

Dick and Shirl Westcott

We both grew up in suburban NYC, impacted by the Great Depression in different ways but survivors. Shirl's three brothers and I met at a New England all-boys prep school. They never mentioned a sister, equally confined in a Canadian girls boarding school.

Fast forward five years. Nineteen when the war ended, I was a new gunnery officer assigned to a new heavy cruiser, neither of which were now essential. The Navy kept the ship and discharged the Ensign. A couple of years later, in a chance encounter, I discovered that sister. We were married in 1949 in White Plains, N.Y. The Great Depression and the war years impacted our young lives and formed similar values that became the foundation for a wonderful marriage.

We started our life together, so to speak, in Cleveland with me traveling three weeks out of four while Shirl produced two children. On to Los Angeles where I bought our first house before she arrived, pregnant again. All she could say was “show me the bathroom and the bedroom”. Promoted to Asst. Regional Sales Manager, we moved to Moorestown, a suburb of Camden, N.J. with four children in need of winter clothes and then to Atlanta as Southeastern Regional Sales Manager. I sold a heap of plastic materials for Union Carbide Corp. Climbing the corporate ladder, the next move was to New York and back to Westchester County with four children in private schools and private colleges!

Full time child bearing and rearing, which she loved behind her, Shirl resumed her love of tennis and dogs. She was women's tennis doubles and mixed doubles club champion along with paddle tennis. She bred and showed golden retrievers and westies. She formed and directed an acclaimed 45 person children's choir. Back in the midst of family, she hosted Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners for up to twenty-four.

We returned to California where I managed three business units serving the semi-conductor and printed circuit board markets. Shirl continued to play tennis, obtained a private pilot's license and rode her 400cc Honda motorcycle.

After leaving Union Carbide, Shirl and I formed a sales agency with her doing the cold calling and bookkeeping. Dumbest thing we ever did. Last we heard the buyer was winning awards and making a lot more money than we ever did.

Which brings us to Pinehurst and the home our son designed on the lake. I have served on several blue ribbon school committees dealing with facilities, technology, long range planning and Superintendant search; the English Speaking Union Board, chairing the Scholarship Committee; the Public Education Foundation Board, chairing the Grant Committee; chaired the County Personnel Advisory Committee and Government Efficiency Advisory Committee; President of the Pinehurst Civic Group for two years; elected to the Pinehurst Village Council and I didn't plan to do any of that. Shirl played on the Pinehurst CC 4.0 tennis team that won a state championship.