

Evolution of a Bridge Player

Pat Lewis

This month we feature two delightful women, Rosemary Hood and Una Lynch-Long, whose bridge journeys converged in a life-long partnership. Although both had played social bridge since college days, they took it up again. They met in Castro Valley where Una played bridge with her teacher, Bronze Master Terry Terizian who helped her earn many master points. They decided to take lessons again in San Mateo, and started their quest toward Life Master.

In San Mateo they both worked for the Community Theater, formerly the Peninsula Civic Light Opera and now called, Broadway By the Bay Rosemary was the Executive Director/ Producer of the many award-winning, million dollar, professional productions. These shows received rave reviews.

Una has raised three very successful sons. One is a college English professor, another is a great artist and designer for paraplegics, and the third met a real princess in San Francisco and married into Norway's royal family. This last has led to some grand adventures, including a palace dinner last Spring with King Harald V and Queen Sonja, aunt and uncle to Una's daughter-in-law. This son has two little daughters, who are truly princesses.

Rosemary and Una traveled to Rio de Janeiro for "Carnival" last year and were treated royally, literally. They enjoyed limo rides, box seats, servants, and a helicopter ride to the family's private island. The Carnival parade was a highlight that included floats three stories high and 4000 salsa dancers in full-ruffled costumes. The parade through the soon-to-be Olympic stadium, was a quarter of a mile long.

Rosemary shares ownership of the family ranch in Washington with her two sisters. So she really enjoys their RV travels through the Northwest and Canada. They have also traveled to Japan where Rosemary's uncle lived. Una still owns a large house and acreage by the sea in County Cork, Ireland. They go there often to visit her Mother who still enjoys singing like an opera star.

Love of music and theater is a shared bond. Una's father owned a tavern, or pub in Ireland. There town folks would gather at the end of the day to enjoy drinks, stories and music. Una's sisters are fine Irish Step Dancers. Una sings, plays guitar, accordion, and piano. Rosemary occasionally joins her on the ukelele.

Moving to Lincoln they continued raising their bridge skills and hit the tournament trail going to regionals and the nationals.. With the help of Lynne and John White, they earned enough gold for Una to become Life Master, and Rosemary now has all the silver and gold needed, but is only short a few points. So look for another new Life Master soon.

