

July 29, 2012

To: All who knew Betty Schlegel

From: Mary Lynly

Sherry Howe, Mellissa Ade and I attended the *Celebration of Life* for Betty Schlegel on July 28, 2012. Gold Country Lanes in Sutter Creek closed their doors for the event and provided a beautiful buffet for the some 75-80 people who attended from far and near. Following an introduction and overview of Betty's life by **Joanne McLachlin** (fellow ball player) anyone who might have some remembrance of Betty were asked to come forward. It was nostalgic and entertaining to hear some of the comments:

Joanne McLachlin – Told the story of Betty (catcher) advising the pitcher to not get too much of the plate when a good hitter came up. The first pitch went over the left fielder's head. Betty strode out to the pitcher and said, "I told you, don't get too much of the plate." The second pitch went over the right fielder's head. Once again, Betty strode out to the pitcher and said, "I TOLD you not to get too much of the plate!" The hitter hit the ball out of the park. Betty said, "Well, I need to get me a new pitcher!"

Mary Lynly - I spoke about how structured and detail oriented Betty was and told of the time we fooled her with the flag presentation. We had hidden the whole thing having all of the associations with their flags hidden in a room and when it came time for the board to march in Betty enthusiastically strode up the aisle – normally followed by the board - but no one was behind her. She didn't realize this until she turned the corner to ascend the steps to the Dais and she was visibly shaken. It was at that time that the entire board marched in followed by the very impressive procession of association and Life Member and Member Emeritae's flags. It really took Betty a couple of weeks to *get over it* and realize what a tribute this was.

Ida spoke of going to San Diego to the Women's Senior Tournament and going to a Mexican Restaurant with a group and when Betty arrived the little Mexican waitress addressed her excitedly as Mrs. Bush!

Rena Barsanti – for those of you know Rena, you know how animated she is and she was a riot relating having played in a ball game and getting up to bat and hearing this loud harassment coming from the catcher. Rena said she missed the first two pitches but finally got a hit. Years later she and Betty met on the lanes and got to talking and playing ball came up and Betty said she played for the Fresno Rockets. I guess the Rockets were the team to beat and Rena said she played for Sacramento. Rena *then* said, "What position did you play?" Betty said, "Catcher." ...and Rena went berserk! YOU were the one who was giving me the business when I was at bat! They later became good friends for many years.

Susan Harlan – the local judge, who stands about five feet tall, talked of having met Betty when Betty and Lee were at city hall for something and Lee said, "Are you the judge that sits on the bench?" She said she was and Lee, who had little tact you may recall, said, "I didn't realize you were so short!" Over the years Betty became good friends with the judge and after Lee passed away they often went to lunch and were in touch all the time Betty was in the hospital and rehab.

Her Neighbor – This fellow often helped Betty with various tasks she couldn't handle. He said she would call and just say, "I need you." He saw a ladder leaning against the house a few years ago and asked her what she was doing with it. She said, "Cleaning the gutters!" She was 85. He said, "No more of that!"

Alma Leonard – President of the local 500 Club and all around devotee to the Amador Association for many years spoke of Betty being "forever the teacher." She felt like it was her lot in life to instruct anyone she saw not bowling like she thought they should and she would stand behind them. Finally, Alma said, "What do you want?" Betty said she was there to help and Alma said, "Then move out of the way!" Alma told of a variety of experiences with Betty and lauded her knowledge of legislation and rules and the help she often gave the association.

Lori - was her teammate and actually bowled for Betty at Nationals when Betty passed away. Betty had so wanted to bowl in her 42nd National. Lori said she used to go to the Senior Tournaments with Betty and they had developed a set of hand signals to tell her what she was, or wasn't doing! Lori said she just didn't do very well at National without those hand signals.

Ellie - often went to the rehab center to visit people and she told of arriving to find Betty dressed and eager to *GET OUT OF THIS PLACE!* Ellie asked her what the story was and Betty said, "I have to get my hair done." Ellie said, "Well, why don't you just do it yourself?" Betty's retort was, "I have NEVER done my hair myself in my life!" You may recall that Betty had beautiful hair.

Betty's Beautician - did Betty's hair for 25 years and she said she had pretty much learned about Betty's entire life over those years and she would really be missed.

All said she would be missed. She and Lee had become a fixture in their bowling area and in Volcano where they lived. Joanne McLachlin had a lovely card with Betty's statistical info and the following verse:

*Don't think of her as gone away, her journey has just begun
Life holds so many facets – this earth is only one.
Just think of her as resting from the sorrows and the tears
In a place of warmth and comfort where there are no days and years.
Think how she must be wishing that we could know today
How nothing but our sadness can really pass away.
And think of her as living in the hearts of those she touched...
For nothing lived is ever lost – and she was loved so much*

Brenneman