

Diablo Honors.....

David & Lynn Kipp

By Marsh and Mugs Freeman

David and Lynn met at a dance class on the historic "Delta Queen" steaming down the Little Miami River. David was 15. Lynn was 14. Their parents and others from neighboring small towns near Cincinnati, Ohio, had arranged the event to acquaint their children from very small high schools with each other. David's high school class was composed of 30 students. Lynn's had 60. They became acquainted! David went to Harvard College and Graduate Business School, and Lynn graduated from the University of Cincinnati Teachers College. They were married in Cincinnati in 1961 and still root for the Bengals.



The Delta Queen, where it all began

Branching out from their small-town-American roots, the Kipps soon began a remarkably cosmopolitan life. David started his career working for Standard Oil Company of New Jersey in New York. After a couple of years, they were transferred to Miami, Florida, and from there spent five years in South America living in Columbia, El Salvador and Brazil. After all that relocating, David took a job with Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation ((KACC) headquartered in Oakland. That brought them to their current home in Diablo. California has been their home now for 52 years, except for a four-year stint in Toronto, while David ran KACC's operations in Canada. David left KACC in 1976 and joined an M&A firm in San Francisco, from which he just recently retired. For close to 15 years they rented a delightful flat in San Francisco but always loved spending their weekends in Diablo. Lynn said, "We had the best of both worlds."

As David explained it, "I was a Finance Guy." He majored in Economics at Harvard, worked in the Treasurers Department at Standard Oil, the Headquarters of Kaiser and completed his career in Mergers and Acquisitions.



*David, Lynn, Sharon
& John in the early
1970's*

Lynn taught First Grade at Palmer School in Alamo for ten years. Every morning, Lynn, with her young daughter Sharon, picked up their Campo Pelota neighbors Andrew, Josh and Tom Freeman and carpooled to Palmer. Lynn greatly enjoyed teaching at the small private school with classes of about 20 students. She said, "It was amazing! They paid me to do it!"

The Kipp's son John was born in New York and did all the South American traveling with them. By the time he was eight, John spoke English, Spanish and Portuguese. His younger sister Sharon, when only two, also spoke Spanish fluently. The family enjoyed their years in South America. In El Salvador, they met Leticia Perez who became their housekeeper and part of the family. Leticia traveled with them to Brazil and later moved to California where she and her four children have all become US citizens. Although she has a home of her own, Leticia still comes regularly to do a bit of housekeeping.



John & Sheri

Lynn vividly remembers the traffic in Rio and the beautiful people of Brazil, but her favorite city was Bogotá, Columbia, at an elevation of 8,661 feet! Son John especially liked their four years living in Canada. He stayed there for boarding school, attended Queens University and married a Canadian girl. John and his wife Sheri now have two children: Nicole, 27, and Daniel, 25, and live nearby in San Jose.

Daughter Sharon was born while the Kipps were living in Brazil, but Lynn returned briefly to Cincinnati for her birth. Although a happy Californian, Sharon went to college at Boulder and soon became a Coloradan. She married a Colorado boy, David Kennedy, and they also have two children: Tucker, 21, and Calli, 19. They all love Colorado.



Sharon & David

By the time David took a job with Kaiser in Oakland in 1970, the family had moved around so much they were delighted to discover a haven in Diablo. During their three years in Rio, due to city-wide safety and security concerns, they had lived on the tenth floor of an apartment building and usually kept their curtains drawn. Thus, they were immediately sold on the lovely sun-filled house at the secluded end of Campo Pelota next to tennis courts and a swimming pool for their children and with a gorgeous unobstructed view of Mt. Diablo.



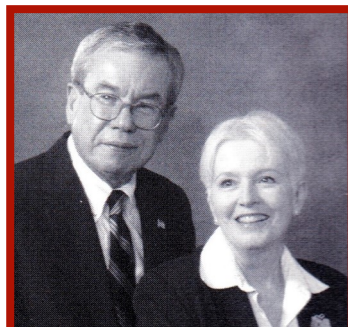
Jim Mandly, John Osmer, David & Dana Squire in 1988

David loved sports and playing tennis, particularly at Diablo, and wishes he could still do so. In his Harvard days, he was a varsity pitcher and clinched Harvard's win over Yale in their final home-and-home series before graduation. He and good friend Dana Squire won the club tennis doubles championship in 1988. David was also the President of the DCSD in 1989-90.

Most mornings, Lynn now drives with her beloved 13-year-old Chihuahua "Sparky" to Oak Hill Park where they compete with ducks and geese enjoying the lake and Monte Vista students walking laps around it for their P.E. class. "Sparky" is a rescue dog brought to Lynn from Colorado by her daughter Sharon, and everyone loves stopping to say hello to him on their walks in the park and around Diablo.

"Diablo has been good to us." Lynn says. "We remember the swim team events, Christmas parties and Easter Egg hunts fondly. But I kind of miss the old days when there were horses on the Mehran property and corrals in the yards of many Diablo homes including the Sconyers' home by the tennis courts just two doors down from us." Lynn comments that she loved marrying young, having children right away and growing up with her children. Neighbors Skip and Susan and Marsh and Mugs Freeman became good friends as did Bill and Jeanne Porter and John and Shirley Osmer, whose son Mark was a special friend of their son John. "Everyone was so nice!" concludes Lynn.

All of us in Diablo have been lucky to have the Kipps as friends and neighbors for 52 years.



David & Lynn in 2006