

Evolution of a Bridge Player

Harlan and Betty Sutherland moved here from Berkeley and were one of the first couples in the Lincoln Hills Duplicate Bridge Club. They started playing party bridge when it was first played in the trailer, before Orchard Creek Lodge even opened. They played social bridge for several months until the duplicate bridge group was started.

Harlan, a retired Air Force Colonel, grew up in Berkeley and after graduating from Cal, he went to pilot training with the Air Force. After pilot training he spent four years in Germany as a fighter pilot. He was then assigned to Dover AFB, Delaware where he met Betty in Washington DC. After he shaved off his Groucho Marx mustache, Betty agreed to marry him.

Their first assignment after Delaware was Prestwick, Scotland. There Harlan introduced Betty to bridge, a game he had learned to play in college. Moving around as they did in his 30 year Air Force career, bridge was a wonderful way to meet new friends.

The Sutherlands have been assigned to the following bases;
Holloman AFB, Alamogordo, NM
Cam Ranh Bay Vietnam, (unaccompanied F4s)
Bitburg AB, Germany
George AFB, Victorville, CA
Takhli AFB Thailand, (unaccompanied F4s)
9th AF Headquarters, Thailand (unaccompanied staff tour)
12AF Headquarters, Austin, Texas
Fort Wayne, Indiana, Cheyenne, WY,
Montgomery, AL, Tucson AZ, etc.

The Sutherlands have two daughters and two granddaughters. Lisa and her family live in El Dorado Hills, and they keep busy going to the girls Basketball and Water Polo games. The other daughter Tamara and her husband, both retired college professors, live in Ivins, UT. Their son Harlan Tod graduated from Cal and was working on his Masters in Geology for the University of Texas when he passed away. He is still missed.

Harlan is a new B player and Betty is a couple of points behind. They love our club here and enjoy the friendships they have made. Betty says, "It is a privilege to play with so many high caliber players and we get excited when we sometimes get near the top. We've learned a lot of systems, some that we can't seem to remember. We've gone to a few regionals and sectionals locally." They continue to work on their game as they are in several bridge groups. They are also in a wine club, and like to travel when they can. Harlan still plays golf when not at a bridge game.