" and had everything for which they were looking. The seller took their first offer. Don started an engineering business in Dublin, and Sandy became busy raising their two boys, Keith, born in 1962, and Robert, born in 1963. Their sons became civil engineers like their father with Robert and Keith working for the government in Sacramento. Don liked dealing in real estate, so he bought land in Monterey. Eventually he traded it for a cabin in Arnold which became a popular getaway place for their family.

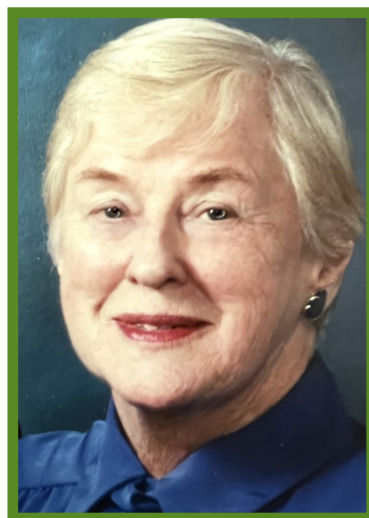
After joining the Diablo Country Club, Sandy organized AAUW bridge groups at the Club which gave money to charitable causes and worked on committees that benefitted the Club. One of Sandy's closest friends was Charlotte Garner, who worked with Sandy on the Diablo Club Newsletter, *The Inferno*.

The family has very fond memories about their time in Diablo. They describe it as a comfortable place to live where people are friendly and cooperative and the residents seem to understand each other. When asked what was the favorite thing about their house, Sandy spoke of the recessed ceilings which were constructed by Don and the large windows with their great views which made their home seem part of the outdoors.

It was a delight to interview Sandy partly because she often turned the questions back to us wanting to know about our lives. This reminds us of what Liz Birka-White said once about people who make entertaining guests. They are both "interesting and interested," qualities which Sandy Hoffman has in abundance. She has had a very interesting life, and she likes relating to the people with whom she has come in contact.



Don & Sandy with Keith and Robert and their families



We honor Sandy for her 50 years as our neighbor and friend.

Sponsored by the Diablo Property Owners' Association