

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Betsy Scroggs: A Lifetime of Doll Collecting From Around the World



TGN: Betsy, tell us about where you are from.

Betsy: I was born in Spokane, Washington, and lived in Seattle, Washington, until the age of five when my family moved to the Philippines. In 1955, after a couple of years in the Philippine Islands, we came to California and lived in Mountain View. My father became the first Director of Personnel at Stanford University. In 1958 when I was 10, my parents designed and built our home on the Stanford Campus. My family would take me on trips all over the world and throughout the U.S., and I started collecting dolls from the countries and places I visited. I have some real collector's items in my doll collection. In the 1990s, my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and for more than seven years, I helped my Dad take care of her at home until she passed away in 2001. The next year, my father died of cancer. I was allowed to continue to live on campus for two more years after that. Both of my parents loved to garden so I had helped them over the years with our annual fruit and vegetable harvest and canning, so I continued with these activities. I am a real "nester", so I remodeled/refurbished the home and then sold it in 2004. I moved to the old part of Palo Alto, and then to an Eichler residence in South Palo Alto until 2007, when I moved to Oak Creek Apartments. I came here on July 30, 2014 when this unit at Menlo Commons became available.

TGN: Where did you receive your education?

Betsy: In 1966, I graduated from Henry M. Gunn High School in Palo Alto. I was a member of the very first graduating class. I attended Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon for a year, before transferring to Foothill Community College and then transferred to San Jose State where I received my BA degree in social science in 1970. In 1971 I got an elementary teaching credential. After teaching for 2 years, I attended Santa Clara University where in 1975, I received my Masters degree in Education, Learning Handicaps.

TGN: Describe your career after that.

Betsy: My first teaching assignment was in Blythe, California, 3 miles from the Arizona border. During my Graduate year at SJS, I spent a semester student teaching in Puebla, Mexico. Being able to understand and speak some Spanish was a big help as I had several migrant children in my classroom. Another teacher and I would take school supplies to these families and helped them with English. These families were very grateful, but our Principal nearly fired us because we were "fraternizing" with Mexican-American families. In 1973, I returned to school at Santa Clara University, and received my Masters

Degree. In 1976 I got a job at Winton Junior High School in Hayward as the Itinerant Resource Specialist. Due to health reasons, I had to give up classroom teaching and after a year and a half of rehab, in 1977, I was employed by Stanford as coordinator of the transcripts division in the registration office. This led to my work at the Stanford Law School where I worked in the Development Office handling gifts processing. In 1982, I worked with the Stanford Center for Families, Children, and Youth, where I was Secretary to the Director. I helped run the front office and helped in writing and editing two books. In 1990, I went to work at the Stanford Business School where I stayed until my retirement in 2002. I was the MBA Program Assistant. I loved working there with the graduate students.

TGN: Betsy, what activities are engaged in now?

Betsy: Well, I am starting to take mahjong lessons. I hope to get involved in the water aerobics classes. I also continue to be an avid Stanford football fan. I wish that they would have the games available on the Commons Room television so I could enjoy them there. My father used to teach me about football, and how to learn the plays the team was using by following the ball (not the players). My niece, Kim, has given me a stuffed bear that I have dressed in a Stanford Dolly cheerleading outfit. He name is "Kimmy Bear", and she is a good-luck charm so far this year. I love choral music and have sung in choirs since age 9. I sang in church choirs and school choirs and glee clubs during my growing up years. In college I joined the glee club at Lewis and Clark, the Acapella Choir at Foothill, and at San Jose State I sang in the Women's Glee Club and the Madrigal group. From 1975-1977 I sang with the St. Bede's Choral Society. Then in 1981 I became a member of the Peninsula Women's Chorus ("PWC") based in Palo Alto. I sang with this group until Spring of 1998. I am still a supporting member of PWC, member of its auxiliary and alumni groups. I continue to attend concerts, help them with mailing, and Alumni events when asked. My dream job would be as a member of a professional choir.

TGN: What do you like about Menlo Commons?

Betsy: I love it here. Before moving in, when driving by I noticed the window boxes with the colorful flowers. I was drawn to the building as it looked like a Swiss Chalet. I had looked all summer in 2014 for the place to live. When I found this place, it felt like fate had intervened. I have a great location and there is plenty of room for my doll collection. I am really honored to be here.

TGN: Thanks, Betsy for sharing with us. I see you have a scrabble book on your table.

Betsy: Yes, I play "words with friends" on the computer.

TGN: Me too. Maybe we can get together for a game soon.



The Good Neighbor

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OLD-TIMERS MEET NEW-TIMERS AT COMMONS PARTY - October 18



Cheers! say Marina & Duane Clapp, Jerry Atkinson & Gloria Dawson, Chuck & Marilyn Kinney, Shirley Stewart, Ingrid Rodgers.

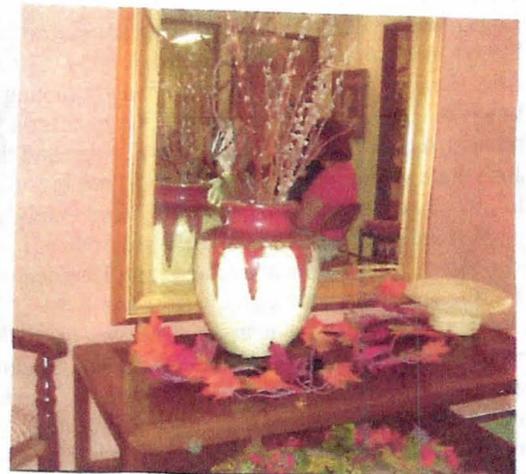
Party time for Gwen Leonard, Hans Ringertz, Pat Galvez, Carol Van Schaack, and Pat Kopas (at the back).



First Commons party for Tina Birch & Bruce Bartmess.

Betsy Scroggs ready to party!

Table laid out for Hal Harbatkin & Ruby Chang.



Eugenia Van Salza ready for good food

*A trio finishing delicious dinner:
Zule Bucar, Ryoko Winter, Lillian Coehlo*

Autumn decor adds to the fall event!