



## Meet Ken Grafton

I was born in Madison, Wisconsin, and attended the University of Wisconsin, where I was instrumental in starting the college hockey program. Subsequently, I was inducted into the school's Hockey Hall of Fame. Between study breaks, I taught myself to play Bridge by reading Alfred Sheinwold's *5 Weeks to Winning Bridge*. I started playing regularly in money bridge games, became a certified director, and ran a Bridge club at the university.

After surviving the tumultuous '60s in Madison, I went to Los Angeles for the more peaceful life of an LAPD officer. I continued to play Bridge for 3 years, but a new career, a new wife and 3 young children took up my time and I quit playing for 18 years. A back injury forced me to retire from the Department after 14 years, so I moved to the Carson City/Lake Tahoe area of Nevada. There I met Glenda, the great love of my life. We have been married for 33 years and jointly raised 5 children and have 15 grandkids. Thank God for Amazon Prime!

My working career continued when I formed my own private investigations company and got the Public Defender's Office conflict contract defending people accused of crimes. I did that for 10 years and decided a change was in order, so I went to work as a caseworker for the Nevada Department of Corrections in a maximum security prison. After 10 years there, dealing with people I had sent to prison and people I failed to keep out of prison, I retired.

While in Carson City, a chance encounter led me back to the Bridge table. After re-learning the game, I began giving private lessons (Those who can, do; those who can't, teach). I formed a partnership with a man who had his own plane, and we flew around the western states going to tournaments. I was fortunate to meet and become friendly with some of the top Bridge professionals in the west, with whom I communicate to this day for advice. When my partner was killed in a traffic accident, I again stopped playing for 10 years.

I retired 3 years before my young bridge could, so we looked for a place to spend the winters away from the high Sierras and found Green Valley. It was love at first sight. I became active with the Green Valley Duplicate Bridge Club, where I served two terms as its President and two years on the Unit's Board of Directors. For 4 years I have been teaching a nine-month-long class on duplicate Bridge to players of that club. I currently

mentor six people on BBO. My favorite Bridge memory? One of the people I played with and against frequently at the University was Ron Anderson, professional player, who is among the all-time masterpoint winners. I came against him in the finals of a knockout game at the Nationals, when Ron was hired by one of the billionaire Hunt brothers. My team beat Ron's team. Later a kibitzer said, "Ken played so well you thought he must have seen the hands before." Ron wasn't so complimentary.