



MADERA ROTARY CLUB

July 5, 2011

Volume 5, Issue 1

Christine's Corner



Meet The President— a Rotary Minute

I was born in San Francisco. My father was born in Nottingham, England. He married my mother in 1938. She was born in Oklahoma and her family migrated to San Francisco during the 'Dust Bowl'. My father worked for the 'Chronicle' newspaper until I was 13 upon which time he was offered a job at the 'Fresno Bee' and we then moved to Fresno.

I graduated from Fresno High School in 1959. I met my husband, Johnnie, while I was a Junior in High School. We started dating and dated until he went into the U.S. Navy. Two years later we reunited and he proposed marriage. We married on September 9, 1961. Our first son was born in 1962, a second son was born in 1964. At this time, Johnnie received orders to a ship, the USS Benjamin Stoddert and was sent to duty off the shores of Vietnam. He was overseas for a total of 21 months. This separation was a difficult time for us. Johnnie left the Navy after serving nine years.

Johnnie decided to go to college on the GI bill so we worked hard together to get him through. He received his degree from Fresno State University. While I don't have a degree, I feel I worked for his. I worked for the Blackstone Bowling Supply Co. but left due to a pregnancy. Our daughter was born in 1975.

Johnnie was hired by the Madera County Probation Department in 1973. We decided to move to Madera in 1977. I was hired by the Housing Authority of the City of Madera in January, 1978. I retired as Executive Director of the Housing Authority in 2006.

Our oldest son, Danny was killed in an vehicular accident

in 2002. This was the most difficult time for us. Our faith sustained us and we survived the terrible tragedy. In retirement, we spend a lot of our time at our 'Beach place' in Pismo. Our son's ashes are spread in the ocean about 3 miles out from the Pismo pier. A bench has been placed at the end of the pier on the left side facing where he is in his memory. We throw flowers to him each time we go.

We love to travel and have been to London, Paris, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Greece and Spain, and spent three weeks last year in Maui since our retirement. We belong to the Porsche Club of the Sequoia Region and enjoy club meetings and touring with other Porsche owners in the club.

I am proud to be a Rotarian, to be a part of one of the largest volunteer nonprofit service organizations in the world. Rotary offers me the opportunity to build relationships and gives me the framework to contribute to society, to be involved in improving the lives of people in the community and the world through educational and humanitarian programs.

I am excited to serve as President of the great and friendly Rotary club of Madera.

Thanks,

Christine

Special points of interest:

- Joined Rotary 1997
- Quiet Rotarian 2002-03
- Chair Rotary/Netherton Relays for 8 years
- Program Chair for 8 years
- Youth Service Director
- Paul Harris Fellow